



Prayer Diary

October 2021

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;*

*They are new every morning;
great is thy faithfulness.*



My youngest grandchild loves blackberries straight from the bushes. It is no good taking him blackberry picking – he will have eaten them all before we get home. For him, having this wonderful food there for the taking is beyond exciting.

Autumn is here. And with it God's bounty of crops, vegetables and flowers, ready to sustain us and our livestock over the winter. Rightly we celebrate that abundant harvest in

thanksgiving, that sign of his steadfast love. There is also a wonderful 'harvest of community, of our common life together', and that too we celebrate. Over the summer we thought about the bread of life, and what it means to allow God to feed us. Autumn reminds us that he delights in feeding us constantly and in abundance: may we discover anew this autumn the excitement of having God's food there for the taking.

Alongside the things we gather for food, there are also seeds and seed heads, some tiny, some majestic. These will be scattered to the elements, to bring new life next spring. They may well have uncertain journeys, and who knows where they will land, but from them new plants will grow. And they do need to be scattered for the new plants to thrive. What seeds are we as churches looking to scatter right now: are we willing to take chances to trust things to God, so that he can do the growing?

Finally, of course, autumn is full of fallen leaves, rotten fruits and withered plants. It may seem wasteful, but look closely and you will see they provide homes and food for a whole microcosm of small creatures and insects. What is not used will rot down to enrich the soil, and so feed a future generation of plants. Nothing is wasted in God's economy. What are the things that we, as both individuals and churches, need to allow to fall, or let go? It often seems sad and difficult at the time, but God does not let anything go to waste. The experiences and insights we have gained, the knowledge we can pass on, the sustaining prayer we can offer, all will be used to feed the next generation. May we then celebrate God's presence in our lives this Autumn: this special time of harvest, of letting go and looking ahead to new life.

Jill Tucker

Dean of Self Supporting Ministry

Register for the Equip Hub

Explore the Equip Hub

Register for your free account

Courses, events and resources



Our new Online Learning Platform, the Equip Hub, launched last month.

On the Equip Hub you can create a Learning Plan by choosing particular topics which you are interested in exploring such as 'Exploring your Gifts', 'Everyday Faith' or 'Leading Worship'. You will then be able to take part in online BCDM courses and short online courses called workshops.

Through the Equip Hub you will also access useful resources such as documents and videos as well as signing up for events and training courses.

By creating an account you will also start receiving our weekly Diocesan eBulletin which will be tailored to you based on your topics of interest. You can unsubscribe and re-subscribe to the eBulletin at any time. Current subscribers to the eBulletin must sign up to the Equip Hub by October to continue receiving the eBulletin.

Over the summer the Equip Hub has been tested by select group of people who have given us feedback on using it. Some of the comments were:

- "Thank you so much for this fabulous offer for the BCDM courses! I am thrilled with the online learning offer."
- "I'm now all signed up to the Equip Hub which looks amazing and am enrolled on the courses using my code...can't wait to get started!"
- "Thank you for this - it looks great and I have enrolled on all three modules(!)"
- "Courses look very interesting and attractive."
- "This has made the prospect of learning really attractive."

View the Equip Hub and register at www.equiphub.org.uk

Cycle of Prayer - October 2021

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

Fri 1 St Paul's, Warwick. Clergy: Jonathan Hearn. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.
*Remigius, Bishop of Rheims, Apostle of the Franks, 533
*Anthony Ashley Cooper, Earl of Shaftesbury, Social Reformer, 1885

Sat 2 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.

Sun 3 St Mary's, Leamington. Clergy: Becky Jones. We thank God for our new Children and Families Leader, for the ongoing work of the CAP debt centre and Pathway Ministries, for the recent Big Clean Up event on the estate, and for Support Groups including Thriving Together and Celebrate Recovery. Please pray for more workers for the harvest field.
Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

Mon 4 Cubbington. Clergy: Graham Coles. Reader: Jo King. We thank God for the way in which our church family and new members from the parish are returning to church following the lockdown. Please pray for Jo and churchwardens Sue and Sam as they manage the church whilst Revd Graham continues to be treated for cancer.

