



# Prayer Diary

May 2017

*“For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.”*

Isaiah 55:12

Having been brought up predominantly in the Roman Catholic tradition, which included attending a convent school, the month of May always brings back memories of processions around the grounds of the convent, the singing of ‘Mary hymns’ and the crowning of statues with flowers. In these memories it is always sunny and warm and the gardens of the convent are always awash with spring flowers, bluebells and lilacs and the sounds of birds and bees. I enjoyed it, it was lovely and it was also a chance to escape lessons and get outside.

My love of the outdoors and marvel at the wonders of God’s creation have not changed as the years have gone by and are reinforced as I write this on what can only be described as the most beautiful spring day, when it is impossible not to want to thank God for the blessings He has given me in my family and friends with whom I have recently shared Easter celebrations and the view from my office window of vibrant green spring leaves bursting from their buds and trees drenched in cascades of pink blossom.

During Easter we are reminded of new beginnings and the great joy of hope for the future in our faith. As we pray together for one another and the whole Church across Coventry, Warwickshire and the world during the month of May let us not forget the many blessings God has given us; the opportunities for new beginnings; hope for the future and our responsibility to care for His amazing creation and all humanity.



**Ruth Marlow**  
*Diocesan Secretary*

## Focus on Rugby Deanery

Hi, I am Tim Cockell and I am the new Area Dean for Rugby. When I say new, I am certainly not new to the Rugby Deanery, in fact I am among the longest serving clergy in the area having ministered in two different Rugby parishes in the last 18 ½ years. So, you would think I know quite a bit about what is going on around the place. Actually, not as much as you might think!

It’s so easy for us to become parochial and focus on just our own bit of God’s Kingdom and on what we are doing locally to fulfil the Diocesan Mission Statement. Over the last three months, though, I have become more aware of just what I don’t know about the Deanery. But the amazing thing is, that in discovering more of what is going on in our parishes I can’t help be struck by the sheer variety of events and initiatives that churches are engaged in and just how committed people are to bringing the love of Christ through acts of service and worship to the communities in which they are set. There is a staggering amount going on. It also serves as reminder that we have much to learn from each other as there is likely to be someone else who has done something along similar lines and has experience they can share to help us in our plans.

Planning for future of the Deanery is something that is very much in our minds at the moment – not surprising with a new Area Dean! The Deanery feels about the right size to be able to work on issues that are common to us all. There has already been some movement on this in the last year or so with a regular Churchwardens’ Forum being set up where ideas and information are exchanged and where a sense of togetherness and mutual support can be fostered. A small team has also been working on the issue of Giving and how the Deanery can support and encourage churches with what can be a difficult issue.

It is my hope and prayer that we might be able in the coming year to draw our parishes closer together and make the Deanery a more cohesive unit. I also hope that during this month of focus on the Rugby Deanery that you will join with us in praying for this greater sense of togetherness.



