

## HEALTHY COMMUNITIES, OUR **FRIDAY PRAYER THEME** FOR JULY

**TOGETHER  
FOR CHANGE  
COVENTRY AND  
WARWICKSHIRE** ⊕

### HEALTHY COMMUNITIES “Meeting social, spiritual and practical needs of those we serve”

**Together for Change Coventry & Warwickshire’s** objectives are for the benefit of the public:

- a) to promote the efficiency and effectiveness of Christian based charities in the furtherance of their objects or any one of them, mainly but not exclusively by the provision of information, advice, support and infrastructure provision, and
- b) the relief of financial hardship, either generally or individually, through the provision of grants, goods or services.

Helping and serving lies at the heart of our diocesan purpose to “transform communities”. The need is greater than ever, since the health of local communities has been weakened by the pandemic – and is further threatened by the cost of living crisis. Churches, schools, chaplaincies and the cathedral are serving their local communities in a wide variety of imaginative ways – some of which are being supported by Diocesan Mission Fund grants. The diocese is also supporting other projects – particularly in the most deprived parishes. For example: Saints Nuneaton; our Rural Life Officers; the Warwick Message Bus to enable youth work initiatives; support for poorer communities with food and fuel poverty; and support for refugees.

**extract from Strategic Framework for our Shared Future, Diocese of Coventry, 2023**

**Especially, this month, we are focusing our prayers on addressing infrastructure and financial matters,**

**Grants and funding** – please pray for resource, particularly for capital projects in churches in our most deprived parishes that will support these churches in their mission and ministry – Katie Brazier, TfC, says “I think particularly of Camphill and the renovation of their kitchen and toilets; so they can expand their support for their local community; St Peter’s, Hillfields with the renovation of their kitchen to enable their community lunch to continue to reach over 100 people with the provision of a free warm meals each week.”

**Cost of living crisis** – Katie also says, “whilst we have come out of winter, we are aware that many families, elderly and those on low/no income are still struggling significantly to cover their bills and face dire circumstances. Pray for peace and that our churches can bring a light to this darkness.”

**Among the other needs, we will be praying for .... Fresh Start** This initiative engages in supporting and befriending refugees and asylum seekers. Matt Robinson (our Fresh Start Coordinator) has continued to work closely with the Coventry Migrant & Refugee Centre and Coventry and YWAM, driving initiatives such as multi-cultural football (where COVID restrictions allow), and English Conversation Classes for new arrivals in the UK.

And the significance of developments for [Phase 2 — Saints Nuneaton](#). Saints Nuneaton is a community regeneration project based in the heart of Nuneaton town centre, which works in collaboration with local churches and is led by the charity Together for Change.

*‘Let’s honour Jesus by bringing our everyday, ordinary requests, knowing he treasures these too’*

Tyler Staton



For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for well-being, and not for calamity, in order to give you a future and a hope.'

---

**Jeremiah 29.11**

---



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
All listed schools are CofE schools					<b>The work of the Together for Change team</b>	Alcester Deanery AD – Kate Mier 1
<b>TRINITY 4</b> 2 Ordinations	3 Heart of England Benefice C – Interregnum	4 Bidford-on-Avon Primary H – Andy Simms	5 DBE Meeting; Together for Change Meeting	6 Dunnington Primary H – Fiona Templeton	7 <b>Asylum Seekers &amp; Refugees</b>	8 Salford Priors Primary H - - Paula Dhugga
<b>TRINITY 5</b> 9 Temple Grafton Primary H – Mary Gray	10 Alcester Minster/ Mission Hub C – Katie Cross	11 Coughton Primary EH – Alex Kolb	12 Alcester St Nicholas Primary H – Laura Newell	13 Bishop’s Core Staff; Diocesan Environment Group	14 <b>Food Poverty</b>	15 Beaudesert & Henley-in-Arden C – Interregnum
<b>TRINITY 6</b> 16 Henley-in-Arden Primary EH – Adam Walsh	17 Arden Marches C – Kate Mier	18 Mappleborough Green Primary H – Alex Finch	19 Studley St Mary Primary H – Rebecca Gordon	20 Diocesan Mission Fund Committee	21 <b>Youth and Families Work</b>	22
<b>TRINITY 7</b> 23 Churches of Arden C – Alison Hampton	24 Arden Valley – C – Interregnum	25 Cathedral Chapter	26 DAC meeting	27 Wooton Wawen Primary EH – Sally Morris	28 <b>Specific Centres – Nuneaton and Warwick</b>	29 Wilmcote w Billesley C – Interregnum
<b>TRINITY 8</b> 30 Wilmcote CofE Primary EH – Sarah Plaskett	31 For Bishop John, who steps down on 7 August	31 For Bishop Christopher as he prepares to be Dean of Windsor.				C = Clergy; R = Reader H = Headteacher EH = Executive Headteacher

# PRAYER DIARY

## Prayer

Majesty on high, may Your love and compassion flow through us and to those around us. Give us pity and concern for their misfortunes and suffering. Give us the compassion and empathy we need to understand what those in our community are going through. Help us to love them well. Help us not to judge or condemn, but rather come alongside them to offer support and to be Your hands and feet. Amen.