Tue 5 All Saints Junior School, Warwick. Headteacher: Debi Cossins. We pray for God's blessing on the staff, teachers, pupils and governors of this community.

Wed 6 Budbrooke. Clergy: David Brown, Martin Davies, Mary Lodge. Readers: Bob Dubock, Raymond Filby. In lockdown we felt the Lord challenge us to, "Learn to be Bold", to become "Wholehearted for Jesus" and "remove the obstacles to mission." We pray the Holy Spirit strengthens us to grown in these things and that we know the joy that comes from obedience as we do.

Thu 7 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.
We pray for the Bishop's Core Staff Team which meets today.

Fri 8 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.

Sat 9 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.
*Denys, Bishop of Paris, and his Companions, Martyrs, c.250
*Robert Grosseteste, Bishop of Lincoln, Philosopher, Scientist, 1253

Sun 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.
Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity
*Thomas Traherne, Poet, Spiritual Writer, 1674

Mon 11 Bishop's Tachbrook. Clergy: Interregnum. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.
*Ethelburga, Abbess of Barking, 675
*James the Deacon, companion of Paulinus, 7th century

Tue 12 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.
*Wilfrid of Ripon, Bishop, Missionary, 709
*Elizabeth Fry, Prison Reformer, 1845
*Edith Cavell, Nurse, 1915

Wed 13 St Mary's, Warwick. Clergy: Vaughan Roberts. Reader: Doreen Mills. We give thanks for our livestreamed services and the technology which has enabled them. We pray for the fundraising and repair work needed for St Mary's tower.
*Edward the Confessor, King of England, 1066

Thu 14 Cubbington Primary School. Headteacher: Juliet Jones. We pray for God's blessing on the staff, teachers, pupils and governors of this community.

Fri 15 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 al those who have suffered the heartbreak of baby loss.
*Teresa of Avila, Teacher of the Faith, 1582

Sat 16

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.
*Nicholas Ridley and Hugh Latimer, Reformation Martyrs, 1555

Sun 17

Twentieth
Sunday after
Trinity

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

Mon 18

Luke the
Evangelist

Heathcote. Clergy: Rob Budd. We give thanks for the commitment, gifts and creativity in our church family that has enabled people to connect and be together for worship and fellowship throughout the pandemic. Please pray for our temporary church meetings at Heathcote Primary School that they might enable opportunity for others to be welcomed into the church family.

Tue 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.
We pray for the Bishop's Council which meets today.
*Henry Martyn, Translator of the Scriptures, Missionary in India and Persia

Wed 20

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

Thu 21

St Paul's, Leamington. Clergy: Jonathan Jee, Andy Ruffhead Reader: Jan Pringle. We thank God for helping us stay connected with people and for the support people have given one another. Please pray for good decisions about opening up activities and for people to feel called to serve different ministry areas as we return; and for the Lord to lead us outward in mission.

Fri 22

Whitnash. Clergy: Richard Suffern, Steve Davies. We praise God for the successful "Fire unlocked" prayer initiative using an app that enabled us to prayer walk every road in our Parish (and the Deanery too.) As we resume "normal service" we pray that there will be a release of joy in worship leading to spontaneous sharing of the Good news of the Gospel of Jesus.

Sat 23

St James Old Milverton. Clergy: William Smith, Felicity Smith, Sue Fairhurst. We give thanks for signs of growth over the past months. We pray for everyone involved in the leadership of St James, both lay and clergy; for the gradual resumption of visits to our residential homes and of links into the village.

