



Prayer Diary

October 2016



It is harvest-time. Around here they have been harvesting for the last few weeks, and we are nearly there. What were fields of wheat or corn are now golden close-shaved stubble, waiting to be ploughed back in.

In gardens and hedgerows, apples and plums will soon replace gluts of courgettes or runner beans, while we watch for the blackberries to finally ripen, and try hard to pick them before the first frosts. Nature usually wins!

The thing about a harvest is that it will not wait. Every year, especially if the weather is bad, we watch the harvest with baited breath, because if they don't make it on time, the harvest will be lost. The hay or wheat or barley is useless – it is dead. Fruit left on the tree will become rotten. You cannot leave it for a day or two: any farmer will tell you that time is of the essence. When the moment is right, it will be all hands on deck. In the past, that meant absolutely every able-bodied man, woman or child. Today it means the combine harvesters run all night. The crucial thing is to gather the crop and bring it to a place of safety, so that none of it will be lost.

Elsewhere, there is a different sort of harvest. Having spent summer in a Cornish fishing village, one is acutely aware of the harvest of the sea – and the great dangers that it brings. Fishing can be equally urgent, but the seas have a violence and unpredictability we rarely see inland. The costs of Cornish harvests have long left their imprint on their communities.

The harvest, then, means urgency, acting at the right time, and often danger. Nor do harvests just pop up: they are always the result of a year (or more) of planning, preparation, hard work and nurture: they require skill and dedication.

We need to harvest to feed the hungry. Jesus also talks in terms of a harvest when he is moved to compassion by the needs of the crowds around him: harassed and helpless, they themselves are the harvest, and need to be gathered in with the same degree of urgency, risk, planning, nurture and hard work. The harvest is ready: are we too moved to compassion? The urgency of bringing in the harvest is only matched by the urgency of feeding those who are hungry – whatever form that hunger may take.

Revd Jill Tucker
Dean of Self-Supporting Ministry

Warwick & Leamington Deanery



We welcomed two new hospital chaplains to the deanery

Warwick and Leamington Deanery is growing fast. Drive south out of the deanery and you will see houses springing up in every direction. The three southern parishes of Whitnash, Bishops Tachbrook and St Nicholas, Warwick have been thinking hard about mission and ministry to the thousands of new people moving in. We have recently welcomed Revd Rob Budd to work at an existing church plant (Warwick Gates Community Church) on one of the new housing estates, and we would really value prayer about the future of that church, and the possibility of creating a new parish.

We have recently welcomed three other clergy to our Chapter. Revd Diane Thompson is the new Team Vicar at Emscote in Warwick, and Revd Rosemary Pantling and Revd Sue Miles have joined the chaplaincy team at the South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust. Please pray for them as they settle in to their new ministries. We still have two churches in vacancy in Leamington (St Marks and St John the Baptist) and we hope and pray that both churches can appoint the right person to lead them.

The churches continue to work together with their friends at many other denominations to provide vital help to those in need in our deanery, through the Food Bank, Night Shelter, Street Pastors, Education Centre and many other initiatives. Please pray that the churches in Warwick and Leamington Deanery, of all denominations, can continue to live together in unity, and be a blessing to the communities which they serve.



Revd Charlotte Gale
Area Dean

Cycle of Prayer - October 2016

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

Sat 1 We pray for the Service of Induction for the new Baptist Regional Minister for Coventry and Warwickshire, the Revd Neil Le Tissier, which will be taking place tomorrow at Meredith Road Baptist Church in Coventry.
*Remigius, Bishop of Rheims, Apostle of the Franks, 533
*Anthony Ashley Cooper, Earl of Shaftesbury, Social Reformer, 1885

Sun 2 Cubbington. Clergy: Graham Coles. Readers: Richard Spicer, Joanna King. We thank God for showing us new ways to reach out to those in our parish - for Open the Book and for becoming a Healing Well in The Order of Jacobs Well. Please pray for us as we look for new ideas to help each other to become even more passionate about our Spirituality.
Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

Mon 3 Whitnash, St. Margaret's and Warwick Gates. Clergy: Rob Budd. We give thanks for the arrival of Rob and Rachel Budd and family, Rob now being minister in charge of Warwick Gates Church. Please pray for us as we engage in ministry to the many new residents in and around the Parish and prepare for the launch of the new Warwick Gates Parish sometime soon.

Tue 4 We give thanks for the Community of the Cross of Nails. We pray today for the Revd Canon Dr Sarah Hills, Coventry Cathedral's Canon for Reconciliation Ministry, as she presents Lambeth Palace with a Cross of Nails. We pray for the Diocesan Trustees who meet this afternoon.
*Francis of Assisi, Friar, Deacon, Founder of the Friars Minor, 1226

Wed 5 Bishop's Tachbrook. Clergy: Elaine Scrivens and those with PTO; Jenny Lister, Peter Lister, Christine Pollard. We give thanks to God that the St Chad's Centre will be opening in November. Please pray that as our parish expands with many new houses being built we will be examples of Christ's love to our new neighbours.

