

*Thank you for supporting the people of this church, parish and wider community through prayer. Do use the prayers as is most helpful, for example 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 and prayers this month. Everyone is invited to share suggestions for October's diary (by 15th September if possible) with Kirsteen Robson (kirsteenr@gmail.com or 07799 682872).*

Sun 1

**11th Sunday
after Trinity**

As cars and bikes settle into new routes around Northgate, we give thanks for the workers who have spent the summer digging, filling, paving, asphaltting and painting. Thank you for their patience and politeness directing uncertain drivers and pedestrians. May your blessing go with them as they move to new projects.

Mon 2

At the beginning of a new academic year, we pray for all involved in education. Bless the teaching and learning that lies ahead. Give courage to those who are anxious about starting new schools, jobs and classes. We pray that those who follow you, whatever their age, will show your love to others, and that they in turn will come to know you with them always.

Tue 3

On this 80th anniversary of England's declaration of war on Germany, we remember members of our families and community who enlisted, joining with many others who were fighting for peace. And we pray for those still fighting for peace in many places in the world. Prince of Peace, reign in the hearts of all.

Wed 4

This week we remember with thanks all whose pledge to donate organs has been called upon, and lift up the lives changed as a result. Comfort donors' families, and all who receive donor organs, as they deal with complex emotions. We pray for all on transplant lists: sustain them as they anxiously await news.

Thu 5

At this time we pray for all graduates who are seeking jobs related to their skills. Grant them courage to persevere and wisdom to recognise opportunities, or rethink when needed.

Fri 6

We thank you for the decision 50 years ago to admit women as Readers, and give thanks for the rich variety of liturgical and pastoral ministry of all people you have called to this role. Bless all gathering for tomorrow's Celebration of Reader Ministry and Licensing Service at Coventry Cathedral. We pray for Readers in the Warwick team: Doreen, Margaret, Andrew, Fiona & Martin.

Sat 7

We give thanks for all who serve you in the sanctuary, and especially for new members in the serving team. Bless them on their training morning, that they may always serve with a discretion and reverence that directs attention towards you. We pray for Kerrie and Benjamin on their wedding day, that what starts out in great happiness may continue in great joy.

Sun 8

**12th Sunday
after Trinity**

As we celebrate the Patronal Festival of St Mary's we thank you for the worshipping communities that have been a church here since its founding and for the richness of liturgy and music that has nourished and inspired generations of people in this place. Bless our choirs, back from their holiday, and our new organ scholar Lucy. May our hearts' voices join with theirs, that our souls may magnify you and our spirit rejoice in you, our Saviour. We pray for Althea as she is baptised into your worldwide church, and welcomed into the family of St Mary's.

Mon 9

God of all seasons, as August's green gives way to autumn gold, we pray for all whose summer has been tinged with sadness, and whose time to dance has turned to mourning. Comfort them in their grief and lighten their darkness.

Tue 10

Living Lord, comfort and encourage all whose experiences of life feel so far from abundance that they wish their lives over. Help us, by our words and actions, to provide the threads of hope that they can hang on by. We pray that **World Suicide Prevention Day** will be successful in raising awareness of the difference that together, as family, friends, co-workers, community members, educators, religious leaders, healthcare professionals, political officials or government, we can make.

Wed 11

As it celebrates its 40th anniversary year, we give thanks for the Warwick Corps of Drums and all it does to provide a musical education for young people. Bless its members as they experience the discipline and enjoyment of making music together and giving pleasure through it to others.

Thu 12

We pray for members of St Mary's study group as they start on this term's course *The Eucharist*. As they explore its themes, enrich their understanding, and draw them into closer communion with you and each other, that, with your whole community in this place, they may live and work to your praise and glory.

Fri 13

We give thanks for 25 years of **Heritage Open Days** and opportunities offered for visitors to explore and appreciate the richness and diversity of England's cultural history. May this year's visitors enjoy discovering the treasures on their doorstep.

Sat 14

Bless those cycling and walking around Warwickshire on today's **Bard's Ride**, raising money to preserve historic places of worship. Inspire all taking part as they visit churches and chapels and take in the beauty of your creation on the way.

Sun 15

**13th Sunday
after Trinity**

Loving God, bless Nadia and Richard as they make their marriage vows this afternoon. May their life together be built on firm foundations of love for each other and for you and characterised by creativity, collaboration and courage, as they face the opportunities and challenges that lie before them.

