



St. Mary's
Warwick's Church of Treasures

July 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 themes as starting points for prayers 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 and prayers this month. Everyone is invited to share suggestions for August's diary (by 15th July if possible) with Kirsteen Robson (kirsteenr@gmail.com or 07799 682872).*

Mon 1

As the Samaritans launches its **Talk to Us** campaign, we give thanks for its volunteers and the lifeline their support can offer to someone considering suicide. Bless all efforts to increase awareness of the Samaritans' services and to raise funds to provide them, that all who need to talk may access the support they need, so fewer people may die by suicide.

Tue 2

Lord, we lay before you in faith and hope the serious state of St Mary's crumbling tower and the scale of fundraising needed to secure then to restore it. Direct discussions, guide decisions, and lead us forward according to your will, that we may find in this task new opportunities for communication, collaboration, and for sharing your love with people locally and beyond.

Wed 3

Thomas, the Apostle

We thank you for the **Townswomen's Guilds**, celebrating their 90th Anniversary this year, and pray for their work as they seek to empower women to improve their own lives and those of others. We pray for the Woodloes Park members at their anniversary event in the Courthouse Ballroom tonight.

Thu 4

As King's High School prepares for its 140th Anniversary events, we thank you for its past and ask for your blessing on its future.

Fri 5

Loving God, we pray for the family and friends of Mary Barnes as they gather to celebrate her life. Uplift and console them as they share their memories of Mary in your presence, trusting that she is safe in your care, delighting in the flowers of heaven.

Sat 6

Lord Jesus, who prayed that your followers might be one, even as you and the Father are one, increase our awareness of and appetite for activities and attitudes that strengthen links between local churches, that we may better serve the people of this town. We pray for **Churches Together in Warwick**, especially this morning's Prayer Breakfast at St Mary's, Healing on the Streets (6th and 20th), and all attending the service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance at Warwick Cemetery (14th).

Sun 7

**Third Sunday
after Trinity**

Lord, who sends out labourers into the harvest, we thank you and pray for all who were ordained last week, especially Ben Jarvis (who came to St Mary's on placement) and Anita Morgan (Curate of St Nicholas). Bless Anita's work in the 'fields' of Warwick, especially in projects to support local communities with health and wellbeing. Help her follow you faithfully, and as she seeks to share your love, may others respond to your invitation to love and life in all its fullness through you. Bless her and all enjoying fellowship at a celebratory Church BBQ.

Mon 8

We thank you today for the gift of laughter and for all who make us laugh. Help us to use this gift generously and wisely.

Tue 9

Almighty God, Creator of the universe and all that is in it, provider, rock and refuge, as we pray the Lord's Prayer, help us toward a deeper understanding of what it is to call you "Our... Father... in heaven...". Reveal the differences you would have this make in our relationships with you and with each other.

Wed 10

We thank you for all who work so hard to keep our church building up, open and ready to welcome all comers; who plan and provide opportunities for inspiring worship and learning; and who share your love and good news beyond its walls. Fill them with the strength of your Spirit. We pray for the PCC and its committees, that they may act with insight and energy.

Thu 11

Lord of all, on **World Population Day** we pray that leaders, policymakers, grassroots organisers, institutions and others will help make reproductive health and rights a reality for all.

Fri 12

"Love the Lord your God" and "Love your neighbour." Lord, today is National Simplicity Day. Jesus kept it simple; please help us to.

Sat 13

Lord, who offers food to the hungry and rest to the weary, we give thanks for the summer weekend community teas at **St Nicholas Church** and ask you to bless all involved. As residents and visitors enjoy refreshment and fellowship may they also catch a foretaste of the hospitality of your kingdom.

Sun 14

**Fourth Sunday
after Trinity**

This **Sea Sunday** we thank you for all seafarers, on whom we depend for so much of our food, clothes and goods. Keep them safe and well, uphold their families, and bless the work of organisations such as **Stella Maris** that support seafarers in need. This year we remember especially the Merchant Navy, grateful for the part they played during the Normandy landings. We pray too for Elsie on her baptism day. May she know Jesus as her steadfast guide across the unpredictable waters of life.

Mon 15

We pray today for the needs of those who live or work in Wathen Road, Percy Road, Peel Road, Newburgh Crescent, Wednock Green and Tatnall Grove. Help us pray perceptively for the people we know and imaginatively for those we don't.

Tue 16

We pray for our choirs, thankful for the time and effort they give to transform and inspire our worship, and enrich the community. As the boys, girls and men sing evensong at St Paul's Cathedral today, may the experience inspire them, and their music inspire others. Bless their summer break, that they may return refreshed.

