



Prayer Diary

October 2022

'I would rather be on a mountain thinking about God than in church thinking about a mountain.'

I love these words of John Muir, a Scottish-American environmentalist. They convey to me the sense of liberty and joy of being out and about in God's good creation. There is something healing and whole-making about it. Doctors can now prescribe 'walking' for this very reason! We know that space with God in God's creation is healing. It is good for us in body, mind and spirit. God ministers to us through his creation. The development of *Forest Church* and *Walking Church* is a testament to this. Many of us when we walk find ourselves not only praising God for his creation but also praising God, as St Francis did, *with* all creation. This dimension of praise is, of course, a strand that is woven into the scriptures. 'Make a joyful noise to the Lord all the earth' Ps 100.1. 'Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord.' Ps.150.6. 'Let the fields be jubilant and everything in them, then the trees will sing for joy before the Lord.' 1 Chron.16. 'You shall go out with joy and be led forth in peace, the mountains and hills will burst into song before you and all of the trees will clap their hands.' Is. 55.12.



All of which serves to remind us that we are not saved *from* creation, we are saved *with* creation, as Paul makes clear in Romans 8.22. It is the indigenous peoples across the world who knew and lived out this deep symbiotic relationship between humanity and all of creation. To our shame, as we know and as we repent, colonialists and not least colonial Christianity in pride and deep ignorance trashed, oppressed and colonized such communities, destroying their way of life that embodied deep wisdom about living in right relationship with God's creation.

As we enjoy God's creation, let us apply this wisdom in the light of the Lordship of Christ in whom, through whom and for whom all things were created and in whom all things hold together. Col. 1.15-17.

+ John

How can churches respond to the cost of living crisis?

Many of us will be feeling the effects of the cost of living crisis. In the last few years, costs have been steadily rising, with inflation at a 30-year high and food, fuel and energy prices increasing with wages and benefits not keeping up. For some the result of this is devastating, with rising numbers unable to meet their basic living needs such as adequate heating for the home, appropriate clothing or good nutrition.



As Christians, we are called to help those in need. So what can churches do? Sadly, churches do not have the resources to lift all out of poverty or to change the structures that have led to the cost of living crisis. However, churches can help alleviate suffering and be a central hub for the local community. Here are a few suggestions of ways to help:

- **Support for bills** -Perhaps your church could consider setting up a contingency fund that people could apply for in emergencies to help pay their bills.
- **Coffee mornings or lunchclubs** -Hosting a free or subsidised weekly coffee morning or lunchclub can be a great way for people to get together and socialise as well as helping with food poverty.
- **Warm refuges**—Whilst many churches may be struggling to heat their own buildings, others may be in a good place to offer their building (or church hall) as a warm refuge for people who cannot afford heating. The Warwickshire Rural Community Council has been coordinating warm hubs in Warwickshire.
- **Holiday clubs**—Running a children's holiday club with a meal included can help parents with childcare during the holidays and ensure children (particularly those who receive free school meals) have access to a good, balanced meal.
- **DIY support**—Maybe you can get together a group of volunteers who are good at DIY to help people with insulation, draft-exclusion and other small DIY tasks that can help with bills.
- **Debt advice**—Some churches already run debt advice clinics, but as the demand for support is set to rise, it might be a good idea to recruit more volunteers. Or perhaps this is a new venture you are interested in and would like to find out more. Christians Against Poverty has information about becoming a CAP debt centre.
- **Prayer**- Please pray for politicians and policymakers that the decisions they make help support and protect those in need. Also pray for charities and churches who are providing help, that they have the resources they need. Finally pray for the safety and wellbeing of all those affected by the cost of living crisis.

Cycle of Prayer - October 2022

With a focus on parishes and schools in Warwick and Leamington Deanery

Sat 1

St Margaret's Junior School, Whitnash. Headteacher: Sukie Owers. We pray for God's blessing on the children, staff, families and governors of this community.

*Remigius, Bishop of Rheims, Apostle of the Franks, 533

*Anthony Ashley Cooper, Earl of Shaftesbury, Social Reformer, 1885

Sun 2

Sixteenth
Sunday after
Trinity

During October the UK Celebrates Black History Month. The main aims of Black History Month are to celebrate the achievements and contributions of black people and to educate all on black history. There will be many events, exhibitions and activities taking place online and offline. We pray that many people engage with Black History Month and it is successful in its aims.

Mon 3

Budbrooke. Clergy: David Brown, Martin Davies, Mary Lodge. Readers: Bob Dubock, Raymond Filby. As we seek to be faithful to Jesus' Great Commission, we are shaping patterns of ministry around multiplication— if we can multiply discipleship practices, we can multiply discipleship and disciples. Please pray that the church rises up to see this dream fulfilled.

Tue 4

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.

*Francis of Assisi, Friar, Deacon, Founder of the Friars Minor, 1226

Wed 5

St James Old Milverton. Clergy: William Smith, Felicity Smith, Sue Fairhurst. We give thanks for the ongoing commitment of all those involved in the day-to-day activities of this lay-led church. We pray for new people to step forward into leadership roles in the coming year.

