



**St. Mary's**  
Warwick's Church of Treasures

# March 2020

## Prayer Diary

*Thank you for supporting the people of this church and wider community through prayer, and thank you to all who have contributed ideas this month. Feel free to use the Diary as you find most helpful in your prayers, and if you have suggestions of ways to make it more useful, please do share them. You will find extra copies for sharing at the back of church as well as online on St Mary's Church website. The digital edition also has **links** to related material. If you would like to receive the diary by email, please contact Kirsteen Robson (see below). Everyone is invited to make suggestions for April's diary (by 15<sup>th</sup> March, ideally) to Kirsteen ([prayerdiary@stmaryswarwick.org.uk](mailto:prayerdiary@stmaryswarwick.org.uk) or 07799 682872).*

### Sun 1

**The First  
Sunday of Lent**

Lord, we thank you for your Spirit that leads people to share what they have with others... We remember all involved in today's Wigley Group Warwick Half Marathon at Warwick Racecourse: strengthen and inspire participants as they run. We pray for the work of the charities that will receive the funds raised, especially the Barrie Wells Trust's **Box4Kids** initiative. Bless the seriously ill children who will enjoy VIP experiences at sports and entertainment events as a result.

### Mon 2

This month we pray for all those living with pain, fatigue or infertility caused by **endometriosis**. Give them comfort and hope as they manage their condition. We pray for increased awareness of the impact it can have, that women may receive the support they need from their families, employers and others. We give thanks for endometriosis research and ask for your blessing on the further development of treatments.

### Tue 3

We pray for all church outreach activities this Lent... Today we ask you to bless the weekly Bread Church at **Warwick Methodist Church**. As people are invited share bread-making, a short Lent reflection and a simple lunch, may they find themselves nourished physically, socially and spiritually.

### Wed 4

Creator God, bless and help people of all ages engaging with your plea to us to care for creation, through **#LiveLent** in books, apps, emails and online... With the children we pray this week's prayer, 'Thank you, God, for the light and energy we use every day. May all countries act swiftly to reduce energy use and combat climate change. Help us to make small differences where we can... Amen.'

### Thu 5

As this spring's **Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal** continues, we thank you and pray for the work of Marie Curie nurses and volunteers supporting people who are terminally ill... Thank you too for all who give time to collect money for the appeal.

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**Fri 6**

On this **Women's World Day of Prayer** we pray with all who are reflecting on the difficulties and unrest that have plagued Zimbabwe over many years, the challenges its people have met and their hopes for the future... May this morning's WWDP service at Castle Hill Baptist inspire us and others to 'Rise, take our mat and walk' with the people of Zimbabwe as they continue their often turbulent journey towards full reconciliation.

**Sat 7**

Lord, who prayed for your disciples to be as one, we thank you for **Churches Together in Warwick** and opportunities to work together in your name... Bless all they do to share with people that your love is for all. We pray that this morning's Prayer Breakfast at St Mary's will be a time of connection and renewal.

**Sun 8**

**The Second  
Sunday of Lent**

Remembering your call to Abraham to set out from where he was to an unspecified destination, we ask you to help us discern how and where you are calling us to serve, as individuals and as a church... and we pray for faith and courage to follow this path. We pray too for all who are grieving the death of a loved one... may they find comfort in your presence. We give thanks for the support offered by **Cruse Bereavement**. Bless our Outward Giving collection, that through it we can help them help others.

**Mon 9**

With all children taking part in **#LiveLent** we pray, 'Creator God, we thank you for water to drink, cook, wash, clean and play with. We pray that everyone may learn to use water more wisely and share it fairly. Amen.' Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

**Tue 10**

We pray for all people whose livelihoods are being adversely affected by out-of-town and online retail trends... especially for employees of IKEA in Coventry and those who worked at Thorntons in Warwick. Guide us in our shopping decisions as we consider the effects on people and planet in a consumerist society.

**Wed 11**

Lord of the everyday, increase our awareness of those who do jobs with unpleasant or shocking sights, smells or other sensations, for our benefit... may they know their work is appreciated.

**Thu 12**

We give thanks for all who have served the churches and people of the area in the Leamington Christian Resource Centre over the past 65 years... Bless, direct and sustain the owners and staff as they find new ways to serve you now the shop has closed.

**Fri 13**

Hear our prayer, O Lord, for all who live and work in Back Lane, Jury Street, The Butts, Priory Road, Northgate and Northgate Street. May our church bells remind them that you are with them all the time.

**Sat 14**

O God, we give you thanks for the gift of music for praise and pleasure, comfort and inspiration... Thank you for writers, composers and performers, and particularly tonight for Oliver and Samuel Hancock, Michael Flanders and Donald Swann. May their concert offer fun and fellowship in your presence, and swell the funds for the choirs' visit to Poland.

