



St. Mary's
Warwick's Church of Treasures

April 2019

Prayer Diary

*Thank you for supporting the people of this church, parish and wider community through prayer. Do please 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 May's diary (by 15th April if possible) with Kirsteen Robson (kirsteenr@gmail.com or 07799 682872).*

Mon 1

As **Autism Awareness Week** begins, we pray for the growth of Autism Aware Communities. Guide the Government's review of its autism strategy, that further steps may be made to improve understanding, diagnosis and the support available. Help more people work together to transform lives, change attitudes and create a society that works for everyone on the autistic spectrum.

Tue 2

Lord, whose good news speaks of welcome for all, charging us with particular responsibility for those who are vulnerable, we pray for all involved in safeguarding, especially Thursday's training course, that together we will help ensure that children and vulnerable adults are safe and welcomed in our church.

Wed 3

We bring before you in our prayers today all at **All Saints'**, Emscote who are preparing for their weekly Thursday **Lent Cafés** to support the work of Christian Aid. Bless their endeavours, that they may raise as much money as possible to help alleviate suffering where there is the greatest need.

Thu 4

On the 75th anniversary of the start of the Battle of Kohima in northeast India, we remember all whose lives were irrevocably changed by those 11 weeks of combat. We give thanks for the soldiers of the 'Forgotten Army', who gave so much in order that others might be free. We remember especially those who paid the ultimate price, earning the epitaph 'When you go home, tell them of us and say, For your tomorrow, we gave our today.'

Fri 5

God of healing, we pray for our local thoroughfares that are regularly choked with traffic, and reflect on the various ways congestion affects people, place and planet... Show us how to be part of the solution, as users, influencers and decision-makers, searching out ways to work together for the greater good.

Sat 6

We pray for the new monthly **#Love Local** fair, starting today at the Visitor Information Centre. May it bring business to local traders and crafters and pleasure to residents and visitors.

Sun 7

Fifth Sunday
of Lent

On this first Sunday of the month, we give thanks for the Family Service congregation, their worship, learning and fellowship. Bless them as they hear about the disciples' encounter with Jesus on the Emmaus road, and explore the idea that he reveals himself to us in the breaking and sharing of the bread.

Mon 8

We pray for all children and young people who are educated in hospital or at home because of illness or injury and who are at risk of isolation from friends and peers. Bless the work of the Hospital Education Service, parents and others who do all they can to support their educational and social activities.

Tue 9

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

We must be ready to allow ourselves to be interrupted by God. (D.B.) With the **CMM Sisters in Tanzania and Zambia**, we renew our prayers for new vocations coming forward to join the Religious Life and especially to join their community. We give thanks for the steadfastness of all who respond to your call to live in this way, and we pray for the constancy of all Christians, especially in Lent as we think of the suffering of our Lord for our sake, and prepare to celebrate his glorious resurrection.

Wed 10

Heavenly Father, guide our prayers today as we reflect on the spectrum of sibling relationships. We thank you for the best: for love, forgiveness, collaboration, support... We mourn all that falls short: rivalry, intolerance, indifference... Grant us deeper understanding, richer appreciation and renewed commitment in our relationships with any who are brother or sister to us, and as we seek to live with each other as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Thu 11

We give thanks for the rich history that has shaped our town and church and for all who carefully curate and generously share it. Bless the members of St Mary's Guiding Team as they meet for their AGM. May their evaluation of this exciting year inspire them as they plan their future ministry. We pray that their campaign to recruit new volunteers will bear fruit.

Fri 12

As the future of Brexit continues to unfold, we pray for reconciliation between nations, groups and individuals. Help us all to listen carefully, with compassion, and seek your healing grace.

Sat 13

Lord of labour and of rest, as the holiday period begins in earnest, we ask you to bless those visiting Warwick, that they may enjoy a change of pace and place. We pray too that we may open-heartedly share the best of our town and of ourselves.

Sun 14

Palm Sunday

As the procession of Palms leads hearts and minds into Holy Week we ask for your courage and strength to follow Christ gladly wherever he leads, trusting that whatever trials await us, the victory of the cross is assured. We pray too for our Annual Parish Church Meetings: affirm us as we review the year that's past, then challenge, inspire and equip us as we look ahead.

Mon 15

Monday of
Holy Week

Lord our Maker, we thank you that in the act of creation you impart your goodness to all you make. Lead us in your truth and teach us, that we may see your fingerprints in all matter and respond with a passionate and protecting love. May integrity and uprightness preserve us, and help us preserve the world you love so much that you sent your only Son to die for it.

