



Prayer Diary

June 2022

God's creative gifts

It's been an amazing year in Coventry and Warwickshire as we have hosted the UK City of Culture. It finally came to a close in May, and many of us are just drawing breath. I hope many of you have found something to enjoy.



At its best, the City of Culture programme has reminded us of the rich and colourful diversity of humanity, and the creativity which God has placed within each of us. We are made in the image of God, the Creator of all - and God calls us to be creative too.

What gifts of creativity do you have to offer in the life of your church, and in your local community? Sometimes I've felt a little inadequate, as I spend time with actors and artists, musicians and others who seem so much more creative than I am. I've had to ask God to help me see where my own creativity lies, and to ask God to bless it for the life of the Kingdom.

As we move into the space of the summer months, perhaps we could ask God to help us recognise the incredible diversity of God's creative gifts in ourselves and one another - and to welcome them, invest in them, and offer or receive them for the good of all. We are not all the same, but we all have something God-given to bring to our local church and other communities.

New Diocesan Secretary

The Right Reverend Dr Christopher Cocksworth has announced that Jacqueline Ladds will be the next Diocesan Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of the Diocese of Coventry.



Jacqueline joins the Diocese from the Health and Care Professions Council where she was Executive Director for policy and external relations. She will start her new diocesan role on Monday 23 May.

The purpose of the post is to see that the Diocese of Coventry has the structures, systems and resources in place so that it can fulfil its transformative mission to the permanent benefit of the people of Coventry, Warwickshire and Solihull it serves. The position became vacant after the previous Diocesan Secretary, Ruth Marlow, retired earlier this year.

Jacqueline will be a key member of the Bishop's Core Staff Team, whose vision is to see restored health, new growth and renewed relationships within the whole diocese. Bishop Christopher said:

"I am delighted that Jacqueline is joining us in the Diocese of Coventry. She will bring her wide ranging experience, many gifts and real commitment to serve the work of the Church. I am sure that colleagues across the varied life of the diocese in its parishes, schools, chaplaincies and cathedral, as well as in the diocesan offices themselves, will greatly enjoy working with Jacqueline."

Jacqueline said:

"I am honoured to have been appointed as Diocesan Secretary and humbled to be able to serve in this role. I am looking forward to working with the diocesan team in supporting you all as we work together to worship God, make disciples and transform communities."

Cycle of Prayer - June 2022

With a focus on parishes and schools in Kenilworth Deanery

Wed 1

Kenilworth St John. Clergy: Andrew Attwood, Pam Stone. Readers: Ken Pollard, Phil Sowards, Anthony Manning, Val Whiteman. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.

*Justin, Martyr at Rome, c.165

Thu 2

June is Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Awareness Month. Six people per day are diagnosed with MND in the UK. MND is a fatal disease that attacks the nerves that control movement so muscles no longer work. We pray for all those who suffer with MND and pray that a cure can be found.

Fri 3

Meriden and Packington, St Laurence. Clergy: Interregnum. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.

*The Martyrs of Uganda, 1886 and 1978

Sat 4

This week is National Volunteers Week. The aim is to raise awareness of the vital contribution volunteers make to society. We thank God for those who volunteer in our churches, without them many services and events would not be able to take place.

*Petroc, Abbot of Padstow, 6th century

Sun 5

Pentecost
(Whit Sunday)

Today is World Environment Day. We pray that God would help us to remember that the environment is home to all life, and that we must take up responsibility to ensure that all life is respected

*Boniface (Wynfrith) of Crediton, Bishop, Apostle of Germany, Martyr, 754

Mon 6

Meriden Primary School. Headteacher: Lucy Anderton. We pray for God's blessing on this school community and we give thanks for all the pupils, teachers, staff, parents and governors.

*Ini Kopuria, Founder of the Melanesian Brotherhood, 1945

Tue 7

Berkswell St John the Baptist. Clergy: Mark Bratton. Readers: Steve Bell, Richard Hollingdale. We thank God that new people are coming to church post-pandemic. We pray that the church and local community would continue to recover post-pandemic.

