



Prayer Diary

August 2017



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.



Tim Fox is a priest at the new parish of Coventry All Saints—a parish so new that it replaces the one that he was licensed to after his ordination last year. Tim has relished life as curate of the new parish, enjoying the massive variety and diversity of ministry which has seen him involved in everything from school ministry, to funeral ministry, to working with the homeless and destitute, to organising Charity music events, to setting up a ‘Cycling Church’ and of course preaching and leading worship. Tim looks forward to stepping out into more of God’s invitation to him in the coming months.



Claire McArthur is a priest at St Mary's Walsgrave. Highlights this year have been setting up a new luncheon club alongside the Langley Trust and Age UK, developing children’s ministry (including becoming a Governor at two local schools) and being in a privileged position alongside people during funeral ministry. Claire is passionate about anything digital and has used her skills consulting across Diocesan projects and working alongside Coventry Cathedral on their social media strategy. Claire is looking forward to presiding over her first Eucharist.

Gail Phillip is a priest at St John’s, Kenilworth. Gail’s first year as a curate has been an exciting one, with the completion of a major reordering of the church building opening up many new possibilities for ministry and mission. This has included establishing and developing links with Recovery Partnership who work locally with people seeking to overcome addiction. Another highlight has been supporting new ventures into Mission-Shaped Communities. Gail is very thankful for the care and support she has received from the church family at St John’s.



Rachel Saum is a priest in the Mid Fosse Parishes. She has immersed herself in the diversity of rural ministry and in the process has consumed a lot of cake! Highlights include launching a prayer club in the church school, getting to know some students at Moreton Morrell College, leading the parish retreat and hosting a mindfulness trail in her vicarage garden as part of Thy Kingdom Come. Rachel has loved the challenge of ministering across two rural benefices, learning from different approaches to ministry. Rachel looks forward to what God has in store now she is an ordained priest.

Rupert Allen is an OLM deacon at Chilvers Coton with Astley. Born in Kent, Rupert went to university in Worcester and Brighton. Admitted as a Reader in 1998, Rupert served for ten years as the Honorary Registrar of Readers. In 2003 he was appointed Assistant DAC Secretary for both Dioceses of Coventry and Leicester. In 2012 he became DAC Secretary for the Diocese of Leicester with overall responsibility for overseeing the Diocesan database. Rupert trained part-time at The Queen’s Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education in Birmingham. He is married with two daughters.



Cycle of Prayer - August 2017

Tue 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.

Wed 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."

Thu 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."

Fri 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

Sat 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

Sun 6

The
Transfiguration
of our Lord

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.

Mon 7

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.
*John Mason Neale, Priest, Hymn Writer, 1866

Tue 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

Wed 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

Thu 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

Fri 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 Minoresses (Poor Clares), 1253
*John Henry Newman, Priest, Tractarian, 1890

Sat 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.

Sun 13

Ninth Sunday
after Trinity

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

Mon 14

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

Tue 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."

Wed 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."

Thu 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."

Fri 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.

Sat 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.

Sun 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."

Tenth Sunday
after Trinity

*Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, Teacher of the Faith, 1153
*William and Catherine Booth, Founders of the Salvation Army

Mon 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 new opportunities in lay ministry during the vacancy.

Tue 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.

Wed 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."

Thu 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

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

Sat 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.

Sun 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."
Eleventh
Sunday after
Trinity
*Monica, mother of Augustine of Hippo, 387

Mon 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.
*Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, Teacher of the Faith, 430

Tue 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

Wed 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

Thu 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



Tom Eagles is a deacon at St Mark's, Swanswell. Tom grew up in Guildford before moving to Southampton in 1997 to study full time. He joined the Royal Air Force in 2000, serving a variety of tours in the UK and overseas. Tom eventually resettled in the south east of England and has spent the past 7 years worshipping at Soul Survivor, Watford. Tom left the military in 2014 and began his ordination mixed-mode training, studying at St Mellitus College London while working at Soul Survivor. Tom is married to Charlotte and they have two young boys.

Liz Harris is an OLM deacon in the Caludon Team. She will be based at Holy Cross Church, where she has worshipped for many years. She has held a variety of lay leadership roles, including 12 years as Churchwarden. She is really interested in contemplative prayer and in liturgy. Liz worked for 35 years in Coventry primary schools before taking early retirement. She has studied part-time at Queen's Foundation, Birmingham, for the past two years. Liz has been married to Mick for 40 years and they have three adult children.



Lizzy Holland is a deacon at St John Baptist Church, Berkswell. She grew up in Sutton Coldfield and has always had a passion for the Midlands. In 2009 Lizzy went to Durham University to study theology and, after completing her degree, came back to the Midlands to take up a post as a Children and Family Worker at St Chad's Church, Lichfield. In 2015 Lizzy began her training for ordination at St Mellitus, London. Lizzy is very excited to be moving to Berkswell, and developing links with the local community, especially with young families.

Noel Phillips is a deacon at St Michael's, Stoke. Before ordination Noel was a Chemistry teacher at King Henry VIII School in Coventry, where he has been for the last 17 years. He came to teaching after his PhD in Environmental Science. The environment and creation have continued as strong themes throughout his life. He has just completed his Diploma of Theology at Ripon College Cuddesdon Oxford, where he has been training part-time. Noel has been married to Jenny for 19 years and they have two children, Ellie (3) and Thomas (2).



Phil Richardson is a deacon at St Andrew's, Eastern Green. Phil grew up in Croydon before attending the University of Reading to study Sociology. At the end of the first term, he became a Christian whilst in Australia. When he returned to Reading he quickly became involved with the Christian Union on campus as well as the local churches. After university Phil moved to Coventry and was placed with St John's Westwood Church as a volunteer with Friends International—a Christian charity involved in outreach to students. Phil is married to Anne and they live on Bannerbrook Park with their two cats.

Adam Tams is a deacon at St Paul's, Leamington Spa. Adam grew up first in Cheshire and then in the Lake District before moving to Bristol in 2009. He has worked in a number of different fields (including running a petrol station!) before spending 5 years at Christ Church Clifton in Bristol where he spent most of his time as their operations manager. Adam is married to Jess and they have a young son, Jacob (born Dec 2016) and a dog, Sammy. Adam is a keen musician, having taught piano part time for many years, and loves to read and/or watch Poirot mysteries!



Alycia Timmis is a deacon at The Collegiate Church of St Mary, Warwick. Born and raised in the United States, Alycia attended College of the Holy Cross, a Jesuit university in Worcester, Massachusetts where she read English and Theatre (BA Hons). This was followed by her MA (Text & Performance) and PhD (English) at The Shakespeare Institute in Stratford-upon-Avon. As a Shakespeare scholar, Alycia has written a number of books on Shakespeare and drama, including a Shakespeare cookbook! Alycia is married to Mark and has a three year old son.

Alex Williams is a deacon in the Edgehill benefice of parishes. Prior to her ordination training at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, Alex worked as a Speech and Language Therapist across Children's Centres and Early Years settings in Warwickshire. Alex, who has had a sense of a vocation from an early age, has found her time training for ministry an enormous privilege and looks forward to what this next chapter of ministry will bring. She is married to Richard (currently Vicar of Alveston) and has three adult sons and a teenage daughter. She enjoys being creative and has a passion for singing.

