



**St. Mary's**  
Warwick's Church of Treasures

# March 2019

## Prayer Diary

Thank you for supporting the people of this church, parish and wider community through prayer. Feel free to use the prayers as you wish, such as using the theme as a starting point for a prayer in your own words. There are extra copies for sharing at the back of church, and on St Mary's Church website. The online edition has **links** leading to further material that may be of interest. Thank you to everyone who has contributed prayers and ideas this month. Everyone is invited to share suggestions for April's diary (by 15<sup>th</sup> March if possible) with Kirsteen Robson ([kirsteenr@gmail.com](mailto:kirsteenr@gmail.com) or 07799 682872).

**Fri 1**

St David

Lord of all, on this **Women's World Day of Prayer** unite us in the global wave of prayer and praise, that your open invitation to your table may be heard and accepted by many (*Luke 14*). Forgive us when our words and actions exclude or discourage others. Help us support one another on the path of freedom, justice and peace. Uphold especially the women of Slovenia, who wrote the service that so many will share. Bless and challenge all who hear their stories, and inspire all leading and attending the service at St Mary's this morning.

**Sat 2**

We pray today for the welfare of all who live and work in Jury Street, Back Lane, The Butts and Priory Road, and remember especially the residents and users of Northgate and Northgate Street during the coming development of Northgate junction.

**Sun 3**

Sunday next  
before Lent

On **World Hearing Day** we pray for all who live with hearing loss, especially those who feel frustrated or isolated as a result. Bless the new HearWHO app being launched today. May it encourage people to check their hearing regularly, that early identification of problems can give the opportunity for support.

**Mon 4**

We pray for all who work at Warwick Racecourse and in the local hospitality industry that both supports and benefits from it. Bless the measures to control the spread of equine flu, for the health of the horses and the economy that depends on them.

**Tue 5**

Shrove Tuesday

As the annual pancake rituals are performed across the land, we ask you to help us prepare ourselves for the Lent that lies ahead. In a quiet moment we thank you for what we have, given us through your love and grace, and not what we deserve...

**Wed 6**

Ash Wednesday

Forgive those things we have done that have caused you sadness, and those things we should have done that would have brought you joy. In both we have failed ourselves and you. Bring us back to that place where our journey began, when we said we would follow the way you first trod. Lead us to the Cross and meet us there. (*John Birch*)

**Thu 7**

We give thanks for all **Northleigh House School** does to provide a nurturing educational environment to help vulnerable teenagers recover from high anxiety that has prevented them from flourishing in mainstream schools. Guide their efforts to raise funds to provide a music room and to enable them to expand to take in younger children who are being bullied. Bless their bucket day at Warwick Racecourse this Sunday.

**Fri 8**

We pray for volunteers and attendees at the new Friday Job Club at Saltisford. Bless them as they work together to develop confidence and skills to access employment. Release the gifts of the volunteers and lead the attendees to fulfilling employment.

**Sat 9**

As **Lillington Free Church** (URC) officially opens its new church building today, we pray that it may be both a symbol and an example of the living stones of your universal Church. Bless the minister Revd James Church, its congregation and the communities they serve, inspiring their worship and their work, that whoever enters there 'is but a stranger once'. We pray for their partnership project with Orbit Housing and Deeley's to build 25 affordable homes on the rest of the site.

**Sun 10**

**First Sunday  
of Lent**

Draw us close to you in our worship and learning this Lent, O Lord, leading us through our spiritual wilderness into the promised land of the Easter resurrection. Inspire all giving **Lent Addresses**, that they may share their insights with confidence, encouraging thoughtful exploration of issues relating to the place of faith in education.

**Mon 11**

Please bless the new sound system being installed in church, that it may work as designed with the building's acoustics to relay word and worship clearly to all. Thank you for the funds for this project, especially the grant from the King Henry VIII Endowed Trust, without which this need could not have been met for many years to come. We pray too for ourselves, for times when our spiritual ears struggle to hear your message. Help us turn to you in faith. Then, O Lord, open thou our ears!

**Tue 12**

We pray for all visitors to our church, remembering especially today's group of students from Nantes. Touch their hearts, that they may be increasingly aware of your presence in their lives.

**Wed 13**

As **Royal Leamington Spa Archery Society** approaches its 70th Anniversary, we give thanks for its contribution to local and international sport, and for the confidence, fulfilment and friendship it has brought to its members of all ages. We pray that someone will step forward to offer the club a new home.

**Thu 14**

We pray for the PCC and its subcommittees meeting this month. Guide and uphold them in the tasks you have called them to.

**Fri 15**

Heavenly Father, we give thanks for **Red Nose Day** and all it does to inspire and empower people to work together to improve the lives of others. Bless all who will benefit and all taking part.

