

*Thank you for supporting the people of this church, parish and wider community through prayer. Do use the prayers as you find most helpful, for example using the themes as a starting point for prayers in your own words. There are extra copies for sharing at the back of church and on St Mary's Church website. If you would like to receive the diary electronically, please email Kirsteen (address below). The digital edition also offers **links** to related material of interest. Thank you to those who have shared ideas and prayers this month. All are invited to share suggestions for December's diary (by 15th November if possible) with Kirsteen Robson (kirsteenr@gmail.com or 07799 682872).*

Fri 1

All Saints

We give thanks for all who followed your way, kept faith to the end, and who worship now in your glorious presence. Inspire us to learn from their stories, that following their example, we may live wholly for you until at last you bring us home.

Sat 2

All Souls

Lord of eternal life, we pray for those who are no longer with us. We rejoice in the earthly life we shared with those we loved, and take comfort in the knowledge that their souls rest in you through your Son Jesus Christ, who gave his own life that we may live in your perpetual love and glory. Amen

Sun 3

**4th Sunday
before Advent**

Inspire our worship for All Saints and All Souls, and give us the wings of faith that we may one day rise within the veil to join them. We also thank you for Dee, as we celebrate 25 years of tireless service, and all she has done to welcome and serve St Mary's visitors. May her retirement be refreshing and rewarding.

Mon 4

In its Global Week of Prayer, we give thanks and pray for the work of **Mission Aviation Fellowship**, enabling over 2,000 aid, development and mission organisations to fly medical care, emergency relief, long-term development and Christian hope to thousands of far-flung communities. Guide all called to this task, bless all helped by it, and increase the number who support it.

Tue 5

As the **Salvation Army** celebrates 140 years in Leamington, we give thanks for the many practical ways its members have shown your love, from supplying soup, soap and salvation on the streets, and hot tea and blankets to disembarking war veterans to projects such as Way Ahead, charity shops and playgroups. Bless its ministry of love in action, and all who benefit from it.

Wed 6

Lord, who stilled the storm, speak your peace into the hearts and minds of all who are oppressed by leaden thunderclouds of stress or sinking in swirling seas of anxiety. "Peace, be still!"

Thu 7

We pray for your rich blessing on all whose daily labour is unseen by those who benefit from it, reflecting with gratitude on those whose work has helped us this day. And in the year when the Royal British Legion has launched a poppy brooch in memory of the Decoders in World War II, we remember with thanks all they did to provide information to shorten the war.

Fri 8

O Lord, who has searched us and knows us, **today** we thank you for the famous and unsung men and women who have developed imaging technologies to see safely inside the human body. We celebrate the skill of radiographers who operate medical imaging equipment and radiologists who interpret the images. We lift before you patients who are anticipating appointments, awaiting results or coming to terms with an unwelcome diagnosis.

Sat 9

On the eve of **Interfaith Week** we pray its events may help to strengthen good interfaith relations and increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs. Locally, may the **Warwick District Faiths Forum Wellbeing Conference** at St Peter's, Leamington, be a valuable vehicle for information, inspiration and communication for all who attend. And we remember the service of people of all faiths and beliefs who have fought and died side by side in wars and conflicts.

Sun 10

**3rd Sunday
before Advent
Remembrance
Sunday**

Almighty and eternal God, we remember those who gave their lives in war, so that we may be free. We remember those who have died in recent conflicts and pray for those who have suffered the pain of loss. We pray for peace and for a time when conflict and hatred cease and a still small voice of calm is heard by all. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord of endless love. Amen

Mon 11

Remembrance Day

We pray that all who gather at 11, in body and spirit, to remember those who died in conflict, may be united in a renewed desire to strive for peace. Bless all who 'Pause to Remember' at Northgate church this morning, as they are offered the opportunity to reflect quietly, light a candle, place a poppy on a tribute and, if they wish, share refreshment and a time to talk.

Tue 12

Bring hope and comfort to all young people who are being bullied, and healing to those who feel the need to bully others. We pray that the **Change Starts With Us** campaign may spread the message that settings, young people and carers have a collective responsibility and power to stop bullying behaviour.

Wed 13

Lord, hear our prayer as we bring before you the needs of all who live and work in St Michael's Road, Antelope Gardens, Welton Road, Saltisford Gardens, Birmingham Road and Rothwell Road.

Thu 14

We give thanks for staff at the closing-down Homebase on Emscote Road, and for their combined years of service to their customers. Help them in the coming weeks as they look for work elsewhere, that each may find a silver lining to their cloud.