Wed 8

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 also pray that new clergy and their families will settle in quickly and feel at home in Coventry Diocese.

*Thomas Ken, Bishop of Bath and Wells, Nonjuror, Hymn Writer, 1711

Thu 9

The Ferncumbe Group. Clergy: Interregnum. Reader: Kemble Everitt. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community. We pray for the Bishop's Core Staff Team which meets today.

*Columba, Abbot of Iona, Missionary, 597

*Ephrem of Syria, Deacon, Hymn Writer, Teacher of the Faith, 373

Fri 10

Stoneleigh and Ashow. Clergy: Petricia Bistran, Gordon Gatward. Reader: Audrey Rowberry. We give thanks to God for the many gifts he has blessed us with. We pray for Ashow to become a place of pilgrimage and Stoneleigh a place where culture and spirituality meet for the glory of God.

Sat 11

Barnabas the
Apostle

Kenilworth St Nicholas and St Barnabas. Clergy: Stella Bailey, Alison Baxter, Richard Moore. Readers: Karen Mottram, Margaret Bull, Heather Alford. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.

Sun 12

Trinity Sunday

During National Carers' Week many charities work together to recognise the contribution carers make to local communities, lobby MPs and offer support and encouragement to carers. We pray for all those who give their time to care for others and ask for God's blessing on all carers.

Mon 13

Ferncumbe Primary School, Hatton. Headteacher: Sally Morris. We pray for God's blessing on this school community and we give thanks for all the pupils, teachers, staff, parents and governors.

We pray for the Diocesan Business Committee which meets this morning.

Tue 14

This week is Diabetes Awareness Week. One in fifteen people in the UK have diabetes. For many it is a lifelong condition that has a great impact on day to day life. We pray for all those living with diabetes, as well as scientists researching new treatments for the disease.

*Richard Baxter, Puritan Divine, 1691

Wed 15

We thank God for the work of our local fire and rescue services. We pray for lead chaplain to Warwickshire Fire & Rescue.

We pray for the Diocesan Board of Education which meets today.

*Evelyn Underhill, Spiritual Writer, 1941

Thu 16

We pray for those who are unable to leave their homes. We ask God to give encouragement and friendship for those who feel alone.

*Richard, Bishop of Chichester, 1253

*Joseph Butler, Bishop of Durham, Philosopher, 1752

Fri 17

This week is Loneliness Awareness Week. The aim of this week is to create a society where loneliness is recognised openly as something likely to affect us all. Social distancing has amplified loneliness among old and young. We pray for all those who are experiencing loneliness

*Samuel and Henrietta Barnett, Social Reformers, 1913 and 1936

Sat 18

St Nicholas' Primary School, Kenilworth. Headteacher: Sarah Rayson. We pray for God's blessing on this school community and we give thanks for all the pupils, teachers, staff, parents and governors.

*Bernard Mizeki, Apostle of the MaShona, Martyr, 1896

Sun 19

First Sunday
after Trinity

Today is Father's Day. We give thanks for our fathers and father figures in our lives. We also pray for those who have lost their fathers or have difficult relationships with their fathers. We thank God for being our heavenly father.

*Sundar Singh of India, Sadhu (holy man), Evangelist, Teacher of the Faith

Mon 20

This week is Children's Hospice Week. This week raises awareness and funds for hospices and palliative care providers for children. We thank God for the incredible work of children's hospices and pray that this week helps them secure the funds they need.

We pray for the Diocesan Audit Committee which meets today.

Tue 21

Today we pray for Together for Change, a joint venture between the Diocese of Coventry and the Church Urban Fund. We pray for the charity's work in setting up social enterprises and local projects that will support sustainable community transformation and tackle poverty in Coventry and Warwickshire. We pray for Diocesan Synod which meets today.

Wed 22

We pray for the Finance and Administration department of the diocese. We pray for the Operations department of the diocese and for the DAC. We give thanks for each of these members of staff.

*Alban, first Martyr of Britain, c.250

Thu 23

Today is International Widow's Day, a UN ratified day of action to address the poverty & injustice faced by millions of widows and their dependents. We pray for an end to the social stigmatisation and economic deprivation of widows.