Coming up – the *Themes for the next 3 months* are *New Worshipping Communities (August)* and *Children, Young People and Families (September)* and *Renewing Generosity (October)*.

## BEING HEALTHY CHURCH

Healthy churches have strong outward connections – caring, concerned for justice, ‘needs-oriented’. In growing churches, one of the key ingredients is ‘to share the gospel in a way that answers the questions and meets the needs of non-believers.’

## SPECIFIC DAYS IN JULY 2023

**1 - Alcester Deanery** – AD Kate Mier. give thanks for faithful ministry and service in parishes in interregnum, and pray for great new clergy appointments. 5 of our 7 benefices will be in vacancy by the end of this year. **prayer for Arden Valley Foodbank and Anna Chaplain Celia Spiers** working across the wider Deanery.  
*Deanery Lay Chair – Sue Jacques*

**For Together for Change trustees and the team of employed staff and volunteers.**

Especially for Jet Jones, CEO of Together for Change and Director of Regeneration and Community Transformation in the Diocese.

**2 - Ordinations at Coventry Cathedral - on the first weekend in July.**

**3 – Heart of England Benefice** We are thankful for the joy of a baptism and confirmation service for adults following an Explore course. We thank God for the ministry of Rev Peter Walker recently retired. We pray for our churchwardens and lay leaders in this period of interregnum and pray for the process towards appointing a replacement incumbent. - *interregnum* Assoc C – Sheila Bridge; R – Judith Meehan, Allan Steven (candidate)

**7 - Refugee and Asylum seekers** – prayer for the mental wellbeing of our asylum seekers stuck in hotel rooms with little English skill and far from their families. Prayer for community and belonging. Pray for One Family Church, that people continue to learn of the love of Christ.

**10 – Alcester Minster & Rural Mission Hub** – supporting our two C of E Primary schools plus three other primary schools in the benefice; there are also three secondary schools in Alcester. We have *Open the Book teams* going in to all our primary schools and have recently supported the Alcester Grammar school with some significant bereavements - prayers for this school community dealing with grief would be appreciated. Assoc C – Daniel Corlett, Steve Kelly; *Clergy with PTO*, Gill Laughlin, Julian Davey, Stave Tash, David Hall; Julie Lindsey PP – Nick Payne, Stuart Tilsley, Jane Cornwall, Andrew Deeks, Emma Berry, Tricia Berry; and for Jen Hopkins, children and families worker for Alcester.

**14 – Food poverty** – particularly for our youth, families and refugees/asylum seekers as schools/colleges break over the summer period; pray for wisdom and provision over our churches to know how to continue to serve our communities - particularly Nourish at Tile Hill, Food Pantry in Camp Hill, Community Lunch at St Peter's and Lunch Club at Wyken.

**15 – Beaudesert & Henley-in-Arden** - *interregnum*; R (PTO) – Malcolm Aldridge, Judith Cox

**17 – Arden Marches Benefice** – give thanks for a dementia café in Studley established by our Anna Chaplain and team, and for flourishing Toddler Group and Messy Church led by our Family Link Worker. Pray for our ministry among local

schools, and for vacancies for a churchwarden and for Foundation Governors to be filled, and for Oldberrow's annual wildflower festival in its wonderful environmentally diverse churchyard (9th July). give thanks for great leadership by our Head - teachers and pray for Y6 children moving on to secondary school *Retired Clergy with PTO* - Judy Stote; R (PTO) – Alan Greathead, Joan Lock Pat Wheeler; R – Joy Holland.

**21 - Youth and Families work** – specifically as we prepare for summer activities, supporting young people and families facing significant challenges of food poverty, isolation and vulnerability to criminal activity in our most deprived areas. Pray for resources, volunteers and that we can provide the required support for our young people and families across our Diocese.

**23 – Churches of Arden – Aston Cantlow, Claverdon with Preston Bagot with Wootton Wawen**–Assoc Minister, James Holden; R (PTO) – Norrie Moore

**24 - Arden Valley** – *interregnum*; Retired Clergy (PTO) – Richard Livingston; R (PTO) – Joan Wilkinson

**28 – Saints, Nuneaton** – prayer for resource to continue to support our Phase 2 renovations, prayer for our staff and volunteer team, for the café and student lounge as they continue to run a host of activities each week throughout the summer to support the Nuneaton community. **Warwick** – pray for the launch of the Message Bus, a mobile youth provision that will be available around Coventry and Warwickshire to support our Youth, youth leaders and youth work provisions.

