

*Thank you for supporting the people of this church, parish and wider community through prayer. Feel free to use these 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 September's diary (by 5th August if possible) with Kirsteen Robson (kirsteenr@gmail.com or 07799 682872).*

Thu 1

Lammas Day

O God, our Creator and Sustainer, we give thanks for the fruits of the earth and those who tend and gather the harvest. Bless, strengthen and protect farmers and agricultural workers everywhere. We pray for justice in farming. Help us ensure that the earth is treated with respect, and that those who labour are fairly rewarded. Show us how to receive your gifts with humble gratitude and build a society that shares them equitably, that our satisfaction is not paid for by another's need.

Fri 2

We give thanks for all involved in **Make Lunch** schemes and, locally, for sessions run by St Paul's on Fridays, St Michael's, Budbrooke (at Chase Meadow Community Centre) on Tuesdays, and All Saints', Emscote on Wednesdays. May they help fill the school holiday hunger gap for children who receive free term-time school meals. Bless the families, that as they share the food and fun, they may also recognise in the experience an invitation to the hospitality of your Kingdom.

Sat 3

Lord, we thank you for all who inspire us to better, in thought, word and deed. Bless them and keep them in your care.

Sun 4

**Seventh Sunday
after Trinity**

We pray today for our summer visitors to St Mary's, "from the east and the west, from the north and the south", and for members of our own church as they become visitors in other places. May they all find a warm welcome and spiritual refreshment as they experience a change of place and pace.

Mon 5

God of journeys, please protect all who are travelling at this time, for leisure, work or on daily errands. Comfort all whose loved ones have been killed or injured in a road accident.

Tue 6

Transfiguration

We pray for those running **Northgate Methodist's** Tuesday morning holiday club, and supporters of MU Warwick Together joining today's combined Bread Church/Messy Church. Be present as activities, worship and food are shared, that any who've not yet met you will be able to put a face to the name of Jesus.

Wed 7

Lord, we bring before you all who are unable to take time away this year, due to financial restraints, health issues or for other reasons. Draw them to you, that they may receive your rest.

Thu 8

We give thanks for the work **Tastelife** does to help people break free from eating disorders. Bless the charity's search for Network Coordinators, to make support more widely available.

Fri 9

Mary Sumner

We pray for members of the **Mothers' Union** globally and locally as they continue to listen and observe in order to act with insight and integrity in step with your will and timing. Bless members of **MU Warwick To9ether** as they seek to join in with other organised events to help make a difference.

Sat 10

We pray for the trustees and weekend volunteers at the **Warwickshire Yeomanry Museum**, giving thanks for their passion for the regiment's history and their dedication to sharing it in a way that's accessible and interesting to all ages. Bless their calling as curators of the collective memory. We give thanks for all who served in the Warwickshire Yeomanry and pray for all who serve our country in the Army Reserve today.

Sun 11

**Eighth Sunday
after Trinity**

Heavenly Father, sometimes it can be difficult to believe that you give us your kingdom, let alone that you delight in doing so! Help us to sit lightly to what we own, remembering that all things come from you. Guide us as we gaze on the glittering prizes displayed on the shelves of this life, that we may choose wisely, setting our heart on your treasure that will not decay. Dress us for action and keep us awake, ready for Jesus's return.

Mon 12

God of the Everyday, thank you for the joy that gardening can bring. As we dig and sow, weed and water, prune and pick, turn our actions into thoughts and our thoughts into prayers. Cultivate connections between created, creation and Creator, and establish tendrils of compassion between those for who grow food as a leisure activity and those who have no choice.

Tue 13

We give thanks for the **CMM Sisters** in Tanzania and Zambia and for members of the five other Anglican religious communities in these countries and Malawi. As representatives of each travel to their annual Religious Conference, which starts tomorrow, we ask that you will hear their prayers, inspire their discussions and encourage them as they share ideas and fellowship, then keep them safe on their journeys home. Bless the Sisters of the CMM Motherhouse in Masasi, whose turn it is to host the event.

Wed 14

Today we pray with thanks for all who cut hair. Bless them as they give confidence to and receive the confidences of their clients.

Thu 15

Lord of past, present and future, we pray for all young people receiving exam results at this time, rejoicing with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep. Whatever the choices they now face, may they know you to be with them.

Fri 16

O God, in whose image all are made, we thank you for the work of the **Jubilee Sailing Trust**, offering opportunities to people of all abilities to crew their Tall Ships, and we praise you for the life-changing benefits these experiences can bring. Thank you that JST's Emergency Appeal raised the funds needed to continue its important work. Guide and strengthen trustees and staff as they implement plans to secure its mission long into the future.

