



St. Mary's
Warwick's Church of Treasures

May 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 those who have contributed ideas this month. Everyone is invited to share suggestions for June's diary (by 15th May if possible) with Kirsteen Robson (kirsteenr@gmail.com or 07799 682872).*

Wed 1

Risen Lord, we give thanks for all who worked tirelessly to share our Easter Eucharist far beyond our walls. Thank you for the way the BBC teams put their skills and technology at your disposal to communicate the joy of the Easter message through the medium of TV. Walk with each of them as they continue in the paths they are called to, inspire their work that it may inspire others, and uphold them and their loved ones in times of absence.

Thu 2

As Warwick Local Government elections are held, we thank you for those who are prepared to share the responsibility of leadership. Bless and guide all who are elected, that they may work together and serve with vision, wisdom and integrity.

Fri 3

We bring before you today the staff and pupils of King's High attending a service of thanksgiving for the school's benefactors. As they remember with gratitude all who have made possible the education and opportunities they now enjoy, help us all to consider those whose generosity has benefitted our lives, and to praise you for all you have done and continue to do for us.

Sat 4

We give thanks for the dedication and courage of Warwickshire firefighters and ask you to protect them in their work. On National Firefighters Memorial Day we join our prayers with theirs as they honour and remember the bravery of comrades who laid down their lives to help others. Comfort all who mourn.

Sun 5

**Third Sunday
of Easter**

Lord of Creation, we thank you for the joyful chorus of the birds who pour out their praises with full voice each morning, in overflowing gratitude for life. May we, who were dead in sin but through Jesus's resurrection are raised to new life, sing to you in our hearts this day and give thanks to you for ever.

Mon 6

We pray for all rebuilding lives after stroke; fill them with your hope and strength. Bless **#MakeMayPurple** that it may raise awareness of the symptoms and results of stroke, and provide funds to support people to live the best life they can after stroke.

Tue 7

Today we pray for all taking part in this term's weekly 'Stretch and Pray' sessions at Northgate Methodist Church. Be present to them as they focus on you in Christian meditation; nourish them in spirit and strengthen them in body, that the exercises may bring rest, healing, increased flexibility and improved posture. Guide Rev Jemima Strain in this holistic ministry.

Wed 8

We give thanks for your work through the **International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement**, providing refuge, strength and help in trouble, without discrimination. Protect its members and bless all fundraising for their vital activities.

Thu 9

We pray for pilgrims to our church who are drawn by the history of the place, and for their guides. As they contemplate the craftsmanship, may they accept its invitation into deeper relationship with you, the source of its inspiration. This month we pray especially for visitors on the Travel Editions, Arrow Valley Countryside Group and Matlock Travel Society tours.

Fri 10

O Lord, in whose kingdom faith as small as a mustard seed can grow into a tree that provides shelter for others, we thank you for each small step made in faith and hope to reduce, reuse or recycle single-use plastic. Bless Mellors the Chemist's collection of used plastic dental products for recycling, and to raise funds for the Sea Scouts.

Sat 11

God of love we pray for Kirsty and Noel on their wedding day. May it be an occasion of joy and celebration as they make their vows before you. Bless their marriage day by day, giving them the patience, strength and humility to love and support each other through all the changing scenes of life.

Sun 12

**Fourth Sunday
of Easter**

On her baptism day, we thank you for Ava, and pray that you will help her parents and godparents in their task ahead. As Ava grows, may she come to know and trust your voice, and follow you that she may dwell in your house her whole life long.

Mon 13

In **Dying Matters Awareness Week** hold us all close to you that we in turn may support others as we consider the question 'Are we ready?'... Help overcome all that keeps people from thinking or talking about financial, practical, emotional and spiritual aspects of their own death and that of others. Give us the desire and confidence to do what we can in our communities to help each other be ready too.

Tue 14

This week we pray for all whose mental health is affected by negative **body image**. Help people see themselves through your eyes, who beholds the beauty in all you have created.

Wed 15

O Lord, who heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds, comfort all who are grieving. We pray that all attending **TCTW Bereavement Support Groups** will find hope and healing. Please bring all who are overwhelmed the support they need.

Thu 16

Caroline Chisholm

We thank you for those who, like **Caroline Chisholm**, do not accept the status quo that overlooks the welfare of others, but take action to bring about change. Inspire us to learn by their example, trusting that if we step out in faith, you will lead us on. Then show each of us a step you want us to take.