Thu 6

We give thanks for the ministry of retired clergy and the support they provide in so many ways to the lives of our churches across the diocese.

We pray for the Bishop's Core Staff Team which meets today.

*William Tyndale, Translator of the Scriptures, Reformation Martyr, 1536

Fri 7

St Paul's Primary School, Leamington. Headteacher: Caroline Newell. We pray for God's blessing on the staff, teachers, pupils and governors of this community.

All Saints, Emscote. Clergy: Diane Thompson. Reader: Andrew Giles. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.

Sat 8

Heathcote. Clergy: Rob Budd. We thank God for the completion of building work in the church and community centre which will enable new opportunities for mission. Please pray for the right people (paid and volunteers) to come forward to strengthen and develop the work of the church and the community centre in this rapidly growing area of Warwick.

Sun 9

Seventeenth
Sunday after
Trinity

Bishop's Tachbrook. Clergy: Jonathan Smith. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.

*Denys, Bishop of Paris, and his Companions, Martyrs, c.250

*Robert Grosseteste, Bishop of Lincoln, Philosopher, Scientist, 1253

Mon 10

Today is World Mental Health Day. This year's theme is 'Mental Health in an Unequal World'. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact on people's mental health. We pray that those struggling receive the support they need.

*Paulinus, Bishop of York, Missionary, 644

*Thomas Traherne, Poet, Spiritual Writer, 1674

Tue 11

Cubbington Primary School. Headteacher: Juliet Jones. We pray for God's blessing on the staff, teachers, pupils and governors of this community.

*Ethelburga, Abbess of Barking, 675

*James the Deacon, companion of Paulinus, 7th century

Wed 12

This week is Baby Loss awareness week. The week aims to raise awareness of pregnancy and baby loss, to drive for improvements in both care and support for those affected, and to work on preventing baby loss. We pray for all those who have suffered the heartbreak of baby loss.

*Edith Cavell, Nurse, 1915

Thu 13

Cubbington. Clergy: Interregnum. Reader: Jo King. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.

*Edward the Confessor, King of England, 1066

Fri 14

St John's, Leamington. Clergy: Stephen Parker, Daniel Vickerstaff, John Reese, David Herbert. Reader: Claire Russell. We thank Almighty God for our flourishing and growing youth work ministry. We would value prayers for the restarting of Celebrate Recovery and our launch of the SJB Wellbeing Cafe.

Sat 15

St Mary's, Leamington. Clergy: Becky Jones. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.

*Teresa of Avila, Teacher of the Faith, 1582

Sun 16

Eighteenth
Sunday after
Trinity

All Saints Junior School, Warwick. Headteacher: Debi Cossins. We pray for God's blessing on the staff, teachers, pupils and governors of this community
*Nicholas Ridley and Hugh Latimer, Reformation Martyrs, 1555

Mon 17

Today is International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. This day has been observed every year since 1993 when the United Nations General Assembly designated the day to promote awareness of the need to eradicate poverty and destitution. We pray for all those who live in poverty.
*Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, Martyr, c.107

Tue 18

Luke the
Evangelist

Lillington. Clergy: William Smith, Rosemary Pantling, Sue Fairhurst. Readers: Roderick Clark, Len Dixon. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.

Wed 19

Today is Conflict Resolution Day. It promotes the awareness of conciliation, mediation and other ways of dealing with conflict using peaceful methods. We pray for those known to us who are facing conflict.
*Henry Martyn, Translator of the Scriptures, Missionary in India and Persia

Thu 20

This week is National Adoption Week. We thank God for all those who are adoptive parents and we pray for the 3000 children in England who are currently waiting for the right adoptive parents.
We pray for the Bishop's Core Staff Team which meets today.

Fri 21

St Paul's, Leamington. Clergy: Jonathan Jee, Eleanor Jeans, Andy Ruffhead. Readers: Jan Pringle, John McKellar. We thank God for a full staff team and the new Cantonese fellowship emerging amongst church members from Hong Kong. We pray for guidance for the new era as a Mission Hub church and clarity about what this will look like for us.

Sat 22

St Nicholas, Warwick. Clergy: Linda Duckers, Eira Hale, Anita Morgan. Reader: Fiona Trewick. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.

Sun 23

Last Sunday
after Trinity

St Mark's, Leamington. Clergy: Jo Parker, James Lawrence, Ellie Clack. Readers: Marie Calvert, Amanda di Giovanni. We thank God for summer fun with loads of local families joining us for games and refreshment. We also give thanks for fabulous churchwardens, PPC and growing lay leadership across the church. We pray for the recruitment of a youth worker.

Mon 24

Bishop's Tachbrook Primary School. Headteacher: C Kilbey. We pray for God's blessing on the staff, teachers, pupils and governors of this community.

