

## The rocking vicar



The diocese encourages all clergy to pursue a hobby outside of ministry. For some it will be playing squash, for others it will be cooking or baking. But the Reverend Pam Howell's hobby is a bit different – she is the lead singer of Coventry based rock band, The Koalas.

Pam, the Vicar of St John the Divine, Willenhall, has been singing with the band for almost twenty years. The band was formed

from the music group at St Mark's, Leamington Spa, where Pam was a member of the congregation before ordination. Pam's husband, Mark, and their friend, Peter Hill, had a passion for rock music and were keen to play outside of church too. They invited Pam to join in 1997 when the band's name was "Look Both Ways" but Pam chose the name 'The Koalas' after picking a random word in a newspaper she was reading. The name stuck.

Over the last twenty years The Koalas have evolved. The band is now based in Coventry and is comprised of Pam as lead vocalist; Pam's husband Mark as lead guitarist; Patrick Gordon on the keyboard, Steve Bastock on drums and Dan Wood as the bass player.

Even though all members of the band have to be up early on Sunday morning, they still play the occasional Saturday night gig for weddings and parties. Recently, they played to raise funds for St John the Divine. Also on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> August, some band-members played at "Willen-all Together," a multi-cultural celebration in Willenhall that brought the whole community together and showcased music from different cultures.



# Prayer Diary

## September 2017

*Happy New Year????*

How can it be a new year when it is September? The church year begins in advent – when we wait in the sure knowledge of the birth of the Christ Child, the calendar year begins in January with those all-too familiar 'new year resolutions' just waiting to be broken..., financial years begin in April (although the diocesan financial year begins in January!) and academic years in September (along with financial years for Academies...) could it be any more confusing?



So, apart from causing bewilderment, we have many opportunities throughout the year to 'make a fresh start'.

What a joy that, as Christians, we have that opportunity every day in relationship with our loving and gracious God. For the 18,000 children and young people attending our 74 Church of England Schools across the Diocese of Coventry the reality is that they are welcomed and cherished in ways that are underpinned by Christian values and principles, are 'loved into being' and offered opportunities time and again (and again and again if necessary!) to make a fresh start whether in their behaviour or in their learning.

I love the fact that a new academic year comes at the time when the church celebrates harvest. As educators we plant seeds, nurture the shoots, tend the plants as they develop and watch with admiration and love as the fruits ripen. For those of us immersed in the world of education, there can be no other time to start a new diary, to plan for the year ahead and to give thanks for all that has been, treasure all that is and step forward in the hope that comes only by knowing and trusting in God.

Happy New Year!

**Canon Linda Wainscot**  
*Diocesan Director of Education*

## Fresh Start helps people begin anew



Over the last ten months Fresh Start, a new project by Together for Change, has been befriending and providing practical support for refugees, migrants and asylum seekers in Coventry. Led by Cultural Links Worker, Matt Robinson, Fresh Start has established a number of exciting initiatives and has seen God work in some amazing ways.

Fresh Start's Saturday morning football sessions successfully kicked off earlier this year. Around 40 men – about 15 locals from different churches and 25 refugees, migrants and asylum seekers – meet together every Saturday to play football and build relationships. Football is an international language and has proved to be a great way for the men to get to know each other. The group often goes for lunch together afterwards at Coventry Vineyard Church to deepen friendships. BBC Midlands Today reported on the football sessions and you can find their report at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RD1gydBnk2s>

The Fresh Start Companionship project is also in full swing. This project pairs up volunteers with newly arrived individuals. Volunteers offer a listening ear, assistance with English, and a friend to walk alongside the new arrivals as they take their first steps in building a new life.

Twice a week Matt and a few volunteers run Conversation Cafes in Coventry city centre. Currently around 12-15 refugees and asylum seekers attend each session in the Belgrade Theatre café. The group gathers together in the café then splits down into smaller groups to chat for a couple of hours. Each session will revolve around a different topic such as Coventry's history, British values and education. These sessions do not only give participants the opportunity to practise their English in an informal setting but also bring people together. One of the participants, Hafizur comments that he "really likes coming to the conversation cafes. They have a relaxing atmosphere and it is good that they are close to the city centre." Another participant, Abdulla says "practising conversation is very important. It is great to speak to lots of different people."

To find out more about Fresh Start see their blog—  
[www.tfcfreshstart.wordpress.com](http://www.tfcfreshstart.wordpress.com)

## Ride and Stride on Saturday 9th September

The Warwickshire and Coventry Historic Churches Trust is holding Ride + Stride 2017, its annual fundraising event, on Saturday 9th September 2017 from 10am to 6pm.

Ride + Stride is a sponsored event where riders and walkers travel between churches, chapels and meeting rooms in their local area. It's always great fun and supports the repair and restoration of our historic churches.