Fri 17

Bless Kate and Christopher on their wedding day: May there always be work for their hands to do. May their purse always hold a coin or two. May the sun always shine upon their window pane. May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain. May the hand of a friend always be near to them and may you fill their heart with gladness to cheer them. (Traditional Celtic blessing)

Sat 18

Father, we pray for all who are wondering which direction you want them to go in their lives. As they seek your will, free them from the internal clamour of anxiety about tomorrow that they may hear your voice and discern your signs. In the meantime, help them do what they do now with all their might.

Sun 19

Fifth Sunday
of Easter

O praise ye the Lord! Praise him in the height! Lord of all creation, we thank you for writers and composers ancient and modern whose verse and music helps us pray and praise, inviting our souls to sing. Bless all taking part in Songs of Praise at Northgate Methodist this evening, and inspire them as they worship you and celebrate the 18th and 19th century hymnody still included in 21st century editions.

Mon 20

We pray today for the people of Turberville Place, Spring Pool, Wallwin Place, Victoria Street, Cattell Road and Albert Street. Lord, we may or may not know them, but you know and love each one. Be a presence in their hearts, their homes and their businesses, drawing ever closer to you any who are far off.

Tue 21

We give thanks for all that Cllr Richard Eddy has done to serve the town and local charities during his year as Mayor. Bless the incoming Mayor, being inaugurated at St Mary's tonight, inspiring and empowering dedication, passion and purpose.

Wed 22

With those who have been in Warwick Hospital recently, we give thanks for the dedicated staff there, and the compassion, respect, love, professionalism and good humour with which they tend those in their care. Bless, strengthen and sustain each and every one of them in this vital ministry, as they live out a vocation that can too easily be taken for granted.

Thu 23

Generous God, always ready to share your gifts with us, we are all your children who could at any time be caught up in criminality or need to care for our loved ones as they deal with imprisonment or victimhood. Be present and strengthen those who are supporting the victims of crime, and those who visit prisoners and await their release. Support all who are damaged and vulnerable, so they can come boldly before you and claim your promises of grace, mercy and new life. Amen.

Fri 24

Following the 75th Anniversary last month of the escape of 76 RAF Prisoners of War from a Nazi camp in Poland, we pray for the families of the 50 recaptured men who were killed, the 23 recaptured veterans who survived, and the 3 who escaped to safety. We give thanks for today's RAF; bless them that they may serve with the same spirit of camaraderie, courage and strength.

Sat 25

As 'Wars of the Roses Live' starts at Warwick Castle, we thank you for the Castle's contribution to our town's prosperity. We pray for the safety of all taking part in the show. Bless all the castle staff, sustaining their energy and enthusiasm through the season.

Sun 26

**Sixth Sunday
of Easter**

'Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.' (Jn 14.23)
What does love look like...? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like. (Augustine of Hippo)
Lord, please give us the grace and strength to love in this way.

Mon 27

We give thanks for the way you are guiding and growing the work of **Transforming Communities Together Warwick**, opening up opportunities in new directions. Bless the development of the Care Homes project, that it may take shape in your way. Draw the right people to form the project and carry it out.

Tue 28

With the **CMM Sisters** in Africa we thank you for your gracious provision each year of sufficient crops for them to eat, sell and share. Sustain the sisters as they prayerfully watch for the unpredictable rains. May these come in time to raise crops that will be enough for their own needs and those of the hungry people who sit at their gates waiting to be fed.

Wed 29

We give thanks for all churches, families and individuals joining the global wave of prayer '**Thy Kingdom Come**' from Ascension Day to Pentecost. With them we pray that those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and his love for the world will hear it for themselves, respond and follow Him.

Thu 30

Ascension Day

Risen and ascended Lord, you have gone up into the heavens, not to leave us, but that you may be with us all the more. Alleluia! No longer confined to a curtained corner, your light shines from above to every nation. Alleluia! Seated at the right hand of the Father, you ever speak on our behalf. Alleluia! All honour, glory, praise and power be yours. Alleluia! Amen!

Fri 31

**The Visit of
Mary to
Elizabeth**

As we commemorate Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth we reflect on their time of preparation and anticipation while they awaited the arrival of the sons foretold by angels... We think too of the disciples waiting and praying for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost... And we bring before you our own waiting time... Be with us, Lord, as we pray and prepare.