Tue 25

We pray for our Bishops, Christopher and John; for their ministry, positions of responsibility, their times of rest and their families.
We pray for the Bishop's Council which meets today.
*Crispin and Crispinian, Martyrs at Rome, c.287

Wed 26

Whitnash. Clergy: Interregnum. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.
*Alfred the Great, King of the West Saxons, Scholar, 899
*Cedd, Abbot of Lastingham, Bishop of the East Saxons, 664

Thu 27

St Mary's, Warwick. Clergy: Vaughan Roberts. Reader: Doreen Mills. Ordinand: Nick Edwards. We give thanks for all those working on our tower restoration project. We pray for the completion of the fundraising project for the tower.

Fri 28

Simon and
Jude, Apostles

All Saints, Leamington. Clergy: Christopher Wilson. We thank God for the young Ukrainian refugees who have re-opened our cafe, and pray for them and their loved ones. Please pray also for our baby and toddler group, our engagement with the heart of the town, and resources to repair the building.

Sat 29

Today is World Psoriasis Day. Psoriasis affects over 125 million people around the world. We pray that World Psoriasis Day raises the profile of this debilitating disease and increases awareness of the effect it has on people's lives.
*James Hannington, Bishop of Eastern Equatorial Africa, Martyr, 1885

Sun 30

4th Sunday
before Advent

Holy Trinity, Leamington. Clergy: Esther Peers, Andrew Gorham, Anne Morris, Penny Hughes, Christopher Wilson. We thank God for the surge in growth of our congregation and the ideas that are bursting out of meetings, prayer meetings and worship. We pray for our plans to reach out to those members of the community who are without a permanent home.

Mon 31

St Paul's, Warwick. Clergy: Joanthan Hearn. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.
*Martin Luther, Reformer, 1546

St Mary's Church, Warwick gets funding from National Churches Trust

St Mary's Church in Warwick is to share in a £437,000 urgent funding pay-out from the National Churches Trust.

A £20,000 National Churches Trust Cornerstone Grant will help to pay for urgent repairs including repointing, pointing, repairing and replacing the eroded stonework of the tower at St Mary's, Warwick, to ensure the church thrives.



The church also receives a £10,000 Wolfson Fabric Repair Grant from the Wolfson Foundation on the recommendation of the National Churches Trust.

Broadcaster and journalist Huw Edwards, Vice President of the National Churches Trust, said:

"I'm delighted that St Mary's is being helped with funding for urgent tower repairs. This will safeguard unique local heritage and keep the church open and in use for the benefit of local people."

"Whether seeking quiet reflection, access to community services or a place to worship, the National Churches Trust helps hundreds of churches each year and with the support of local people keeps them thriving today, and tomorrow."

Paul Ramsbottom, chief executive of the Wolfson Foundation said:

"As well as being places of worship and buildings of beauty, churches sit at the heart of the community. In many ways they stand between the past and present. We are thrilled to continue our partnership with the National Churches Trust to support the preservation of these significant, much-loved historic buildings across the UK."

41 churches across the UK will stay open and in good repair thanks to £437,000 of funding awarded by the National Churches Trust. 21 churches benefit from £134,000 of Wolfson Fabric Repair Grants. In 2021 the National Churches Trust made 304 awards to churches worth £5.2 million.

Climate resilient church

A new national project is identifying churches taking successful action to make their buildings and/or their communities more resilient in the face of increased weather and climate events, and then sharing findings and solutions through diocesan workshops.

Whilst climate change is often viewed as a future event, it is unfortunately true that all around the world people are already feeling the effects of a changing climate. Whilst our minds might immediately go to the recent drought in Madagascar or flooding in Bangladesh, it is also apparent that climate change is already having a real impact in the UK.

All ten of the warmest years on record have occurred since 2002. Last year saw the wettest February on record resulting in widespread flooding. The wettest day on record was also in 2021, on the 3rd of October. We are also facing an increased number of storm events that will also be more extreme. These climate events and harsh conditions have a negative impact not only on the buildings the church owns, but the communities who live near them and utilise them.

This new national research project focuses on how the Church can cope with these new climate challenges. The work is fully funded by the Natural Environment Research Council, who have funded a researcher from the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research in Manchester, Chris Walsh, within the Cathedrals and Church Buildings Division for 12 months.

The good news is that there is already some brilliant work taking place in the Church of England and other heritage organisations and this project aims to support that work and amplify its success across the heritage and church sectors. It also wants to examine the barriers to making these changes and work on ways to minimise and overcome them.

Some of these include St Barnabas's, Eltham who used their church building as a refuge from the heat or Snaith Priory Church which became the community hub and crisis centre during recent floods or the many churches like St Marys Primrose Hill that use their space to offer shelter to those who cannot escape from the cold of winter. The research will help to educate, motivate and empower others to take actions that will not only protect their ministry but enhance it, through supporting community resilience.

Chris Walsh says; *"Climate change is already having massive impacts on our churches and communities, and it will continue to do so in rural churches like St Esprit in Marton where I grew up, to urban churches like where I now live in Salford. This project is only the start of the work the Church of England will be doing around climate resilience and we'd love for you to be involved, please join in with one of our workshops to learn more and contribute to the guidance we are producing"*