Tue 16

Tuesday of
Holy Week

Lord of paradox, who invites us into a kingdom that is 'now, and not yet', where the greatest is the least, the last first and where in our weakness we are strongest, guide all your sheep along the narrow path between wisdom and vulnerability that we may do your work and praise your name in the world.

Wed 17

Wednesday
of Holy Week

Lord of eternal life, in a moment of thirst today, be present to us as we drink with thanks a glass of cool, clear water, alert to our senses as it touches lips, teeth, tongue and beyond. As our bodies are refreshed, fill our minds with Jesus' promise: 'Those who drink the water I will give them will never be thirsty.'

Thu 18

Maundy Thursday

As the altar is stripped of its fine linens in preparation for Good Friday, help us peel off, layer by layer, all that hides our hearts from you. Then in our spiritual nakedness as we wait at the foot of the cross, prepare us to receive the radiant garments of salvation.

Fri 19

Good Friday

Father, as we look to the Cross, help us to forgive, even in our own pain and grief. We pray for those who suffer for their faith, and who are persecuted for following you; those who carry their own cross, trusting in your love and promise of salvation. Remind us that the full, final sacrifice made by your beloved son means that death is no longer the end, and through your selfless love all may be welcomed into your heavenly Kingdom. Amen.

Sat 20

Holy Saturday
Easter Eve

We give thanks and pray for all those who will be confirmed by Bishop John tonight. Just as the candlelight fills the church, so may the light of the Risen Christ be their unfailing guide on life's journey, through the power of your Holy Spirit.

Sun 21

Easter Day

He is risen. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! As we rejoice in our Lord's resurrection, we pray for all who will share the joy of our morning service through the TV broadcast. We pray for those who work so hard at the BBC to bring entertainment, education and shared moments of reflection into our lives. We pray that the joy of our risen Christ will fill our hearts and souls with kindness and compassion for the coming year, so we may demonstrate our love for others as He loved us. Amen.

Mon 22

Monday of
Easter Week

As Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week begins, we hold in our prayers all who are living with MS, experiencing ups, downs and everything in between. Be with them in their hopes, fears, triumphs and trials. We give thanks for all who give support: families, friends, medical teams, researchers, fundraisers and campaigners: empower them as they share your love in this way.

Tue 23

Tuesday of
Easter Week

On St George's Day, we give thanks for his example of faith, courage and perseverance. We thank you, too, for the Scouting Movement, remembering them in their annual celebrations. May they continue to be inspired by the story of an individual taking positive action for the good of the whole community.

Wed 24

Wednesday of
Easter Week

Loving Father, we pray for all who are the victims of crime. Give them the strength, courage and power they need to step boldly into the future, comforted and supported by your Holy Spirit. Help them conquer their fears in the company of those who love and care for them. Build them up and inspire them, restore their confidence and lead them into new life through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thu 25

Thursday of
Easter Week

We give thanks for the **Chaplaincy Team** at Warwick Hospital and all they do to minister to patients, relatives, carers and staff. Strengthen them as they offer spiritual, religious and pastoral support at times of uncertainty and distress. Bless all who attended the recent open day for potential volunteers, and help them discern if they are called to this valuable role.

Fri 26

Friday of
Easter Week

With the congregation of **St Nicholas'** we thank you for the gifts and surgical skills you have given to Dayalan Clarke and all he has given in service to the NHS here in the UK. Direct his steps now in his voluntary work in Assam. Equip him with perseverance, wisdom, and adaptability in a new environment. Inspire him and make him an effective teacher and an inspiration to others. May others in Tezpur know healing as you work through him. Protect him and draw him close to you, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Sat 27

Saturday of
Easter Week

Three-in-one God, we give you thanks for all that helps to weave our community: daily routines that make familiar the stranger; small talk with staff in shop and market; shared spaces, activities, resources and responsibilities. Teach us to cherish the diversity of strands in our cloth, appreciate the patterns this makes possible and attend to any holes or fraying edges.

Sun 28

Second Sunday
of Easter

We give thanks for the Friends of St Mary's, meeting for their AGM today, for their industry, their hospitality and their generosity. Bless and guide them in the year ahead in all they do to support the social life and the fabric of the church.

Mon 29

As **International Maternal Mental Health Week** begins we pray for new parents experiencing post-natal mental disorders. Open their ears to the message that they don't have to struggle on alone, and bring them the support they need. We pray that the #MakeOverMotherhood campaign will do much to dispel the myth that the perfect parents need no help. It's said that it takes a village to raise a child: help us to play our part.

Tue 30

We pray for the people who live and work in Theatre Street, Barrack Street, Joyce Pool, Priory Mews, Edward Street and Victoria Mews. Bless their goings out and their comings in.