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**Sun 15**

**The Third  
Sunday of Lent**

As the Lent Addresses series continues at St Mary's, we pray that people's faith will be enriched as they explore aspects of Christianity and culture. Today we give thanks for your gift of Christian expression through poetry – from Psalms to sonnets, hymns to haikus. Help each person find something to treasure.

**Mon 16**

With all children taking part in **#LiveLent** we pray, 'Loving Father, we praise you for the beauty and plenty of nature. Help us to do all we can to protect plants and trees and to tread more gently on the earth... Amen.' Lord, help all people live this prayer.

**Tue 17**

We pray for all who seek to dig deeper into your word, O God... Bless all attending the **Deeper 2020** conference at Castle Hill Baptist Church, and speaker Dr John Andrews. Fill them with your Holy Spirit as they study the book of Philemon and reflect on the freedom of forgiveness... Help them to find this freedom in their own lives and share their experience with others.

**Wed 18**

We thank you for the work of **Helping Hands**, celebrating five years as a registered charity this month, and for the many people who have been given a hand up in this time... We pray for the development of their House2Home project, to enable them to provide more support to people in our towns by turning empty houses into homes... Bless efforts to recruit more volunteers to go out on the van collecting furniture and also delivering it to people who have been rehoused in empty accommodation.

**Thu 19**

**Joseph of Nazareth**

On the eve of the Spring Equinox we give thanks for Mothers' Union Warwick Together who have planted flowers and spring bulbs in the tubs outside Westgate school... May these brighten the day and lift the spirits of people passing by, turning their thoughts to life, hope and the beauty of your created world.

**Fri 20**

Lord, we give thanks for opportunities to seek and develop our individual rhythms of prayer... Today we pray for all taking part in **Prayer 2020**, praying for 20 minutes at 20:20 on the 20<sup>th</sup> of every month this year. With them we ask you to give many opportunities to speak about Christ, and to work powerfully through all kinds activities to spread your good news.

**Sat 21**

As we pray the Lord's Prayer today – thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever – may our thoughts return from ourselves to you in wonder, worship and everlasting praise.

**Sun 22**

**The Fourth  
Sunday of Lent**

**Mothering Sunday**

Loving God, thank you for mums and children and for all the joy of family life. Be with those who are grieving because they have no mother; Be close to those who are struggling because they have no children; Be near to those who are sad because they are far apart from those they love. Let your love be present in every home, and help your church to have eyes to see and ears to hear the needs of all who come. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (C of E)

**Mon 23** With all children taking part in **#LiveLent** we pray, 'Heavenly Father, help us to know your loving presence with us through day and night, and in every season of our lives. Amen.' Lord, by your grace and mercy may all people come to know your love.

**Tue 24** Lord who healed the sick, we ask for your blessing on the Warwick Medical Centre project on Priory Road... We pray for the safety of all the construction workers on site over the coming months, and that the project will run smoothly, so the budget may be used to its full potential for the benefit of the community.

**Wed 25** Today we pray for the 40 million people ensnared in human slavery... Please help us end this injustice. Bless **Stop the Traffik's** work to increase awareness and help those who are enslaved. Thank you for the potential of technology to analyse trafficking trends and hotspots, and for IBM's facilitating role. May more companies choose people over profit and work to eradicate slavery from their supply chain.

**The Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary**

**Thu 26** We give thanks for all the **CMM Sisters** in Tanzania who are able to study as teachers, nurses and Montessori school teachers, at secondary and high school, to help the Community better reach out to those in need, especially those who are disadvantaged. Bless the Sisters in their studies that they may finish their courses with good results. With the Sisters, we also give thanks and pray for funding coming forward to maintain the cost of their education.

**Fri 27** Faithful God, who watches and waits with those who are betrayed and suffer; draw near to family members who are affected by crime and imprisonment. Give prisoners and their families your strength to persevere through pain and disappointment; soothe their anger and heal the wounds of separation and loss. Help them know your grace to find forgiveness and hope for the journey ahead. Faithful God, set them free. Amen. (**PW**)

**Sat 28** With the High Sheriff and others at this afternoon's service we remember the 10 service personnel killed in Afghanistan and elsewhere, and we pray for their families... May the wreaths blessed, to be laid to rest at the National Memorial Arboretum, form part of a lasting memorial to the sacrifice of their too-short lives.

**Sun 29** We pray for all people calling to you from out of the deep, in distress or in despair... May they know you to be with them in their struggles. As **Combat Stress** announces its inability to take further referrals because of funding cuts, we pray for veterans affected by anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder.

**The Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**Mon 30** With all children taking part in **#LiveLent** we pray, 'Lord of sea and sky, we bless you for the wonders of creation... May the people of the world act together to ensure the oceans and the air are protected rather than polluted. Amen.' Lord, have mercy.

**Tue 31** Help us rest for a time in your presence, Lord, as we breathe in your love, light and grace, and breathe out all that keeps you at a distance...