Thu 6 Tomorrow (the first Friday of October) marks World Smile Day, a day to do one act of kindness and make someone crack a smile! Please pray that God will guide you to do an act of kindness tomorrow. We pray for the Bishop's Core and Extended Staff teams which meet today.
*William Tyndale, Translator of the Scriptures, Reformation Martyr, 1536

Fri 7 Budbrooke. Clergy: David Brown & Mary Lodge. Readers: Martin Davies, Bob Dubock & Ray Filby. We thank God for clear vision and good foundations to grow from. Please pray for boldness, unity and faith to pursue it; for increased passion for Jesus, multiplication of fruitful ministries, real new birth as fruit of mission and provision as changes have financial risks.

Sat 8 All Saints, Leamington. Clergy: Christopher Wilson, Anne Morris. We thank God for spiritual & numerical growth; a new roof; the Friends group & other supportive people. Please pray for our local community; outreach to students, young adults & families; regeneration of the churchyard as a sacred space; resources for mission and church repair needs.

Sun 9 Today marks the start of Baby Loss Awareness Week. We pray for bereaved parents, family members and friends who will be remembering the all-too-brief lives of their babies this week.
Twentieth Sunday after Trinity
*Denys, Bishop of Paris, and his Companions, Martyrs, c.250
*Robert Grosseteste, Bishop of Lincoln, Philosopher, Scientist, 1253

Mon 10 Tomorrow Bishop Christopher will be visiting the Coventry Refugee & Migrant Centre. We thank God for the crucial work the centre does in the city. We pray for the Bishop's Council which meets this evening.
*Paulinus, Bishop of York, Missionary, 644
*Thomas Traherne, Poet, Spiritual Writer, 1674

Tue 11 Today we pray for Reverend Stella Bailey as she is instituted by Bishop Christopher as Vicar of St Nicholas Church, Kenilworth.
*Ethelburga, Abbess of Barking, 675
*James the Deacon, companion of Paulinus, 7th century

Wed 12 We pray for Bishop John and a small team from the diocese who are at a meeting in Lambeth Palace today about "Thy Kingdom Come 2017".
*Wilfrid of Ripon, Bishop, Missionary, 709
*Elizabeth Fry, Prison Reformer, 1845
*Edith Cavell, Nurse, 1915

Thu 13 St Mark's, Leamington. Clergy: Vacant. Reader: Marie Calvert. We pray for God's blessing on this church and community. All Saints Junior School. Headteacher: Debi Cossins. We pray for God's blessing on the staff, teachers, pupils and governors of this community.
*Edward the Confessor, King of England, 1066

Fri 14 St Paul's, Leamington. Clergy: Jonathan Jee, Lizzy Woolf. Operations Director: Jan Pringle. We thank God for the opportunities our newly developed worship space has given us for ministry within the church and in the local community. Please pray for us to continue to make good use of the space to serve our local community and make Christ known in our town.

Sat 15 Bishop's Tachbrook Primary School. Headteacher: Andy Brettell. We pray for God's blessing on the staff, teachers, pupils and governors of this community.
*Teresa of Avila, Teacher of the Faith, 1582

Sun 16

Twenty-first
Sunday after

Today Bishop Christopher will be taking a confirmation service and dedicating a new organ at St Botolph, Newbold-upon-Avon. We pray for the candidates being confirmed. Please pray that their faith will be broadened and deepened as they go out in the power of the Spirit.

*Nicholas Ridley and Hugh Latimer, Reformation Martyrs, 1555

Mon 17

Today is the first day of 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.

*Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, Martyr, c.107

Tue 18

Luke the
Evangelist

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. 'Wear it Pink' is just one of the month's initiatives (on 21 October this year) to raise awareness and funding for vital research in a fun way. We pray for all those who are involved with this campaign.

We pray for the Diocesan Board of Education which meets this evening.

Wed 19

Lillington. Clergy: Charlotte Gale, Naomi Nixon, Rosemary Pantling, Sue Fairhurst. Reader: Roderick Clark. We give thanks for and ask for continued prayer for Love Lillington, a community project with the purpose of 'loving our community with prayer, money and action'.

*Henry Martyn, Translator of the Scriptures, Missionary in India and Persia

Thu 20

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 Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches (DAC).

Fri 21

St Paul's, Warwick. Clergy: Jonathan Hearn. We pray for God's blessing on this church and community.

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

Sat 22

St Mary's, Warwick. Clergy: Vaughan Roberts. Reader: Doreen Mills. We thank God for our Churchwardens, PCC and all who share in the ministry of St Mary's Church. Please pray for Alycia Smith-Howard, our Education & Visitor Development Officer, and all who are part of our outreach to schools and tourists, the town and civic bodies.

Sun 23

Last Sunday
after Trinity

St John's, Leamington. Clergy: Vacant. Reader: Chris Parry. We give thanks for the ministry of retired priests and our Reader who have supported us during interregnum. We also give thanks for an increase in the ministry of the laity. We pray for the Churchwardens and PCC as they search for a new parish priest.

