



Prayer Diary

August 2020



The Diocese of Coventry will stream an online service on each of the five Sunday mornings in August.

All the services will start at 10:00 am, and the themes are:

- 2 August - Sabbath Rest
- 9 August - Embracing Change
- 16 August - Building Hope
- 23 August - Maintaining Spiritual Fervour
- 30 August - Take Heart

These worship services will be streamed on our Facebook page and YouTube channel. The non-eucharistic services will reflect the various traditions and contexts across the diocese. Further details will be published on the Church Online section of the website.

Churches that want to engage with one or more of these services can do so in three different ways

- By simply pointing people to the diocesan service
- By point people to the diocesan service and then hosting your own Zoom coffee afterwards
- By incorporate the diocesan sermon into your own service

If you want to act missionally, consider getting permission from local community Facebook groups to stream our services. That is how one church with a usual Sunday attendance of 50 adults has managed to attract 1000 devices viewing their worship every week!

New Deacons and Priests

Normally in late June/ early July the new deacons and priests are ordained at Coventry Cathedral. However, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, this has been postponed until late September. As the ordinands prepare for ordination we pray for them. You will find a brief biography of each of the new deacons and the names of the priests in this edition of the Prayer Diary. In the Cycle of Prayer for this month, the words of the Litany from the Ordination service are included as well as a variety of other people and events for you to remember in your prayers.



Sarah Ashelby will be a deacon at St Stephen's, Canley and St John's Westwood. Sarah is married to Mike and they have two children, Layla (9) and Reuben (7). She trained at St Mellitus in London. During her studies she had a particular interest in mission in a digital culture, so she is looking forward to applying her learning at the moment! Most of her time will be spent in Canley with a particular focus on how to develop missional leaders. She would appreciate prayers for creativity around this.

Daniel Bennett will be a deacon at St Michael's, Stoke. Before training for ministry he lived in London and was primarily an academic, working in the area of social media, journalism and conflict. Having long been involved in lay Christian leadership, he felt called by God to pursue full-time ministry and began training for ordination at Ripon College, Cuddesdon in 2017. Daniel is married to Victoria, who is currently on maternity leave from her post at NHS England. They have two young children, Felicity and Theo.



Andy Clasper will be a deacon at St Mark's, Coventry. After working in training and consultancy for the Mayor of London, and for charities such as Christian Aid and the Bible Society, Andy is following a call to ordained ministry that has been growing and emerging for some 20 years. Andy trained for three years at Trinity College in Bristol. He is married to Lucy, a professional cellist and have a son called Gideon who is five. Andy and Lucy are passionate about the impact on our lives that an encounter with God's love can have.

Cycle of Prayer - August 2020

Sat 1

The Litany: "For all called to be deacons and priests in his Church, let us pray to the Lord." We pray especially for all those who are to be ordained this year, and pray God's blessing on them in their new roles.

Sun 2

*Eighth Sunday
after Trinity*

Lammas Day, the first Sunday in August when traditionally a loaf was placed on the altar as a thank you for the coming harvest. Father God, the earth is yours and the harvests are your bounty. We ask your blessing on the harvest. We ask that farmers facing difficult times may know your love. Amen.

Mon 3

The Litany: "Remembering all who have gone before us in faith, and in communion with all the saints, we commit ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ our God." The Litany: "For those who are lost and for those who have strayed, that they may return to the way of Christ, let us pray to the Lord."

Tue 4

Collect: "Father in heaven, whose Son Jesus Christ was wonderfully transfigured before chosen witnesses upon the holy mountain, and spoke of the exodus he would accomplish at Jerusalem: give us strength so to hear his voice and bear our cross, that in the world to come we may see him as he is. Amen."

Wed 5

We thank God for all those who serve as Spiritual Directors, mentors and guides and pray for God's wisdom for each of them. We pray for those who are in need of support in their faith, that they may find and receive the guidance they need.

Thu 6

*The Transfiguration of our
Lord*

August is 'National Road Victim Month'. Please pray for those injured and for the families and friends of those who have been killed on the roads this year. Pray for care, wisdom and safety for all those who drive.

Fri 7

We pray for all who have the opportunity to find refreshment through a holiday. We pray for all those working in the hospitality industry providing holidays for others. We remember those who are not able to take time away due to financial pressures or health problems.