Sat 17

On his baptism day we give thanks for Alby and for the joy he brings to his family. Protect him as he grows, drawing him ever towards you through whatever is true, noble, right and pure.

Sun 18

**Ninth Sunday
after Trinity**

Lord, help us to read the signs of the present time. People hunger – who will feed them? People hate – who will love? People fight – who will make peace? People are sick – who will heal them? People mourn – who will comfort them? People despair – who will bring hope? Lord, help us read the signs of the present time and respond.

Mon 19

This **World Humanitarian Day** we celebrate and thank you for the women who respond to crises in their own communities, from Afghanistan to Yemen, often risking their own lives to save others. Safeguard and strengthen all in the front line who rally to people in need. We pray that world leaders and non-state actors ensure that these women, and all humanitarians, get all the protection afforded to them under international law.

Tue 20

Bernard of
Clairvaux

“What we love we shall grow to resemble.” (*Bernard of Clairvaux*) Spirit of Truth, hold a mirror to our souls as we pray, that we may see what lies hidden in our inmost heart. If we find there things that are not of you, forgive us, and help us to put them in their rightful place that we may see you more clearly, love you more dearly and follow you more nearly day by day.

Wed 21

We pray for the Girls' and Men's Choirs as their week's residence at Bristol Cathedral continues. We thank you for all whose hard work has made this visit possible. Bless the musical, practical and social arrangements, that your name may be glorified, and a good time may be enjoyed by all.

Thu 22

A month after the service of commemoration for the 75th anniversary of the Battles of Imphal and Kohima at York Minster, we remember veterans and their families and with them give thanks for the ministry of healing and reconciliation carried out at the church and the Kohima Museum. Bless the work of the **Kohima Educational Trust**, assisting the education of young people in Nagaland, India, using the past to benefit the future.

Fri 23

Lord, help us to believe that we are all ordinary people made extraordinary through your vision and power. Take our insecurities and feelings of inadequacy and give us the courage to see ourselves and others as you see us, with gifts and potential to transform your world and build your Kingdom. Amen. (*C of E*)

Sat 24

We pray for Amy and Nicholas as they make their marriage vows today. May their love grow deeper, broader and stronger each day, to sustain them for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, til they are parted by death.

Sun 25

**Tenth Sunday
after Trinity**

Lord God, who knows all your children before they are knitted together in their mother's womb, we ask for your blessing on Max, being baptised today. As he grows may he come to know you as his rock and fortress, on whom he can lean and in whom he can put his hope and trust. We pray for his parents, godparents and ourselves in the task of supporting him.

Mon 26

Gracious God, with you all things are possible. Be present with all those who seek to administer justice wisely and well. Give to them a bold vision, and your Spirit of wisdom and discernment as they try to balance justice with mercy amid demands for harsh and punitive sentences. Surround them with the grace and strength needed to carry these heavy responsibilities. We ask this in the name of our eternal arbiter and judge, Christ Jesus. Amen.

Tue 27

As it celebrates its 50th anniversary, we thank you for the work of the **Riding for the Disabled Association**, improving the lives of people with disabilities through equestrian activities. Bless the work of the recently opened National Training Centre at Shrewley and the riding coaches and volunteers who will train there. We pray for the children and adults who ride there, and ask you to guide efforts to double the number of places on offer.

Wed 28

Lord God, whose very name and nature are one, we thank you for the profound privilege of knowing you by name and being called to you by ours. As we pray the Lord's Prayer – hallowed be thy name – help us toward a deeper understanding of what we are asking, and what we are pledging as we revere you and place ourselves on your side, for you, your nature and your ways.

Thu 29

We pray today for all who live or work in Lyttelton Road, Ladbroke Park, Oken Road, St Mary's Close, Lock Lane and Millers Road. Bless and strengthen those who know you, and draw towards you those who are yet to hear your invitation.

Fri 30

John Bunyan

"In prayer it is better to have a heart without words than words without a heart." (*John Bunyan*) As Elijah stood at the mouth of the cave, listening for your voice, so give us courage to bring our hearts out from their hiding places and in the silence open ourselves to receive you. Deliver us from the temptation to fill that space.

Sat 31

Aidan

As the tide draws the waters close in upon the shore, make me an island, set apart, alone with you, God, holy to you. Then with the turning of the tide prepare me to carry your presence to the busy world beyond, the world that rushes in on me till the waters come again and fold me back to you. (*Aidan of Lindisfarne*)