Mon 24

St Mary's, Leamington. Clergy: Christopher Knight. We ask for prayers for: 1. Our new leadership team being prayed in and released on 9th October. 2. Continued funding for the Pathway mentoring program and its growth to other churches. 3. The development of our new vision and strategy for the next few years.

Tue 25

St Nicholas, Warwick. Clergy: Linda Duckers. Reader: Fiona Trewick. We thank God for those in the parish who serve God faithfully and obediently, day after day. Please pray for openness and generosity in our forthcoming Stewardship Campaign.

*Crispin and Crispinian, Martyrs at Rome, c.287

Wed 26

Today we pray for a retreat day led by Bishop Christopher at Holy Trinity Church, Attleborough.

*Alfred the Great, King of the West Saxons, Scholar, 899

*Cedd, Abbot of Lastingham, Bishop of the East Saxons, 664

Thu 27

Holy Trinity, Leamington. Clergy: Christopher Wilson, Anne Morris, Penny Hughes. We thank God for the energy and enthusiasm of our two new churchwardens appointed during the past year. Please pray for us as we seek to extend our mission by upgrading and refurbishing our Parish Hall, and developing our church to make it relevant to the wider community.

Fri 28

Simon and
Jude, Apostles

All Saints, Emscote. Clergy: Diane Thompson. We pray for God's blessing on this church and community.

At the end of International Brain Tumour Awareness Week, we pray for those who have been diagnosed with a brain tumour. We pray that they may receive the guidance, support and treatment they need.

Sat 29

St Margaret's Junior School. Headteacher: Barbara Williams-Cooke. We pray for God's blessing on the children, staff, families and governors of this community.

*James Hannington, Bishop of Eastern Equatorial Africa, Martyr, 1885

Sun 30

4th Sunday
before Advent

We pray for the work of bible translators and distributors around the world. We give thanks for the major agencies who work to make the bible accessible and available to people in all countries and of all traditions. We pray especially for those who risk their life and freedom in continuing this work.

Mon 31

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

*Martin Luther, Reformer, 1546

Love Lillington



Love Lillington Launch Service

St Mary Magdalene's Church, Lillington launched a new project earlier this year to help people in need in our local community. Jesus teaches Christians to 'love your neighbour as yourself' and this is one way we are trying to respond to that challenge. We are trying to love our community with gifts of prayer, money and practical action. The gifts are freely given with nothing required in return.

Prayer – We set up a prayer network within the church to pray specifically for people in trouble or need in Lillington. We have already seen some really special answers to our prayers, and people have responded really well to knowing that we are praying for them.

Money – If any of the professionals working in our community (health workers, teachers, councillors etc.) come across a family or person with a need that can be sorted with a grant, they get in touch with us and we try and help. We have bought fridges and fences and carpets and cookers. We have paid overdue nursery fees for a Mum whose life had fallen apart, and have helped a man to kick start his life by paying the training fees for a coaching certificate. We always pay in full for what's needed, and so far the pot of money has stayed full. As much as we give away, God seems to give back from generous donations.

Action – The third part of the project is practical action, and once again, we work through referrals from professionals. We have a team of people ready to help. We have cleared an overgrown garden, put up curtain poles, given lifts and filled a skip with rubbish. We can't always help, but if we can we will.

We hoped and prayed that Love Lillington would be a real blessing to our community. But even more than that, we have discovered that it is a real blessing to us!

Revd Charlotte Gale

Communion and Coffee celebrates Ten Years



Revd Christopher Wilson with Pam, Brian and Andy Iredale

Seasons may come and go – but a regular event at Seasons Restaurant, a family-run restaurant in Leamington Spa town centre, is proving popular all the year round. In fact, this September the restaurant is celebrating the tenth anniversary of an 'inspired' initiative, which brings the Church and the community closer together.

Seasons, located in Warwick Street, started a 'Communion & Coffee' gathering in 2006 – and now holds two such events every month.

'Communion & Coffee' was conceived after co-owner of Seasons, Pam Iredale, went to a discussion on 'The Future of the Diocese' with her husband. They came away so inspired by what the then Bishop of Coventry had to say about the Church getting out of church buildings and reaching people in the community that the words 'Communion & Coffee' naturally came to mind!

Since October 2006, the services at Seasons, which are attended by about 20 regular worshippers, have been conducted by Reverend Christopher Wilson, vicar of Holy Trinity and All Saints.

Reverend Wilson said;

"It's wonderful to have the opportunity to worship in this way and I'm very grateful to Pam and Brian for their hospitality. During a simple service we pray for the busy life of the town around us and for the people and concerns on our hearts. Friendships between those from different churches who might not otherwise meet have been formed and deepened, and we're also able to welcome those searching for God who do not want to take the step of entering a church building just yet."

If you are interested in joining the 'Communion & Coffee' services at Seasons Restaurant on the first and third Friday of the month at 10am, please telephone 01926 424340.