



Prayer Diary

August 2016



New Priests and Deacons

For eleven months of the year, the *Prayer Diary* focuses on the eleven deaneries in our diocese. In the month of August, however, there is space for a change of focus.

A few weeks ago the new Priests and Deacons were ordained in the Cathedral. You will find a brief biography of each of these ministers in this edition of the *Prayer Diary*. Please pray for them. 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 Bourne is a priest at Shipston-on-Stour with Honington and Idlicote. She has relished her first year of curacy under the guidance of the Revd Andrew Coleby. Sarah has particularly enjoyed introducing new outreach projects in the town such as an Advent Wreath-making evening and an Easter Crafts morning. Also, she has led an introductory Acorn Listening course and a BCDM course on The Bible in Five Acts.



Kay Dyer is a priest at Shottery St. Andrew's. Highlights of her first year of curacy include; leading a weekly Bible Study in the local pub, helping set up a Messy Church service and organising the Stratford Churches Together Good Friday Walk of Witness for 450 people. Also, Kay became Padre to the 1289 Squadron Air Training Corps and was delighted to attend the Wing celebrations for their 75th Anniversary at Coventry Cathedral.

Dwayne Engh is a priest at St Mary Magdalen Church, Chapelfields in Coventry. Over the past year, Dwayne has had the privilege of forming and directing a new community choir, coordinating volunteers for the Coventry Winter Night Shelter and establishing new Sunday evening services of Sung Compline by Candlelight. He has loved ordained ministry and recognises that this year has been a remarkable year of growth.



Steve Gold is serving as a priest at St John the Baptist, Hillmorton. Over the past year he has loved being involved in the life of the parish and is incredibly grateful for all the support he has received. Next year Steve will be increasingly focussing on the brand-new 6,200 home community called Houlton, which is being formed on the site of the BT Radio Station. He is looking forward with excitement to seeing what God will be up to there!

Charles Higgins is a priest at St Matthew and St Oswald's in Rugby. Highlights from the year include getting involved with local schools, helping to develop the music at Church, and learning lots about leading services and preaching. It's been a particular privilege for Charles to be alongside and to pray for families as they organised funerals for their loved ones. Charles is now looking forward to all the next phase of curacy will bring!



Emma Higgins is a priest at St Matthew and St Oswald's in Rugby. Last summer was one of great change - relocating to Rugby, being ordained a deacon and getting married to Charles! Highlights over the past year have included being involved with and developing the church's baptism preparation, facilitating Advent and Lent book groups, and being involved with the diocesan event 'Young Women: Your Call.' Emma is incredibly grateful for the support of friends and family both near and far.

Cycle of Prayer - August 2016

Mon 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 ordained this year, and pray God's blessing on them in their new roles.

Tue 2

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 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."

Thu 4

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.

*Jean-Baptiste Vianney, Curé d'Ars, Spiritual Guide, 1859

Fri 5

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.

*Oswald, King of Northumbria, Martyr, 642

Sat 6

The
Transfiguration
of our Lord

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. We also pray for the candidates who will be confirmed by Bishop John tomorrow at Ashow.

Sun 7

Eleventh
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.

*John Mason Neale, Priest, Hymn Writer, 1866

Mon 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

Tue 9

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

Wed 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

Thu 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 Minoreesses (Poor Clares), 1253

*John Henry Newman, Priest, Tractarian, 1890

Fri 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.

Sat 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

Sun 14

Twelfth Sunday
after Trinity

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

Mon 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."

Tue 16 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."

Wed 17 We remember our brothers and sisters who can no longer get to church for worship and meeting together. May God bless them with opportunities to meet with other Christians in new ways. 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."

Thu 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. We thank God for summer camps and ventures and pray that these times away would help leaders and young people grow in faith in Jesus Christ.

Fri 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, the welfare system and food banks.

Sat 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

Sun 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 good, new opportunities in lay ministry during the vacancy.
Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Mon 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.

Tue 23 We thank God for the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, and for the Archbishop of York, John Sentamu. 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."