Fri 15

As 2019's **Children in Need** appeal reaches its climax, we give thanks for all it does to encourage people to work together to help others, and for the life-changing difference the money can make. Inspire all involved locally in fundraising events, in workplaces, schools, shops and other settings. Bless the children whose lives will be brightened or transformed by the projects the donations will support, remembering the 23 projects in Warwickshire currently receiving funding from the charity.

Sat 16

O Lord, who offers refuge and strength in times of trouble, we pray for all who are affected by the recent burglaries on the Woodloes. Comfort and protect those whose sense of security has been shaken; forgive, and change the hearts of those involved in theft; and help us as a community to find ways to give the support needed by people on both sides of the crime.

Sun 17

**2nd Sunday
before Advent**

We give thanks that **Coventry Cathedral** continues to offer free entry to visitors and for the donations that help it make its beauty and life-changing story more equally accessible. Bless our Outward Giving collection, as we seek to add our support to the Coventry Cathedral shared Ministry in our Diocese. We pray too for Miley as her family and friends give thanks for the gift of her life and seek your blessing on her. As she grows, may she experience your love, and find it to be an eternal spring of joy.

Mon 18

As we pray the Lord's Prayer, help us reflect with thanks on the portion of 'bread' you gave us yesterday – physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually... and ask with confidence for the bread we need today, given new every morning out of your abundant love.

Tue 19

Lord, who broke bread, shared it out and had basketsful over, show us how we might share our bread with others in need.

Wed 20

We give thanks for the Chaplaincy Team at Warwick University and pray for them as they minister spiritually and pastorally to the students in their care. Bless Rev. Mark Rowland, who has recently started his new position as Free Church Chaplain there.

Thu 21

On **World Pancreatic Cancer Day**, we ask you to comfort and strengthen all who have pancreatic cancer. Bless the work of hospital teams, researchers and fundraisers as they seek in different ways to alleviate suffering and improve treatments. We pray that many people will be inspired to show support by **taking action** from sharing information about symptoms to advocating for more research funding from public officials.

Fri 22

St Cecilia

We give thanks for the music ministry of St Mary's with and through our musicians of all ages, in church and far beyond. We give thanks for the rich repertoire of music that soothes and inspires, gives voice to the inexpressible, and that speaks directly to and from the soul. As we lift our eyes to the hills, fill our ears and our hearts with your sweet, life-giving song.

Sat 23

As Northgate's own 'yellow-brick road' draws attention to the revised route and priorities at the heart of our town, so may your words and deeds, Lord, be a constant reminder of your priorities. Keep us on the path you have set before us, that we may one day see the heavenly city, shining with the brightness and glory of God like a precious jewel, and pass through its gates.

Sun 24

Christ the King

Sunday next
before Advent

Christ, our King all glorious, we offer before your throne all we are today: our joys and sorrows, our hopes and fears.

Draw us into your radiant presence, we pray.

'Be still and know that I am God...

Be still and know that I am...

Be still and know that...

Be still and know...

Be still...

Be...'

Mon 25

We give thanks for members of the Warwickshire W.I, who've knitted 2,500 smoothie bottle hats for Innocent's Big Knit appeal to raise funds for **AgeUK**. We pray for all who struggle to keep warm in the cold weather: those with poor circulation, inadequate heating, those who live in fuel poverty, and those who are living on the streets. Inspire and mobilise all who can help in any way, from personal through to policy level.

Tue 26

We pray for the **CMM Sisters in Tanzania**, and with them for the completion of the small Nursery School in Masasi they have been given funds to build. Open the eyes of government officials to see the value of what is there, and their hearts to the hope of parents keen to send their children next year. May officials grant a licence to open the teaching block, despite the lack of costly admin offices demanded by government plans, and be satisfied to entrust any further development to your will and provision.

Wed 27

As final Christmas Tree Festival preparations are made, we give thanks for the commitment of all who work so hard for the enjoyment and benefit of others. Bless them and their endeavours.

Thu 28

Bless our community as it gathers for the Victorian Evening. Stir people's hearts as they see the church-light shining into the darkness, and draw them in. May the twinkling trees and festive spirit awaken a longing for your Holy Spirit and the Tree of Life.

Fri 29

Whether Black Friday, Buy Nothing Day or neither, this is the day that you have made, Lord: help us rejoice and be glad in it!

Sat 30

With **Evelyn's Gift**, we give thanks for local community support that helps them reach out to people in need, and pray it may continue. On the eve of Be Happy Day (Evelyn's birthday), we pray for every parent who has experienced the death of a baby, child or young person. Bless local school children as they share little acts of kindness for Be Happy Day in Evelyn's memory.