Sat 8

We thank God for the ministry of Lay Readers in our churches. We pray for God's blessing on them and the ministry to which they have been called. We thank God for all lay leaders and preachers, and remember especially those who are offering more time during the summer to cover holidays.
*Dominic, Priest, Founder of the Order of Preachers, 1221

Sun 9

*Ninth Sunday
after Trinity*

We thank God for the work of the Mothers' Union in this diocese and across the world. We pray for God's blessing on the Diocesan President, Jane Hill, and all the office-holders that serve the MU.
*Mary Sumner, Founder of the Mothers' Union, 1921

Mon 10

We thank God for our brothers and sisters who serve and worship in other Christian denominations. We ask God for new opportunities to work together ecumenically to help transform our local communities.
*Laurence, Deacon at Rome, Martyr, 258

Tue 11

The Litany: "For ourselves, for grace to repent and amend our lives, that we may be pardoned and absolved from all our sins, let us pray to the Lord."
*Clare of Assisi, Founder of the Minoresses (Poor Clares), 1253
*John Henry Newman, Priest, Tractarian, 1890

Wed 12

The United Nations has declared today to be "International Youth Day." We pray for young people throughout the world, particularly those living in poverty, fear or danger. We pray for the Church's mission among the young people in our communities. Take time to pray for young people known to you, and ask God to meet their spiritual, social and emotional needs.

Thu 13

The Litany: "For the unity of the Church, that we may be one in Christ, according to his will, let us pray to the Lord."
*Jeremy Taylor, Bishop of Down and Connor, Teacher of the Faith, 1667
*Florence Nightingale, Nurse, Social Reformer, 1910
*Octavia Hill, Social Reformer, 1912

Fri 14

The Litany: "For the poor and the hungry, for the homeless and the oppressed, for all prisoners and captives, and for our brothers and sisters who are persecuted for their faith, let us pray to the Lord."
*Maximilian Kolbe, Friar, Martyr, 1941

Sat 15

*The Blessed
Virgin Mary*

We pray for those who are grieving. We remember those who feel alone and pray for God's comfort and blessing. Pray that God will give us the compassion to comfort and care for those who are in need.
The Litany: "For Elizabeth our Queen, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord."

Sun 16

Tenth Sunday
after Trinity

The Litany: "For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness we may proclaim the gospel of reconciliation to the ends of the earth, let us pray to the Lord." August is National Immunisation Awareness Month. This campaign is held to highlight the importance of vaccination for people of all ages. Vaccines save lives. We pray for this campaign.

Mon 17

The Litany: "For all the members of the Church in their vocation and ministry, that they may serve him in truth and love, let us pray to the Lord." We give thanks for people running food banks this summer. Bless those who give and receive. Please help increase capacity of foodbanks and help the food go to those who need it most.

Tue 18

We thank God for all those who lead children's and youth work. We pray for the new groups and programmes being planned for September, whether online or in-person.

Wed 19

We pray for those who are struggling financially. We remember especially those searching for work and those in need of food and shelter. We give thanks for all those seeking to meet these needs in Churches, charities and the welfare system.

Thu 20

The Litany: "For the sick and suffering, for the aged and infirm, for the lonely and neglected, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord."

*Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, Teacher of the Faith, 1153

*William and Catherine Booth, Founders of the Salvation Army

Fri 21

We pray for all parishes that are currently experiencing a vacancy. We pray for the appointment processes, that the right ministers will be found to lead these parishes forward. We also pray for the new opportunities in lay ministry during the vacancy.

Sat 22

We pray for clergy who are currently taking a sabbatical, and for those who are planning one during the next twelve months. We pray that these sabbaticals will bring refreshment, renewal and a re-focus of ministry.

Sun 23

Eleventh
Sunday after
Trinity

We thank God for the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, and for the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell. We pray for strength, wisdom and nourishment for them.

The Litany: "For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord."

Mon 24

Bartholomew
the Apostle

We thank God for those people we count as our family. We pray that God may strengthen family life within our local communities. We also pray for any families known to us who are facing particular difficulties at this time.

Tue 25

We pray for all who work for the Diocesan Board of Finance - for those working in the diocesan office and those working from home. We pray for God's guidance as they seek to serve and equip the whole of the Diocese of Coventry.

Wed 26

We thank God for the gift of friendship and pray for our friends. We remember those people who struggle to make friends or who have lost important friendships recently. We pray for new opportunities for friendships to begin, develop and flourish.

Thu 27

The Litany: "For Christopher and John our bishops, and for all bishops, presbyters and deacons, that they may hunger for truth and thirst after righteousness, let us pray to the Lord."

*Monica, mother of Augustine of Hippo, 387

Fri 28

We pray for all who work in the business and financial sectors. We thank God for the integrity, generosity and commitment that is demonstrated by so many in this field. We pray for new opportunities this day for God to be made known in offices and places of work throughout the country.

*Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, Teacher of the Faith, 430

Sat 29

We pray for those who serve in local and national government. We pray for wisdom as they make hard decisions. We pray that during the summer, God would refresh and give new purpose and enthusiasm for their work.

*The Beheading of John the Baptist

Sun 30

Twelfth Sunday
after Trinity

The Litany: "For those who do not yet believe, that they may receive the light of the gospel, and for those whose faith has grown cold, let us pray to the Lord."

*John Bunyan, Spiritual Writer, 1688

Mon 31

We pray for children and young people coming to the end of their summer holidays and preparing to return to school. We ask that they would know peace and courage as they move into new school years.

*Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne, Missionary, 651

Jonathan Smith is a curate at St Marks Church, Bilton, Rugby. Jonathan's highlights this year have included every demographic of the community from participating in the expansive schools ministries, having fun at monthly messy church, helping with the busy festive services that are celebrated by the wider community of Bilton, leading others into deeper connection with the Lord through quiet and tranquil services and taking communion to those living in the care homes of the parish.



Bill Walton is a curate at Holy Trinity, Coventry. Being involved in a variety of services and getting to know the eclectic variety of people at Holy Trinity has been a very rewarding experience and Bill is enjoying feeling part of the church community. A particular highlight of this year has been the ministry the home groups at Holy Trinity, known as Growth Groups. Bill is very excited to have seen God do wonderful things in this area; with the number of established groups growing to fifteen and others starting soon.

Julie Watkins-Wollner is a part-time curate at St Catherine's Church in Stoke Aldermoor. One of the highlights has been visiting a local care home monthly and making friends with the residents - one of whom refers to her as his 'dancing partner.' Another highlight is being a voluntary chaplain for UHCW at the Caludon centre. Julie feels that her work there has been truly blessed as she is well supported by the chaplaincy team. She is looking forward to her first baptism and wedding services in the very near future.



Alison Baxter is a deacon at St Nicholas with St Barnaba Church, Kenilworth. Previous to training for ministry, Alison worked in various community organisations with homeless young people, people who were addicted to drugs and alcohol and with refugees and asylum seekers. Alison did her theological training at Ripon College, Cuddesdon. While at college she enjoyed thinking about how scripture can remain contextually relevant for today's generation.

Dan Corlett is a deacon in the Arden Marches Benefice, incorporating Studley, Mappleborough Green, Morton Bagot and Oldberrow. Dan has always worked in and around education, as a researcher, lecturer, administrator and in various other roles. He has been training for ordination since 2017 at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. Dan and his wife Angela have three school-age children and between them their pastimes include sports, music, crafting and spending time outdoors.



Charlotte Jackson is a deacon in the parish of St John the Divine, Willenhall. Charlotte grew up in Harrow, North West London where she has been based before going to Ridley Hall, Cambridge for ordination training. Living in community full time at Ridley has been a blessing allowing the formation of strong friendships, time to process and reflect on God's work, study and to be immersed in a number of different church backgrounds. She is looking forward to all God has in store in the coming years as part of the Willenhall community and Coventry more widely.

Richard Moore is a deacon in the parish of St Nicholas, Kenilworth. Richard works full-time in his family's menswear business in Kenilworth town centre and has long sensed that God was calling him to minister and share the Gospel in the heart of the community. He will remain working, where is ideally placed to meet with people seeking God beyond the confines of a church. He is married to Donna and they have two grown-up sons.



Carolyn Powell is a deacon at St George's, Coundon. In June 2013, after 10 years working in the corporate world, Carolyn left her career and her hometown of Paris, in search of what life was really about. Little did she know that in the following years, she would encounter God, discover his love across the world, work for an Anglican church in France and train for ordination in Ridley Hall, Cambridge. She is delighted to be serving at St George's and hopes to discover where the best cups of tea and fresh bread are to be found.

Abby Rhodes is a deacon at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Finham. She trained at St Mellitus College in London, which involved lots of academic study as well as a long-term placement working as the Director of Music and Youth worker at Lillington Parish Church in Leamington Spa. Abby is married to Mike and they have two teenage sons, Chris and Owain. She is really excited about getting to know the community at St Martin's and joining in with what God is doing there.



Ruth Smith is a deacon at St Paul's, Leamington Spa. After many years as a podiatrist in the NHS and at a private practice, Ruth felt a call to ordained ministry and has just completed three years of training at St Mellitus in London. She is excited to be serving her curacy with St Paul's and looking forward to engaging fully in the life of the church. She is keen to help others grow as disciples of Jesus, and loves leading Alpha and mentoring individuals.