Wed 24 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.
Bartholomew the Apostle

Thu 25 We pray for all who work at the Diocesan Office under the leadership of the interim Diocesan Secretary, Andy Brookes. We pray for God's guidance as they seek to serve and equip the whole of the Diocese of Coventry.

Fri 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.

Sat 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

Sun 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.
Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity
*Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, Teacher of the Faith, 430

Mon 29 We pray for those who serve in local and national government. We thank God for their commitment and drive for a better society. We pray that during the summer, God would refresh and give new purpose and energy for their work.
*The Beheading of John the Baptist

Tue 30 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

Wed 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



Liz Jones is a priest at St James Church, Bulkington and a full time Chaplain at University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire. Her chaplaincy work includes being the lead Chaplain for mental health provision at UHCW. At St James, Liz has set up and run a monthly 'Serenity Space' which is a time of stillness, guided meditation and fellowship, and she has helped set up a new YChurch@4 provision in church for teenagers.

John Langlands is serving as a priest at St Christopher's Allesley Park and Whoberley. Alongside his curacy, John works full-time as a business support analyst for E.on. John's year as a deacon (under the leadership of the Revd Andy March) has provided many opportunities for leading services, preaching, developing the pastoral side of his ministry and linking with the working members of St Christopher's congregation.



Steve Medley is a priest at All Saints, Chivers Coton and St Mary the Virgin, Astley. This last year has been both exciting and challenging for Steve. One of the biggest challenges, but yet the most rewarding, has been funeral ministry. He has found it a privilege to share in the lives of people at such a significant time. Steve has learnt a good deal in the last year ministering alongside a great team who have a wide range of gifts.

Nikki Moon is a priest at All Saints' Harbury and Ladbroke. Over her year as a deacon, Nikki has particularly enjoyed working with a gifted team to resurrect Messy Church in Harbury and has been strengthening relationships with the local school, preschool and nursery. Nikki has also found challenges in working with the Supporting Communities group and getting involved in mission and outreach initiatives, including supporting refugees.



Thomas Wintle is serving as a priest at the Abbey Church of St Mary the Virgin in Abbey Green, Nuneaton, but following his ordination his ministry has been more focused in the neighbouring parish of St Mary & St John, Camp Hill. His first year in Holy Orders has been both a privilege and an extraordinary learning curve but made possible by the grace of God and the support of two wonderful churches. He is now looking forward to working towards growth in Camp Hill.



Tim Fox is a deacon at St Anne and All Saints, Coventry. Before training for ordination at The Queen's Foundation in Birmingham, Tim enjoyed a varied working life which included engineering, teaching people to play the guitar and working as an electrician. However he feels that nothing compares to the challenge and privilege of serving God in ministry and is looking forward to seeing what the next year will bring.

James Holden is a deacon at Claverdon with Preston Bagot and Wootton Wawen. James has been Managing Director of a Warwickshire based communications firm since the early 1990's and as a self-supporting deacon he will continue to work in the business. James will have a somewhat unusual ministry as along with serving as a deacon he will be working closely with Bishop Christopher to reach out to the world of business in the diocese.



Claire McArthur is a deacon at St Mary's Walsgrave, Coventry. Claire is passionate about anything digital and during her 20 years working at the BBC she led the development of the 45 BBC local websites across England. She studied part-time at Queen's Theological College in Birmingham after being called to ministry during an interregnum at St Thomas' in Keresley. Claire is delighted to have moved into full-time ministry at St Mary's.

Gail Phillip is a new deacon at St John's in Kenilworth. Before embarking on training for ordination at St John's College, Nottingham, Gail served as a CMS Mission Partner with the Anglican Church in Thailand for 10 years. During this time she had fond connections with St John's, Kenilworth as one of her link churches. Now, as a curate, Gail is keen to explore a deepening interest in missional community at St John's.



Rachel Saum is a deacon in the Mid Fosse Parishes, having trained at St Mellitus. Alongside her curacy, Rachel will be ministering in Hampton Lucy and Charlecote where she is forming a residential 'new monastic' community of 20s-30s. She hopes that the community will be a place of prayer and hospitality, a blessing to the local churches, and ultimately that it will offer inspiration for re-imagining rural ministry. Rachel is excited to discover what will happen during her curacy!