**Revd Tim Cockell**  
*Area Dean of Rugby Deanery*

# Cycle of Prayer - May 2017

With a focus on parishes and schools in Rugby Deanery

<b>Mon 1</b>  Philip and James, Apostles	Rugby St Peter and St John. Clergy: Sheila Bridge. We thank God for the award of £10,000 which will pay for a feasibility study of our area and three terms of weekly ESOL classes for some in our community. We pray for the growth of passionate spirituality in our members and numerical growth in our congregation.
<b>Tue 2</b>	Clifton-Upon-Dunsmore Primary School. Head of School: Mrs L Bernard. We pray for God's blessing on pupils, teachers, staff and governors in this school community. *Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, Teacher of the Faith, 373
<b>Wed 3</b>	Leam Valley Benefice. Reader: Alec Parker. We pray for God's blessing on our vicar Jane Close as she settles into retirement and we ask for prayers for the churchwardens as they serve during an interregnum. We thank God for those helping and taking services and we ask for God's discernment for the way forward.
<b>Thu 4</b>	Dunchurch Boughton Junior School. Headteacher: Andy Wardle. We pray for God's blessing on pupils, teachers, staff and governors in this school community. *English Saints and Martyrs of the Reformation Era
<b>Fri 5</b>	Bilton. Clergy: Tim Cockell, Joy Sharpe. Reader: Glenn Lowde. We pray for God's blessing on this parish. We thank God for a successful church awayday last October focussing on the Bible. Please pray for God's help and guidance as we focus on helping our congregations to understand and experience more the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
<b>Sat 6</b>	Clifton-on-Dunsmore, Newton and Brownsover. Clergy: Tim Davis, Malcolm Garratt (retired). Readers: Peter Kent, Cath Hammond. We pray for God's blessing on these parishes. We thank God for growing relationships in the wider community, especially in schools. Please pray for new officers across the benefice and reordering investigations at St Mary's.
<b>Sun 7</b>  Fourth Sunday of Easter	Harris CofE Academy, Rugby. Headteacher: Michael Stoppard. We pray for God's blessing on pupils, teachers, staff and governors in this school community.

<b>Mon 8</b>	We pray for all those taking SATs (Standard Assessment Tests) in primary schools across the diocese this week. We pray for the Bishop's Council which meets this evening. *Julian of Norwich, Spiritual Writer, c.1417
<b>Tue 9</b>	Dunchurch with Thurlaston. Clergy: Patricia Townshend. We thank God for helping our parish to grow and that goodwill and friendship have flourished during the interregnum. We give thanks for bringing us Patricia Townshend as our new minister. Please pray that she will settle in well and lead us in a growing and healthy church.
<b>Wed 10</b>	We thank God for the peacebuilding organisation, Cord which is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Bishop Christopher is a patron and will be hosting a reception to mark the anniversary. Cord began life at St Mary's, Leamington, is now located in Coventry, and works on sustainable approaches to peacebuilding in Burundi, Chad, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar.
<b>Thu 11</b>	Wolston St Margaret's Primary School. Headteacher: Julia McLeod. We pray for God's blessing on pupils, teachers, staff and governors in this school community.
<b>Fri 12</b>	The Revel Group. Clergy: Jonathan Fox. Reader: George Lee. We pray for God's blessing upon these five parishes. We give thanks for: a new roof at Brinklow, a new floor at Willey, a new room/toilets/kitchen at St Edith's and a great day at Daffodil Sunday! Please ask our Father to move the hearts of our people to follow Jesus and come to worship Him.
<b>Sat 13</b>	St Matthew's Bloxam Primary School, Rugby. Strategic Headteacher: Debbie Huxtable. Acting Headteacher: Dionne Hunter. We pray for God's blessing on pupils, teachers, staff and governors in this school community.
<b>Sun 14</b>  Matthias the Apostle	St Oswald's CofE Academy, Rugby. Headteacher: Hillary Lorimer. We pray for God's blessing on pupils, teachers, staff and governors in this school community. We pray for all parishes that are currently experiencing a vacancy. We pray for the appointment processes, that the right ministers will be found.
<b>Mon 15</b>	14 – 20 May is Christian Aid Week. We give thanks for the churches that engage in this week of witness. Pray for the conversations that happen on the doorstep, the creative acts of worship and the community fundraising events. Please consider holding before God today refugees and the nations and communities that receive them.

**Tue 16**

The Revel Primary School, Rugby. Headteacher: Mr A Edwards. We pray for God's blessing on pupils, teachers, staff and governors in this school community.

We pray for the Glebe Committee which meets this afternoon.

\*Caroline Chisholm, Social Reformer, 1877

**Wed 17**

Wolston and Church Lawford. Clergy: Kevin Flanagan, Paul Simmonds. Reader: Helen Simmonds, Jayne Hayward. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.