**Sat 16**

We give thanks for Warwick Wools in Market Place, and for all the creativity, pleasure, knitting and fellowship that it has resourced over the years. We pray for Nicky Ruddle and her staff as the shop closes this month. Comfort them as they come to terms with the loss of the enterprise they served so loyally, and be their strength and guide in the days and weeks ahead.

**Sun 17**

**Second Sunday  
of Lent**

St Patrick

O Lord our God, we give thanks for St Patrick's trefoil reminder that you are Father, Son and Spirit in equal measure. Forgive us when we focus for too long on one Person at the expense of the others, restricting our experience and our understanding. We pray for Maisie, being baptised today. Be her teacher, her guide and her guard, that she may come to know, trust and love you, the Three in One and One in Three.

**Mon 18**

Lord of all creation, open our eyes afresh today in wonder at a beauty of your natural world, calling us with renewed clarity to care for it. Give reassurance that when we pray and act in your name, all things are possible. We pray that **Global Recycling Day** encourages more people to become agents for change.

**Tue 19**

Merciful God, full of grace, give strength and humility to confess any wrongdoing. Give to all those who seek truth the courage to approach you, to ask for mercy and forgiveness. For all who come to you with empty hands and impoverished imaginations, may your power and inspiration fill their hearts and minds, leading to a real understanding that all things are possible with you. So may all boldly go forward into new life through your Son, our risen Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Wed 20**

At the Spring Equinox, we reflect on moments of equilibrium. Lord, help us rest prayerfully awhile in your presence today...

**Thu 21**

We give thanks for the power of poetry, and celebrate the skill of those who shape the sounds, rhythms and nuance of language to evoke layers of meaning that can challenge, comfort and uplift. It's no accident, is it, Lord, that so much of your holy word is gifted to us in this way? Nourish us as we explore the poetry of a new passage or savour a favourite scripture today.

**Fri 22**

We bring before you today the group leaders, ten pupils, and staff involved in the Strong Mental Resilience course underway in Aylesford School. May the course be a blessing to them all, and really help the young people to feel and live whole lives.

**Sat 23**

With the people of **St Paul's Church**, we pray that you will continue to bless and strengthen their connections with the community, including through the Make Lunch project and their monthly community shop TANGO, as well as links with the Children's Centre and with Westgate and Newburgh Primary Schools. Holy Spirit, work through these relationships to see people come to know Christ for themselves and grow in faith.

## Sun 24

Third Sunday  
of Lent

Reflecting on today's reading (*1 Cor. 10.1-13*), we pray for all we know who are facing times of testing or temptation at the moment. May they know you to be a faithful God, keeping your promise not to let your people be tested beyond their strength, but providing the way out so they may be able to endure it.

## Mon 25

Annunciation  
of the Blessed  
Virgin Mary

We pray for the **Bereavement Support Group** on the last Tuesday afternoon of the month at Chase Meadow Community Centre. Fill the counsellors and volunteer listeners with your spirit, that they may minister with skill and compassion. As those who attend share experiences, information and time together, may they find a source of comfort and hope.

## Tue 26

On international epilepsy awareness day we pray for people who have epilepsy, and their families and friends who are involved, asking you to renew their confidence daily as they live with the condition, and to strengthen their wider support network. Bless all **Purple Day** events, that they may raise funds to help people, especially children and their families, come to terms with their diagnoses. May they also raise awareness among the general public of **what to do** when someone has a seizure, replacing inadequate or inappropriate action with well-informed support.

## Wed 27

Abba, Father, we thank you for the Lord's Prayer. Engrave its pattern on our hearts and minds, lest through limiting ourselves to shopping-list prayers we miss both the point, and you.

## Thu 28

With the **CMM Sisters** in Tanzania, we ask for your blessing on our Lent appeal to raise funds to provide their Girls' Hostel in Masasi with a solar fridge, spare panel and battery, to keep the evening milk from their cow fresh for sale the following morning. We pray for the girls from surrounding villages whose upkeep the income from milk sales helps to fund, and we give thanks for the hostel that offers them a place to live in safety while they attend secondary school in the town.

## Fri 29

Whatever this day may or may not bring, we pray for your love and healing wherever it is needed. O Lord, grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, courage to change the things we can, and wisdom to know the difference.

## Sat 30

As they meet for their AGM, we give thanks for our Flower Team, who faithfully share their time and artistry to adorn the church for your glory. Bless them as they serve you and minister to us, reflecting to all the beauty of the changing seasons, the rhythms of the church year and the rites of passage of people's lives.

## Sun 31

Fourth Sunday  
of Lent  
Mothering Sunday

This Mothering Sunday we give thanks for all expressions of appreciation for mothering, and ask you to bless all who are celebrating today. Lord Jesus, who knew the agony of separation from your heavenly father, hold close in your tender embrace those for whom this day is a poignant reminder of loved ones lost, relationships damaged or motherhood that may never come.