

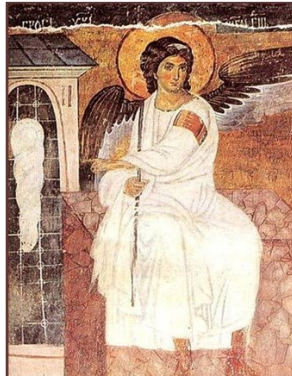


Prayer Diary

April 2017

'He is not here. He has risen.' (Matt. 28:6)

As Mary Magdalene stands weeping outside the tomb, she tells the angels 'They have taken away my Lord.' Soon afterwards, having recognised the risen Christ when he calls her by name, 'Mary', her tears are turned to joy as she tells the disciples 'I have seen the Lord.' My Lord ... The Lord. The Christian faith, the good news of the resurrection of Christ is both profoundly *personal* and at the same time of *universal* significance. It is not, as Karl Marx famously posited, 'the opium of the people' numbing us to the real struggles of the real world that is. Nor is it some future escape route or 'pie in the sky when you die.' On the contrary it is *incarnational* embracing every dimension of life, all that is. It is a present reality. The Lord *is* risen. This reality embraces all that is, including as Paul writes, the creation itself (Romans 8). Archbishop William Temple shocked some when he described Christianity as 'the most materialistic of all religions.' What he meant was that matter matters and matters to God. He created it. He became it - the Word became flesh. He wrought our salvation through it. So the physical circumstances of this world matter and matter to God. Poverty, homelessness, refugees, the environment, these are spiritual issues at the same time as physical issues. God's kingdom is to come, as we pray daily, *on earth* as it is in heaven.



We are Easter people, citizens of heaven, inviting through our lives and prayers heaven on earth, 'heaven in ordinare', as George Herbert puts it. Origen describes prayer as the 'celestification of earth'. Put more simply, as Jesus taught us, prayer is for the Kingdom of God to come, heaven to earth. As Easter people, we are called in our prayers and actions to incarnate God's redeeming love for the world. There is no human being, there is no human situation beyond or outside the redeeming love of God.

So let us pray, with the poet G.M. Hopkins: 'Let him easter in us, be a dayspring to the dimness of us.'

+ John

Focus on Coventry North Deanery



Having been to four groups of sessions for General Synod now, including the Shared Conversations last July, I've seen a wide range of beliefs claiming to be authentic Anglicanism. This exists at a local level too - there is a wide range of diversity within the Coventry North Deanery. Despite this we manage to work together to grow the Kingdom together. But what is the basis of all our beliefs together? Sometimes we concentrate too much on those second degree matters that separate us. Sometimes we can be too wedded to the latest "business" theory.

The truth is we are bound together in unity by loving one another. In Coventry North this is how we manage to be a diverse deanery, but able to work together.

We are also bound together in following things of Christ expressed through the celebration of the Eucharist, the daily prayer of the Offices, and baptising, preparing for confirmation, marrying and burying of the people of our parishes. Although we may all look different, we use the same Eucharistic Prayers and it is the same Jesus Christ who is truly present, Body and Blood in the bread and wine every week.

Andrew Williams
Deanery Lay Chair

Cycle of Prayer - April 2017

With a focus on parishes and schools in Coventry North Deanery

Sat 1

April is National Pet Month. National Pet Month aims to educate the public on responsible pet ownership, celebrates the benefits of having pets and increases public awareness about the role of pet care specialists. We give thanks for all those who care for and look after God's creatures.
*Frederick Denison Maurice, Priest, Teacher of the Faith, 1872

Sun 2

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Today is the first World Autism Awareness Day. The aim of the day is to help people understand how overwhelming the world can be for people with autism. Pray that, with this new understanding, people will be kinder to families living with autism, and that these families would feel less isolated.

Mon 3

Longford, Ansty & Shilton. Clergy: Andrew Coleman. We thank God for all the blessings he has given to all the people who live in these parishes. Please pray for people who are newly worshipping at the churches of these parishes, especially for those who are not accustomed to being in church. We pray for the Diocesan Business Committee which meets this morning.

Tue 4

Today Bishop John will be meeting with the WorkCare chaplains. WorkCare is a local Christian charity that sends chaplains to workplaces around Coventry and Warwickshire. Chaplains provide support and a confidential listening ear to workers. We pray for the chaplains and give thanks for their work.

Wed 5

April is Bowel Cancer Awareness month. Screening can save lives by detecting cancers early but in some areas of the UK only a third of those who receive a test complete it. We pray for all those affected by bowel cancer, the medical professionals who care for them, and for all those who are carrying out research, looking for better treatments..

Thu 6

This evening, Bishop Christopher will be hosting an event at Bishop's House to mark the 25th anniversary of 'Crossline Coventry.' Crossline is a telephone helpline that serves to provide a listening ear to those in need. It is part of Coventry City Mission, of which Bishop Christopher is Patron. We pray for the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches (DAC).