Mon 16

Lord God, you created the world and saw that it was very good. You entrusted people with its care, but we are failing in our task. Please show us how to be responsible stewards. Guide our decisions, especially when the variables make it so hard to judge. Grant us hope, help, courage, patience and strength.

Tue 17

Lord, you call us by our names. Help us to be confident in our own unique identity. To find opportunities to develop our specific gifts and our passions. Enable us to hear and recognise the call of Jesus in our lives, and those of others. Help us to find appropriate and life-giving ways to spread your Good News in a way which draws others to you and helps them experience your radical and extraordinary love. Amen (*Church of England*)

Wed 18

We pray for the nurture of Christian faith in prisons. Protect prisoners who arrive with faith, and sustain those who find faith there. Give them courage to support each other and share your good news with others. Inspire and strengthen all who minister spiritually and pastorally to prisoners and staff.

Thu 19

As the start of university terms draws near, we pray for all staff and students, especially any preparing for a new chapter in their lives. Strengthen, bless and protect them as they face challenges, responsibilities and temptations. Give them wisdom to make good choices, and find a healthy balance between work and play. Sustain families (re)adjusting to a space at their table and help them (re)establish new rhythms of communication and support.

Fri 20

God of Creation, source of wisdom and knowledge, bless all those speaking at or attending the **Faith and Science Weekend** at **St Nicholas' Church**, that fresh perspectives may be shared. We pray for reconciliation where science and faith are perceived to compete. May science be a lens through which your glory is revealed to all, not an eye patch that occludes it.

Sat 21

Matthew, Apostle

O Lord, who gives your living water to all who ask for it, we pray for those who are thirsty for more of you. In particular we ask you to bless those taking part in the Sacred Journey pilgrimage/courses this term at **Charlecote Quiet Garden**. May they discover ways to create space for you, and be refreshed.

Sun 22

**14th Sunday
after Trinity**

As Timothy encourages us, we pray today for leaders of nations and all who hold authority. Grant them wisdom and strength to act with integrity and compassion in all things. Protect them from the temptations of power, and from the actions of those who would undermine them for the sake of personal gain.

Mon 23

We thank you for the sense of purpose that work can give to life, the rhythms for toil and rest it helps establish and the benefit our labours can bring to others. Guide our prayers for all who are unhappy or unfulfilled at work, those who are over-worked, those seeking work, and those we work with.

Tue 24

We thank you for the work of the **CMM Sisters** in Tanzania, and Zambia. With the Sisters at the motherhouse in Masasi we give thanks that by your grace their well has provided enough water to increase the growth of the vegetables in their garden in a year when the harvests have been generally poor due to lack of rain. Lord, who fed many with food for a few, may their crops sustain them and those who rely on them. Bless this food for their use, and their lives for your service.

Wed 25

Lord, we give thanks for fellowship at St Mary's, and for events and excursions organised by the Friends of St Mary's. Bless those visiting Oxford together today, that it may be a day of both social and spiritual refreshment. Walk with them as they explore the city of dreaming spires, green pastures and still waters and attend evensong at Christ Church Cathedral.

Thu 26

prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer
prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer
prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer
prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer
prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer
prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer
prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer prayer Amen.

Fri 27

God of the Everyday, we thank you for our morning coffee. Guide our prayers as we fill the kettle with fresh water, smell the coffee's rich aroma, and anticipate the boost it will bring.

Sat 28

Today we pray for all who live and work in St Christopher's Close, Saltisford, Upper Cape, Lower Cape, Sir Thomas White Close and Cape Court. Bless their lives according to their needs and bring them ever closer to you, in whom is eternal life.

Sun 29

**15th Sunday
after Trinity**

Lord of abundance, we give thanks for the bounty of harvest. In our prayers today, help us explore what HARVEST yields: THRIVES and TARES, EARTH and SEA, EAT, SATE and STARVE, STARE and SHARE, HEARTS and SAVE, AVERT and TEARS, REST and HASTE. AH, AVE HARVEST! EARS and HEAR...

Mon 30

**Jerome, translator
of scriptures**

As the **Warwick Words Festival** begins, we give thanks for all who curate the stories of the past and keep interest in them alive. Bless everyone taking part in and attending events, that their lives may be enriched by new perspectives. Thank you too for Jerome and others who followed your calling to translate the Bible, preserving and sharing the greatest Story ever told.