Sun 24

Last Sunday
after Trinity

St Mark's, Leamington. Clergy: Jo Parker, Heather Elson, Ruth Smith, Ellie Clack, James Lawrence. Readers: Marie Calvert, Amanda di Giovanni. We give thanks for so many people who learned new skills, led worship in new ways and helped us be a church community despite Covid. We value prayers as we make decisions about what to start and stop as we come together again.

Mon 25

St Paul's Primary School, Leamington. Headteacher: Matthew Bown. We pray for God's blessing on the staff, teachers, pupils and governors of this community.
*Crispin and Crispinian, Martyrs at Rome, c.287

Tue 26

Holy Trinity, Leamington. Clergy: Esther Peers. 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

Wed 27

Lillington. Clergy: William Smith, Sue Fairhurst. Reader: Roderick Clark. We give thanks for our online ministry and all who have helped remain connected with each other. As we move forward we pray for God's guidance as we seek to reorder parts of the interior of the church.

Thu 28

Simon and
Jude, Apostles

All Saints, Emscote. Clergy: Diane Thompson, Sarah Cushing. Reader: Andrew Giles. We give thanks for several new and exciting outreach opportunities with our schools since Christmas 2020; for the long ministry of Joyce Rylett as administrator, and for her assistant Sue Whitehouse. Please pray for Joyce and Sue as they step down and for a keen and suitable successor.

Fri 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

Sat 30

All Saints, Leamington. Clergy: Christopher Wilson. We give thanks for widespread support for our churchyard wellbeing, ecology and labyrinth project. Please pray for the funding we need to implement it. Also, pray for the re-starting of our coffee shop and development of weekday ministries, and for the resources we need to grow ministry and mission.

Sun 31

4th Sunday
before Advent

St John's, Leamington. Clergy: Stephen Parker. Reader: Claire Russell. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.
*Martin Luther, Reformer, 1546

Welcome to our new Readers



On Sunday 5th September, five new Readers were admitted and licensed into the diocese during a service at Coventry Cathedral.



Dee Badland is a Reader at All Saints church in Bedworth. She has been married to Ken for nearly 40 years and has four children.

She was diagnosed with MS at age 17 and been in a wheelchair for many years, this does not hold her back and has only proved to make her faith grow stronger.

About five years ago Dee felt God calling her into a deeper spiritual direction, she wasn't sure what, until someone suggested Lay ministry and she began her journey to becoming a Reader.

Jackie Brown is a Reader at St Gregory's in the Offchurch Group.

She had lived in Offchurch since 2017, when she moved up from Devon, with her husband, Gordon. Gordon developed Dementia and his deterioration (during Lockdown) was rapid. He died in June last year.

Since Gordon died Jackie has been wondering "What now?" She was planning to wind down her preaching activities, but God seems to have decided otherwise—leading her to become a Reader.



Susan Morris is a Reader at Stoke St Michael's Church.

She has been a parishioner at Stoke St Michael's Church in Coventry all her life and has held many positions there including Choir Director, Parish Secretary, PCC member, Diocesan Synod rep, Deputy Organist and most recently Verger. A music and singing teacher, she lives in Stoke with Steve her husband and has grown up children called Emma and Owen. She is so proud to be licensed as a Reader with her family and friends around her.

Gail Richmond is a Reader at St Peter's and St John's Church, Rugby.

She has lived in Rugby all her life and worshipped at St Peter and John's since she was 12 years old. Gail lives with her daughter, Alice, who is 19 and a student. She has been a teacher for many years and is currently Head of History and Politics at a local school and is passionate about the power of education, especially for girls. Gail is really looking forward to exploring this new role at PJs; developing her preaching skills and pastoral work and serving God in a new way.



Clement Wedderburn is a Reader at St Thomas Keresley.

Clement was born in Mount Pleasant, a little village in Westmoreland Jamaica. He was introduced to Christ by his grandmother and mother at a very early age. He has ever since felt very close to God. If he strays, God tugs me back to him.

He strongly believes his coming to St Thomas Keresley in 2014 was a journey which had the hand of God written all over it.