**Thu 18**

m2o Rugby. Clergy: Hannah and Olly Mears, with curates Emma and Charles Higgins. Readers: Mervyn Hill, David Long, Mairi Mowbray, John Martin-Jones. We thank God for a church weekend where we heard from guest speakers Michelle and Steve Addison who taught us to share our faith. Please pray we reach our community with the Gospel and with joy!

**Fri 19**

Newbold-on-Avon with Long Lawford. Clergy: Paul Wilkinson, Diane Bussey. We thank God for the recent growth in the use of music in our worship. Please pray for our continuing strong links with the schools in our parish.

\*Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, Restorer of Monastic Life, 988

**Sat 20**

Bagington, Bubbenhall and Ryton-on-Dunsmore. Clergy: David Wintle. Reader: Rosemary King. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.

\*Alcuin of York, Deacon, Abbot of Tours, 804

**Sun 21**

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Provost Williams Primary School, Ryton-on-Dunsmore. Headteacher: Claire Hall. We pray for God's blessing on pupils, teachers, staff and governors in this school community.

\*Helena, Protector of the Holy Places, 330

**Mon 22**

May the blessing of God be upon our farms and on all the cereal crops of our countryside. May they receive rain to swell the grain and sun to ripen it. We pray that the harvest be safely gathered in and stored, and may we see ourselves as harvesters for eternal life - "For look! The fields are already ripe for harvest". Amen.

**Tue 23**

Rugby St George. Clergy: Hilary Iredale. Readers: Carol Davies, Mike Iredale. Youth worker: Alan Stevens. We thank God for our new audio/vis system, a growing youth club and growth in numbers in our worshiping communities. Please pray as we explore ways to keep our building open in the week and seek ways to draw fringe members into more committed membership.

**Wed 24**

Draycote Benefice. Clergy: Ali Massey, David Shaw. We thank God for our new Rector Ali Massey and all our churchwardens and laity who worked so hard during the interregnum. We ask for God's blessing on the Benefice as we work together discerning God's will for this beautiful place.

\*John and Charles Wesley, Evangelists, Hymn Writers, 1791 and 1788

**Thu 25**

Ascension Day

Today we thank God for the 55th anniversary of the consecration of the new Cathedral and the launch of 'Thy Kingdom Come', the global, ecumenical prayer initiative from the Archbishop of Canterbury.

\*The Venerable Bede, Monk at Jarrow, Scholar, Historian, 735

\*Aldhelm, Bishop of Sherborne, 709

**Fri 26**

Bilton Junior School. Headteacher: Alex Norton. We pray for God's blessing on pupils, teachers, staff and governors in this school community.

\*Augustine, first Archbishop of Canterbury, 605

\*John Calvin, Reformer, 1564

\*Philip Neri, Founder of the Oratorians, Spiritual Guide, 1595

**Sat 27**

Rugby St Andrew. Clergy: Imogen Nay. We give thanks for all the staff and volunteer team. We also give thanks for our new Director of Music (and Music Outreach Worker) after a long vacancy. We ask for prayers for our Mission and Vision 2017-2020 that we may learn something new about God and ourselves.

**Sun 28**

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Leamington Hastings CofE Academy. Headteacher: Mr I. Dewes. We pray for God's blessing on pupils, teachers, staff and governors in this school community.

\*Lanfranc, Prior of Le Bec, Archbishop of Canterbury, Scholar, 1089

**Mon 29**

St Andrew's Benn Primary School, Rugby. Headteacher: Abi Huggins. We pray for God's blessing on pupils, teachers, staff and governors in this school community.

We pray for events taking place in parishes across the diocese this week in celebration of 'Thy Kingdom Come.'

**Tue 30**

Knightlow Primary School. Headteacher: Jill Vavasour. We pray for God's blessing on pupils, teachers, staff and governors in this school community.