The event is open to all ages – from babies to 90-year-olds! Any form of transport can be used, – bike, horse, tractor or buggy – and riders and striders can choose their own route to suit themselves.

Kevin Bond, Chair of the Warwickshire and Coventry Historic Church Trust says:

*"Funding for church restoration is getting harder and Ride + Stride is WCHCT's main fundraising event, so it is of great importance for us. We are therefore asking for your support to encourage participants to sign up and start fundraising as soon as possible. Taking part is easy and forms for 2017 are available from our website [www.warwickshirechurches.org.uk/infoforms.html](http://www.warwickshirechurches.org.uk/infoforms.html) as are a number of really good routes for cyclists, walkers and drivers to follow: [www.warwickshirechurches.org.uk/ridestride.html](http://www.warwickshirechurches.org.uk/ridestride.html)*

*If they wish, participants can make collecting sponsorship money simpler by setting up their own fundraising page online at [www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/wchct/rideandstride](http://www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/wchct/rideandstride)*

*Having a great day out around our churches while raising money to keep them for us, and for future generations, is a wonderful way to spend a day with friends, family – and a picnic! "*

If you would like more information, please contact [sarah.constable@inkwellmedia.co.uk](mailto:sarah.constable@inkwellmedia.co.uk)



**Sun 24**

Fifteenth  
Sunday after  
Trinity

Earlsdon. Clergy: Tulo Raistrick. We thank God for growing links with our local primary school and for people's engagement with daily bible readings to accompany a series on Paul. Please pray for the Good Neighbours project, a befriending service for older people, that we are supporting in the parish, that it will continue to grow and develop.

**Mon 25**

St John's Primary School. Headteacher: Gary Watson. We thank God for this school community and pray for blessing on pupils, teachers, staff and governors as they begin a new term together.

\*Lancelot Andrewes, Bishop of Winchester, Spiritual Writer, 1626

\*Sergei of Radonezh, Russian Monastic Reformer, Teacher of the Faith, 1392

**Tue 26**

We pray for all the clergy in our diocese currently attending the clergy conference in Liverpool. We pray that this be a time of refreshment and creativity, of friends formed and renewed and of shared dreams and transforming visions.

\*Wilson Carlile, Founder of the Church Army, 1942

**Wed 27**

During British Food Fortnight, we give thanks for the growers and producers of food in this country. We thank God for the care that goes in to making food safe for us to eat. We remember those around the world who do not have enough food.

\*Vincent de Paul, Founder of the Congregation of the Mission, 1660

**Thu 28**

Cheylesmore. Clergy: Arthur Woo. Readers: John Scattergood, Margaret East, Tony Price. There is a lot of joy at Christ Church for which we are grateful. Our recent studies in the discipline of simplicity have been moving. Please pray for our forthcoming youth workers and our efforts to reach out in our community.

**Fri 29**

Michael and All  
Angels

Tile Hill. Clergy: Nick Leggett and Pastor Joe. We pray for the work of the leprosy mission and the hospital of Purulia during this our 60th year of witness in Tile Hill. We give thanks for our links to Honington parish and our visit to the harvest festival on Sunday 24th September in rural Warwickshire. We also give thanks for our link with Our Lady's Church in Manila.

**Sat 30**

Westwood. Clergy: David Hammond, Gareth Irvine. Reader: Andrew Smith. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.

\*Jerome, Translator of the Scriptures, Teacher of the Faith, 420

# Cycle of Prayer - September 2017

With a focus on parishes and schools in Coventry South Deanery

**Fri 1**

We pray for clergy and church leaders who are unwell. We remember especially those who cannot work and minister while they recover or receive treatment. We pray for sensitivity and understanding in churches and congregations, and for unity in working together.

\*Giles of Provence, Hermit, c.710

**Sat 2**

Westwood Academy. Headteacher: Jane Benton. We thank God for this Cross of Nails school community and pray for blessing on pupils, teachers, staff and governors as they begin a new term together.

\*The Martyrs of Papua New Guinea, 1901 and 1942

**Sun 3**

Twelfth Sunday  
after Trinity

We pray for all those being confirmed by Bishop John today at St Mary and All Saints, Fillongley. Please pray that their faith will be broadened and deepened as they go out in the power of the Spirit.

\*Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, Teacher of the Faith, 604

**Mon 4**

Creator God we give you thanks for all of our farmers as they harvest the crops that feed us. We thank you for the skills of those who will be bringing the harvest in, and we ask that the weather be favourable. We pray that the harvest is bountiful enough to share with all those who are in need.

\*Birinus, Bishop of Dorchester (Oxon), Apostle of Wessex, 650

**Tue 5**

At the start of a new academic year, we pray for all those going back to school or starting at new schools. We pray for pupils, teachers, headteachers, governors and clergy that they all may know Christ's presence with them, ahead of them and alongside them in their new surroundings.