Wed 17

Lord of unity, bless young people from Warwick, our twinned towns Verden and Saumur, and our partnership towns Havelberg and Formigine as they join for a two-week Eurocamp at Verden and explore together the history of the Federal Republic of Germany. May the friendships made further strengthen ties between our towns, building bonds that transcend politics.

Thu 18

Living God, give to all those who work in our prisons boldness and confidence, grace and courage in the face of distress and danger. Keep their energy levels high, and fill them with your Holy Spirit. May they support one another and strengthen hope in all those for whom they care. Pour out all the richness of your gifts into our prisons that your light might triumph. Amen.

Fri 19

As many schools break up for the summer, we pray that staff and children will be recharged by a change of focus and pace. Bless the time families will share together, and sustain those who find holidays a financial, practical or emotional challenge.

Sat 20

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? (Ps 8) 50 years after the first Moon landings, we give thanks for all that expands our understanding of the universe and deepens our awe of its creator. Draw us ever further out and further in, one small step at a time.

Sun 21

**Fifth Sunday
after Trinity**

Lord Jesus, we thank you for the renewed invitation to spend time sitting at your feet with Mary. Help us to set aside our distractions to listen to you with our whole heart, that we may return to help Martha filled with your peace and guided by your purpose. Bless Henry, Charles and Henry, being baptised today. As they grow, may they learn who you are, that they may love and serve you, even as you love and serve them.

Mon 22

Mary Magdalene

Dear Lord, we celebrate the quiet commitment of Mary Magdalene to the ministry of Jesus as he spread your word on earth, and her witness of his death and resurrection. May we, like her, be proud and determined disciples, spreading the Good News that she witnessed and which we proclaim. Amen.

Tue 23

We give thanks for the **CMM Sisters** in Tanzania, for their work as teachers and nurses, and for the many other ways in which they show your love in action to all in need, especially to women and children. Uphold and renew them every day in body, mind and spirit, that their lives may be completely dedicated to serving you, who have called them to this task.

Wed 24

On 24/7, the day of the Samaritan's **Big Listen**, we thank you for the gift of active listening that offers people time and space to share their thoughts without interruption or judgement. Thank you that this is a skill that can be developed by all. Give us greater awareness of the way we listen today, and help us remove any obstacles that prevent us giving our full attention.

Thu 25

James, the Apostle

We thank you for **Myton Church** and its ministry with young people, praying especially for those preparing for next week's Holiday Club. Bless all who'll take part in the travel-themed activities through European cities, then be with them as they journey with Jesus to Jerusalem, exploring the events of his last week on earth. As they learn about his death and resurrection 2,000 years ago, help them see what it has to do with them, here and now.

Fri 26

Anne and Joachim

As the church commemorates the parents of Mary, we hold before you those who helped prepare us for adult life. We pray for all parents and carers. Help them model wisdom, patience and compassion. Help them set boundaries yet encourage their children to explore, and grant them the courage and strength to treat each day as a fresh start. We pray for all who are struggling or whose circumstances are making their task even harder.

Sat 27

Dear God, whose Son Jesus Christ, enjoyed company and joyous celebration, bless all those organising or visiting the Smith Street Party today. We pray that their hearts may be full of joy and generosity, and that the community come together to celebrate our beautiful town and the communities within it. Amen.

Sun 28

Sixth Sunday
after Trinity

Heavenly Father, at this special time of year in the life of our town, we welcome all the many visitors here for the **Folk Festival**. May they feel welcome and enjoy their stay. Lord of the Dance, fill the hearts of us all with joy to praise your mighty name. We celebrate your love for us with music and dance, and enjoy fellowship with friends, old and new. Amen.

Mon 29

Lord of healing, we bring before you all who are living with the insidious after-effects of the nuclear meltdown at Chernobyl. Bless the work of the **Friends of Chernobyl's Children**, funding UK visits for children from the most desperate circumstances in the contaminated area of Belarus, for healthcare, English lessons and TLC from UK host families. We pray for children from Chernobyl arriving in Warwick today, supported by **Warwick Rotary Club**.

Tue 30

Lord, who came to set captives free, on this **World Day against Trafficking in Persons**, reveal to us the way our choices may play a part in this hidden trade of keeping others captive by creating demand for more slaves. Give us eyes to see injustice, and the courage to choose differently and speak out against it.

Wed 31

Father, help us to act as if everything depended on us and trust as if everything depended on you. (*Ignatius of Loyola, adapted*)