Fri 7

Today is World Health Day, and the focus for 2017 is "Depression: Let's talk". We pray for all those working to raise awareness and get people talking about the effects of depression worldwide. We also pray for Lizzie McWhirter who is leading a DBE training day for the staff at Knightlow Primary School in Rugby.

Sat 8

Coventry St George. Clergy: Alison Evans. Reader: Shirley Trafford. This term we have run Youth Alpha in our Youth Cell - please pray for the small group of young people who have come. Pray that God will reveal himself to them and that they will become his followers. Pray for 'Footsteps to the cross', Good Friday, that young and old alike would meet Jesus as we reach out.

Sun 9

Palm Sunday

We pray for the keeping of Holy Week at churches in our diocese; that the rhythms of prayer and devotion may seep into the daily lives of all those who attend. We pray, too, for a joyous celebration of the Resurrection, that speaks to all corners of hope reborn and lives transformed.
*Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lutheran Pastor, Martyr, 1945

Mon 10

Monday of Holy Week

We give thanks for all those who make music in the Cathedral. We pray for new ways for the Cathedral to make connections with the choir families. We pray for the Diocesan Mission Fund Committee which meets today.
*William Law, Priest, Spiritual Writer, 1761
*William of Ockham, Friar, Philosopher, Teacher of the Faith, 1347

Tue 11

Tuesday of Holy Week

Foleshill St Paul. Clergy: Vacancy. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.
*George Augustus Selwyn, first Bishop of New Zealand, 1878

Wed 12

Wednesday of Holy Week

Keresley. Clergy: Mark Norris. We thank God for our Year in the Bible in 2017 which is helping us to understand the big story of God's word and our place in it. Please pray for the growth of our children's club, BL@ST at St Thomas' and new community activities in Keresley Village Church including our new 'coffee stop' all day on Wednesdays.

Thu 13

Maundy Thursday

St Laurence's Primary School, Coventry. Headteacher: Joe Jennings. We pray for God's blessing on pupils, teachers, staff and governors in this school community. Today we pray for the clergy and laity who will be at the Christm Eucharist led by Bishop Christopher in the Cathedral.

Fri 14

Good Friday

"When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died; my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride." As we remember Jesus' obedience, even to death on a cross, we ask God to meet us in our brokenness and need and make us obedient to him.

Sat 15

Easter Eve

We pray for all those who are waiting. We remember those who are expecting good news today, of a birth or a reason to celebrate. We pray too for those who are waiting for the unknown, for those facing their own death or the death of a loved one, and for those who will receive sad or difficult news today.

Sun 16

Easter Day

He has risen - Jesus is alive! We pray for Easter celebrations in all parishes and communities this morning. We pray for those who will gather with Bishop Christopher at the Cathedral for the Easter Dawn service of Baptism and Confirmation followed by the first Eucharist of Easter.
*Isabella Gilmore, Deaconess, 1923

Mon 17

Monday of
Easter Week

Coventry Holy Trinity. Clergy: Graeme Anderson. Readers: Geoff Wilcox, Sue Shepherd. We thank God for the new chapter in the life of our ministry that lies before us. Please pray for our heart to listen to, and follow our Lord. We thank God for the provision of bank holidays and for the break they offer to many people from the normal patterns of work and life.

Tue 18

Tuesday of
Easter Week

Coventry St John Baptist. Clergy: Vacancy. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community. 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.

Wed 19

Wednesday of
Easter Week

Foleshill St Laurence. Clergy: Mike Cleveland. Reader: Mel Cleveland. Please pray for us as we work to draw up our Parish Profile for a new Vicar to take over from Mike and Mel in the summer. We pray for the right appointment of God's choice.
*Alphege, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr, 1012

Thu 20

Thursday of
Easter Week

At this time of renewal we thank God for all that he gives us, particularly for creation, which continues to sustain and delight us. We give thanks for the colours, sights, smells and sounds of spring, for the song of birds, the call of lambs in the fields, new growth emerging from the earth and everything that means new life, we thank you Lord.

Fri 21

Friday of Easter
Week

Holbrooks St Luke. Clergy: Fr Simon Oakes. We thank God for all who have helped us during the interregnum, and for our new parish priest, Fr Simon. Please pray for us as we consider establishing a conference of the Society of St Vincent de Paul to serve the poor and sick in our community.
*Anselm, Abbot of Le Bec, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1109

Sat 22

Saturday of
Easter Week

April is Stress Awareness Month, when health care professionals and experts seek to increase public awareness about both the causes and cures for the problem of stress. We pray for all those affected by stress at this time and for those who seek to support them.

Sun 23

George, Patron
of England

Today Bishop Christopher will be leading confirmation services at Rugby School. 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.