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

Fri 24

The Birth of
John the
Baptist

This week is Refugee Week. We pray for all those who are separated from their loved ones and homeland and those who have fled persecution and are searching for peace and security. We pray, too, for the vital work of the Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre, and that we would find ways of supporting and welcoming refugees into our communities.

Sat 25

We thank God for the Cathedral Chaplains and their faithful work. We pray for them as they engage with, and minister to, visitors to both the new Cathedral and the ruins of the old Cathedral.

We pray for the Deanery Representatives at the Support Fund Meeting today.

Sun 26

Second Sunday
after Trinity

Burton Green Primary School. Headteacher: Andrew Morris. We pray for God's blessing on this school community and we give thanks for all the pupils, teachers, staff, parents and governors.

Mon 27

June is SANDS awareness month. The stillbirth and neonatal death charity (SANDS) wants to offer care not only for people who have lost babies after they were born, but for women who have miscarried too. We pray for God's comfort and hope for all families who are affected by the loss of a baby.

*Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria, Teacher of the Faith, 444

Tue 28

We praise God for the wide variety of music available to us and for the songs and hymns that have helped us in our faith journey. We pray that God would stir us in musical worship and bless all those who lead, sing and play instruments.

*Irenæus, Bishop of Lyons, Teacher of the Faith, c.200

Wed 29

Peter and Paul,
Apostles

We pray for all the young people in the Cathedral community, particularly the choristers, as they work hard at school as well as maintaining their faithful commitment to helping lead worship.

We pray for the Diocesan Finance Group which meets this morning.

Thu 30

All Saints' Primary School, Leek Wootton. Headteacher: Andrew Morris. We pray for God's blessing on this school community and we give thanks for all the pupils, teachers, staff, parents and governors.

Coventry Cathedral celebrates Diamond Jubilee

On the 25th May 2022, Coventry Cathedral turned 60. A service of Celebration and Thanksgiving was held with the Archbishop of Canterbury preaching.



Coventry Cathedral was consecrated on the 25th May 1962. The Queen, Princess Margaret, and the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Michael Ramsey, attended the New Cathedral consecration service alongside thousands of local people.

Sixty years later, Archbishop Justin Welby, Bishop Christopher, Dean John Witcombe, diocesan clergy, representatives of the Community of the Cross of Nails International Board and students from diocesan schools came together to give thanks for 60 years and commissioned the cathedral for the years to come.

During his sermon, Archbishop Justin Welby said:

"I owe this place more than I can describe. I love it's very stones. And I know it can be more in the next 60 years even than it has been in the last 60"

Dean John Witcombe said:

"We give thanks for 60 amazing years of worship and creativity, reconciliation and renewal in Coventry Cathedral - and look ahead to the next 60 years, reimagining our future and embracing hope together."

You can watch the service on the [Coventry Cathedral Livestream Facebook page](#).

Energy Footprint Tool is open

The Energy Footprint Tool has reopened for churches around the country to enter their 2021 utility bills, and find out their carbon footprint.

In February 2020, the General Synod announced an ambitious target for the Church of England to become net zero by 2030. The Energy Footprint Tool is an important step in measuring a baseline of current emissions, and to measure progress towards achieving this goal.



This is a first step for the Church of England to understand and monitor the footprint of some 40,000 buildings across England. More and more parishes are getting involved and adding their data every day. Helping to build up a picture for the church to take action.

The Energy Footprint Tool is available for all parishes using the Online Parish Returns System and only takes ten minutes to complete. To complete the tool, you will need to have the whole of last year's electricity and gas/oil bills. The Energy Footprint Tool will tell your church the amount of carbon produced annually by heating and lighting your church buildings. There are two useful graphs that show you your efficiency scores: one for energy efficiency based on building size and one for attendance. It can take account of separate buildings such as church halls, as long as you have the utility bills for them.

The EFT is now open for you to enter your 2021 utility bills. It remains open until July 31st 2022.