**Wed 6**

Fletchamstead. Clergy: Stephen Burch, Anne Richards, Jonathan Hill. Readers: William Arden, Helen Kearney, Tim Day-Pollard, Ann Lancaster. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.

\*Allen Gardiner, Founder of the South American Mission Society

**Thu 7**

Coventry St Mary Magdalen. Clergy: Dwayne Engh. We pray for God's blessing on the mission and ministry of this parish, giving thanks for our work as an official Inclusive Church, particularly in the areas of Mental Health and Physical Disability. Please pray for an increase in discipleship, and God's guidance as we continue through an interregnum.

**Fri 8**

St James Styvechale. Clergy: Josh Maynard. Reader: Barbara Carr. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.  
\*The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**Sat 9**

We pray for the ministry and mission of the Cathedral: for new connections with university students as they arrive in Coventry and for the new interns as they begin their life and work in the Cathedral community. We also pray for Bishop Christopher's new interns who started work this week.  
\*Charles Fuge Lowder, Priest, 1880

**Sun 10**

Thirteenth  
Sunday after  
Trinity

Bishop Christopher is currently visiting Kiel in Germany. The Bishop is there with the Dean of Coventry and the Lord Mayor to commemorate the 50th anniversary of town twinning with Coventry and the 70th anniversary of the presentation of the Cross of Nails to Kiel. We thank God for Coventry's relationship with Kiel.

**Mon 11**

We give thanks to God for all those who serve the Church of England and the wider Anglican Communion as bishops. We pray for Bishops Christopher and John, for their ministry, positions of responsibility, their times of rest and their families. We pray for them both as they attend the College of Bishops' meeting this week.

**Tue 12**

Eastern Green. Clergy: Greg Smith, Phil Richardson. Readers: Sue Masters, Lesley Lee. We thank God for the arrival of our new curate Phil and soon to arrive children's worker, Emma. We pray for the growth of our church plant as it enters a new phase and for the expansion of our children's ministry. We pray for the Glebe Committee which meets this afternoon.

**Wed 13**

St Andrew's Infant School. Headteacher: Allison Underhill. We thank God for this school community and pray for blessing on pupils, teachers, staff and governors as they begin a new term together.  
We pray for the Diocesan Finance Group which meets this morning.  
\*John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, Teacher of the Faith, 407

**Thu 14**

Holy Cross Day

We pray for Linda Wainscot and all those who work with her at the Diocesan Board of Education. We give thanks to God for all that they do supporting, managing, caring for and inspiring schools in the diocese. We pray for the Headteachers' briefing taking place today.  
We pray for the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches (DAC).

**Fri 15**

September is World Alzheimer's Month. We pray for all those affected by Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. We give thanks for the progress made in treatments and care, and we pray for greater understanding of the disease.  
\*Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, Martyr, 258

**Sat 16**

Leigh Primary School. Headteacher: Debbie Middleton. We thank God for this school community and pray for blessing on pupils, teachers, staff and governors as they begin a new term together.  
\*Ninian, Bishop of Galloway, Apostle of the Picts, c.432  
\*Edward Bouverie Pusey, Priest, Tractarian, 1882

**Sun 17**

Fourteenth  
Sunday after  
Trinity

We thank God for all healthcare staff who work in our local communities, our GP and dental surgeries and clinics, our community hospitals and those who work in the field of mental healthcare.  
\*Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, Visionary, 1179

**Mon 18**

Canley. Clergy: David Hammond. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.  
We pray for the Diocesan Business Committee which meets this morning.

**Tue 19**

We pray for the Revd Canon Miles Baker as he is collated by Bishop John as Vicar of All Saints, Allesley.  
We pray for the Diocesan Mission Fund Committee which meets today.  
\*Theodore of Tarsus, Archbishop of Canterbury, 690

**Wed 20**

We pray for Bishop Christopher who is currently chairing the residential meeting of the Church of England's Faith and Order Commission.  
We pray for the Parsonages Committee which meets this afternoon.  
\*John Coleridge Patteson and his Companions, Martyrs, 1871

**Thu 21**

Matthew,  
Apostle and  
Evangelist

Today marks the International Day of Peace - an annual event designed to bring peace to every individual across the globe. It is also designed to be a day of ceasefire. We pray for God's help in our own lives to cease fighting, stop arguing and make peace with others. We pray for God's dynamic intervention of peace into the most troubled places of conflict.

**Fri 22**

Allesley Park and Whoberley. Clergy: Andy March, Pam Stole, Joh Langlands. Reader: Nic Thorpe. We thank God for the election of a new leadership team and provision of a new youth worker, Anja. Please pray for us as we begin a new pattern of worship with a united morning service. Pray also for wisdom and provision as plans for building development take further shape.

**Sat 23**

Finham St Martin. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.  
We thank God for our Archdeacons and pray for God's blessing on them, their work and ministry, and their families.