Mon 24

We thank God for the ministry of Bishop John in this diocese and around the world. We pray for Bishop John as he starts his sabbatical today. We pray for the Diocesan Board of Education which meets today.
*Mellitus, Bishop of London, first Bishop at St Paul's, 624

Tue 25

Mark the
Evangelist

Today is the second day of the residential meeting of the Archbishops with Diocesan Bishops at Hinsley hall in Yorkshire. We pray for the Holy Spirit to guide conversations. We pray for the Diocesan Finance Group which meets this morning.

Wed 26

We pray for all those who will be starting new Bishop's Certificate in Discipleship & Mission (BCDM) modules this week; that they would gain confidence in their faith and biblical knowledge. We pray for the Diocesan Audit Committee which meets today.

Thu 27

This week is MS Awareness Week. We pray for the The Multiple Sclerosis Trust, who are working with health professionals across the UK to develop ways of helping MS teams deliver the best possible care to everyone affected by MS.
*Christina Rossetti, Poet, 1894

Fri 28

Allesley. Clergy: Vacancy. Readers: Colin and Fey Holtum who are missionaries in Kenya. Youth Worker: Kate Pwaisho. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community particularly in the interregnum. We pray also for Cell Church ministry in Kenya.
*Peter Chanel, Missionary in the South Pacific, Martyr, 1841

Sat 29

Radford. Clergy: Liz Jackson, Bee Arnold. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.
*Catherine of Siena, Teacher of the Faith, 1380

Sun 30

Third Sunday of
Easter

We pray that congregations would be free to continue to celebrate Easter in their worship gatherings today. We pray for anyone who feels lonely or on the edge of their church and ask that God would help us to be more welcoming and caring towards others.
*Pandita Mary Ramabai, Translator of the Scriptures, 1922

Keresley Village Community Church - A New Chapter

Keresley Village Community Church opened in 1999 as a Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) resulting from the amalgamation of The Church of the Ascension, (the miners' church serving Coventry Colliery) and Wheelwright Lane Methodist Church.



At the heart of the village at Keresley End, the vision for the church has always been to provide a centre for worship and a centre for the community. For nearly 20 years, the church has provided various activities for people of all ages across the local community. Many of the young people in Keresley Village have passed through the children and youth clubs over the years.

The faithful but dwindling Sunday morning congregation at KVCC have decided that the time has come for them to stop meeting for formal worship week by week. This has led to the end of the Ecumenical Partnership. However, it is by no means the end of Keresley Village Community Church. St Thomas, Keresley are taking forward the vision to see the building develop afresh as a centre for mission and ministry in the village.

Messy Church events will continue to be held regularly in the village.

In response to a recent community survey, the village church is opening every Wednesday throughout the day as a community 'coffee stop' to provide a local meeting place. Already several opportunities for ministry and ideas for community groups are growing out of animated conversations.

Join with us in thanking God for the last 18 years and pray for our Celebration Service at 3pm on 18th June.



Please pray for the Spirit's leading as we continue to find ways to be Good News to this area of Keresley parish and to continue to build community here.

The Revd Mark Norris

Mainly Music



Started in New Zealand in 1990, Mainly Music groups are run by volunteers from local churches. They provide fun, interactive music sessions for parents and their preschool children to enjoy together. Young children are introduced to music, whilst families enjoy fellowship and are given a chance to think about God.

Ru Trew set up the Mainly Music sessions at All Saints, Allesley in 2012. Mainly Music meets weekly, during term time, on Saturday mornings from 9.30 -10.30 and average between fifteen and eighteen families each week. We have found that this time is very popular with Dad's as it enables them to share quality time with their children whilst connecting with others whose children are at a similar developmental stage.

The music session itself lasts for about 30 minutes and usually includes two 'God' songs and a 'think spot'. This is followed by a time of free play for the children and fellowship and refreshments for the adults. Mainly Music enables new families to experience being part of our church community in a relaxed environment.

Many of our Mainly Music families are not part of our Sunday worshipping community and so these sessions provide a real opportunity for All Saints to interact with the community. In this way the Mainly Music Team - which now includes two new members who have joined the team after first coming to Mainly Music with their children - are able to be a face of the church within Allesley.

Along with Creativity, Connection, Generosity and Honour, Celebration is one of Mainly Music's five key values. Last Christmas our team led a very successful Crib service, incorporating songs learnt at Mainly Music for about eighty families and on March 4th this year we celebrated our 5th birthday.

Since joining the team last September, I have been privileged to meet Jo Hood, Mainly Music's International Director, at a training day in Leamington Spa and have benefitted from the support and encouragement I have received from Samantha Lee, Mainly Music's Area Coach.

Lesley Borrell
Mainly Music Co-ordinator
All Saints Church Allesley