**29 – Wilmcote with Billesley** –*interregnum*.

Assoc = Associate PP Permission to preach; PTO = Permission to Officiate; C = Clergy; R = Reader

**Which local community initiatives might you pray for in your own parish or wider benefice/deanery, this month?**

**Two of the Church of England's five marks of mission are**

- To respond to human need by loving service [TEND]
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation [TRANSFORM]

St Andrew's, Rugby, focused on all five marks of mission at the launch of the Rugby Mission Hub in June 2023. Displays focused on each of the marks, highlighting ministries which match the five.

[HeartEdge - Catalysing Kingdom Communities](#)

## PRAYER JOTTINGS – JULY 2023

- The social practice that best embodies and bears witness to the nature of the relationship between Christians and non-Christians is hospitality. Luke Bretherton *“Hospitality as Holiness”* (Ashgate, 2006)
- From Tyler Staton’s *‘Praying Like Monks, Living Like Fools – an invitation to the Wonder and Mystery of Prayer’* (Hodder & Stoughton, 2022) Chapter 6 ‘Daily Bread – Petition’ pp. 115ff.

‘Prayer at its simplest and most straightforward, is asking God for help. But what are the guidelines to the “help” we can and should ask for? ... Heaven is the engine room [of our prayers] but earth is where our prayers are answered, are made visible. Earth is the atmosphere that heaven invades in response to our requests..... When the language we use in our prayers stays grounded, our prayers tend to stay grounded too ... ‘On earth as it is in heaven’ prayers. Daily bread prayers.’

**“Practice** – Give us this day our daily bread.... Spend a few minutes praying for specific needs and wants in your life. I challenge you, especially, to ask for that which you think is too small to bring to God – the work meeting you’re really hoping goes well, the need you barely believe God will meet, the email reply you keep checking your inbox for, the house you just put an offer on, or the rent cheque for which you don’t have enough in your bank account to write.

**Ask vulnerably, with enough specificity that God has the chance to disappoint you or surprise you. Ask boldly, with enough empowerment that you wonder if you’re allowed to be this forward with God.”**

- Jim Wallis writes, “We affirm God’s vision of a good society offered to us by the prophet Isaiah ... Isaiah’s platform links religious values with economic justice, moral behavior with political commitment ....

<sup>20</sup> “Never again will there be in it  
an infant who lives but a few days,  
or an old man who does not live out his years;  
the one who dies at a hundred  
will be thought a mere child;  
the one who fails to reach a hundred  
will be considered accursed.

<sup>21</sup> They will build houses and dwell in them;  
they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

<sup>22</sup> No longer will they build houses and others live in them,

or plant and others eat.  
For as the days of a tree,  
so will be the days of my people;  
my chosen ones will long enjoy  
the work of their hands.

<sup>23</sup> They will not labour in vain,  
nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune;  
for they will be a people blessed by the LORD,  
they and their descendants with them.

<sup>24</sup> Before they call I will answer;  
while they are still speaking I will hear.

<sup>25</sup> The wolf and the lamb will feed together,  
and the lion will eat straw like the ox,  
and dust will be the serpent’s food.

They will neither harm nor destroy  
on all my holy mountain,”

says the LORD.

**ISAIAH 65.20-25**

“Overcoming poverty must become a bipartisan commitment and a nonpartisan cause.” Jim Wallis *“God’s Politics”* (Lion 2005)

- Krish Kandiah, in *God Is Stranger* (2017) quotes Christine Pohl, also on hospitality, “As a way of life, an act of love, an expression of faith, our hospitality reflects and anticipates God’s welcome. Simultaneously



costly and wonderfully rewarding, hospitality often involves small deaths and little resurrections. By God’s grace we can grow more willing, more eager, to open the door to a needy neighbour, a weary sister or brother, a stranger in distress. Perhaps as we open that door

more regularly, we will grow increasingly sensitive to the quiet knock of angels. In the midst of a life-giving practice, we too might catch glimpses of Jesus who asks for our welcome and welcomes us home.”

- Each month **we focus on a different Deanery; this month it is Alcester.** For those ordained across the Diocese in August, for Coventry North Deanery in September, and the Warwick & Leamington Deanery in October. I look forward to receiving updates from area deans and clergy, and anyone else with specific prayer requests.

DPD Contact: [Clive.Hicks@Coventry.Anglican.org](mailto:Clive.Hicks@Coventry.Anglican.org)