\*Josephine Butler, Social Reformer, 1906

\*Joan of Arc, Visionary, 1431

\*Apolo Kivebulaya, Priest, Evangelist in Central Africa, 1933

**Wed 31**

The Visit of Mary to Elizabeth

Hillmorton. Clergy: Margaret Simmons, Steve Gold, Lindsay Hughes, Ted Lyons. Reader: Paul Thomas. Children & Families Minister: Gareth Davies. We thank God for our growing team, for progress with our re-ordering project, for our new children's club, and for our growing church family. Please pray for a prayerful heart for God's mission in Hillmorton & Houlton.

## Keeping positive in an interregnum...The Draycote Benefice

Like any parishes in vacancy, we were absolutely delighted when our new Rector, Revd Ali Massey, was installed in September 2016, drawing to an end our long interregnum of over two and a half years. But, interestingly, when we recruited Rev Ali, one of the things that attracted her to us, and vice versa, was that she wanted to work alongside us in ministry, rather than join us and 'take over'. We churchwardens were definitely ready for her spiritual leadership, but we all felt a big degree of encouragement at how well we had not only 'kept the ship afloat' but actually kept it moving in, what can sometimes be, choppy waters.

An interregnum isn't an easy time. We definitely appreciated the support of retired clergy to lead our Eucharistic worship. But we learned and we grew to lead most of our own non-Eucharistic worship ourselves with services having an element of informality, and having purchased a portable Audio Visual kit, we are now making use of that in our worship.

One of our biggest success stories has been a Saturday afternoon worship called 'Celebrate@4' which we introduced whilst in vacancy, and is entirely led and managed by laity. This has continued even since Rev Ali has been appointed, with both her blessing and her encouragement. It's very informal, held monthly in a village hall, commences with refreshments, with the service lasting 40 minutes. It consists of singing using backing tracks and words on screen, an interactive talk using video, drama or story, and some simple prayers. We finish by sharing a blessing. It's targeted at families with simple activities for children, who are encouraged to join in. It is noisy and busy but always fun! We have had a service on a farm and made our own Christmas video!

Working together, laughing and exchanging good news, sharing problems, trying new things, asking for help when you need it, and offering help when you can. This is what we have learned are the ingredients of a healthy interregnum.



**Karen Armbrister**  
**Churchwarden, St. Leonard's**  
**Birdingbury**

## Chaplaincy in the work place

Early in 2016 and following a helpful session at Deanery Synod when Paul Simmonds spoke on the value of chaplaincy in the work place, the PCC of St Peter and St John decided this was something we could be offering to the many small businesses on the large industrial estate in our parish.

We created an attractive card with all the church details and a personal letter from myself (with a photo) explaining the kind of things we offer that might be of interest to their employees. We acknowledged that whilst very big firms often engage a chaplain, this isn't possible for small businesses. But we all need support, we said, so we offered them a listening ear, a life skills course to enhance mental wellbeing and '*a worshipping community praying for your business to thrive*'.

Although we haven't yet had anyone directly seek the support of a chaplain, the card was well received and on the back of that initiative we held a business leader's breakfast early one Friday morning in the early spring. From this we have been blessed with a lot of good will from local firms towards the church. Our railings were repainted in one day by two local firms with paint donated by a third, two local youth schemes came and redecorated two different rooms in church. The builders of a new housing development came and put two large raised beds in our garden for free, enabling the formation of an a new initiative — the 'PJ Veg Beds' group growing vegetables for our community. The same developers accepted the gift of a welcome pack from us for each of their new homes which contained all our church information and a packet of seeds.



**Revd Shelia Bridges**  
**Minister in Charge, St Peter and St John Church, Rugby**

We ran the life skills course (Keeping Health in Mind produced by Clive and Ali Hogger who are also of this diocese, for information see [www.keepinghealthinmind.org.uk](http://www.keepinghealthinmind.org.uk)) twice, once in May as a pilot and then again in the autumn term. At the second course 5 of the group of 8 were completely new to our church and two of these contacts have resulted in people joining other church activities/ services.