

# Welcome to the Reverend Jo Parker



St Mark's, Leamington recently welcomed a new Vicar. The Reverend Jo Parker was installed by Bishop Christopher on the 6th September. Here Jo shares a little bit about herself.

*It is great to have landed in Leamington Spa, after 6 years working in a Hyde in Greater Manchester and 4 years of curacy working in 9 rural parishes across the Yorkshire Wolds. Leamington is very different and this new phase in ministry feels both exciting and challenging. As a family we have been warmly welcomed by the church family and by our neighbours.*

*We first discovered Leamington when we came down each year for the Bible Week with New Frontiers, some years ago now, and more recently visiting our son who is studying Physics at Warwick University. We hadn't expected to find ourselves living and working here but it is awesome how God prepares the way for us.*

*Much of my working life has been spent as a Nurse and Midwife, working mainly in Neonatal Intensive Care and latterly working in HR and Training before taking up my curacy. It is all change in the household as our younger son is off to study Psychology at the University of York so it will just be Ian and I (and the cat, Ron) in a couple of weeks. There is so much to build on at St Mark's and we are looking forward to developing our work with families and young people and together developing a vision for New Milverton.*

Please pray for Jo, her family (including Ron the cat!) and everyone at St Mark's as she starts her ministry in Leamington Spa.



# Prayer Diary

## October 2017

*'At the evening of the day, we shall be judged on our love.'* St. John of the Cross



Ultimately – and I use that word advisedly – all that matters is love. We may do all sorts of wonderful things in and through and for the Church, but if these things are not motivated by love, what value do they actually have? The best known words of St Paul in 1 Corinthians 13 remind us of this in no uncertain terms. Whatever spiritual gifts or prowess we may have, or imagine ourselves to have, whatever feats of sacrificial giving we may undertake, if we do not have love, Paul tells us, we are nothing, we gain nothing. Above all else, it is love, not 'success' or activity, or numbers that authenticates Christian life. This love, in turn, will generate deeds of

love, and will attract others. St John writes 'By this will everyone know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.' 1 John 13.3.

A retired Bishop I know was visiting Mother Theresa in Calcutta. At that stage he was involved in the training of mission partners. Just before he left Mother Theresa he asked her 'What shall I tell them, when I go back?' She answered 'Tell them to love one another'. It is the quality of our relationships with God, with one another, with our neighbours, including especially the strangers, that will communicate the reality - or otherwise – of the love of Christ in us.

As von Balthasar writes 'In our missional engagements – others are drawn to Christ through us, only if we love that other person.' So let us pray that we may grow up more fully into the love of Christ and so express that love to others. This surely is the heart-beat of God's mission.

+ John

# Warwick Poppies 2018

A campaign to gather thousands of handmade poppies to make a fitting tribute to those who lost their lives in the First World War has been launched at St Mary's Collegiate Church in Warwick. Set up by a small group of St Mary's congregation members, the year-long Warwick Poppies 2018 project aims to gather as many poppies as possible to create a stunning display throughout October and November 2018 to commemorate one hundred years since the end of the First World War.



In January 2017, the Warwick Poppies 2018 committee came together and started planning and fundraising for the official launch of the project which successfully took place at a gala event on the 5th September at St Mary's. The patron for the project, the Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire, Tim Cox, spoke at the event and around 150 guests were treated to an amazing visual display that illuminated the walls and pillars and shone poppies onto the ceiling.

The poppy display will be in place for the High Sheriff's Service, the Regimental Service, Warwick Victorian Evening and the Christmas Tree Festival in 2018. There will also be a gala dinner to celebrate the installation of the display in October 2018. Members of the public visiting the display will be invited to donate to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and Church funds.

The Warwick Poppies 2018 committee is encouraging church congregations, school children, craft groups and individuals to donate poppies. The poppies can be knitted, crocheted or made using felt. When finished, the poppies can be dropped off at 'Poppy Drop Stations' in Warwick, Leamington, Kenilworth and Coventry. Members of the committee are also available to come to talk to groups about the campaign and the significance of poppies.

To find out more see the Warwick Poppies 2018 website - [www.warwickpoppies.org.uk](http://www.warwickpoppies.org.uk), email the team on [contact@warwickpoppies.org.uk](mailto:contact@warwickpoppies.org.uk) and search 'Warwick Poppies 2018' on Facebook.

# Light and Bright Party at St Paul's, Leamington

The 31st of October is commonly a day associated with darkness. Many children and young people across the country dress up as ghosts, vampires and witches to knock on the doors of people in their neighbourhood and ask for sweets. However, several churches offer an alternative to this day of darkness by hosting light parties.

The Light and Bright party at St Paul's, Leamington welcomes over a hundred and fifty primary aged children and their families every October 31st. A number of craft tables and activities are set-up around the church, including an inflatable obstacle course (which always proves to be very popular!). Whilst the children are taking part in the activities on offer, there is tea and coffee available for their parents and guardians. An hour into the evening, the children gather to sing a couple of lively worship songs and listen to a talk about Jesus overcoming darkness and being the light of the world. The evening concludes with a party tea of sandwiches, sausage rolls, cake and biscuits.

The Light and Bright party is always a highlight in the St Paul's calendar. The evening offers the opportunity to welcome children and families who have never been to church before and tell them about Jesus. The children always have a great time and leave with a party bag full of the crafts they have created and knowing more about Jesus' love for them.

St Paul's Light and Bright party will take place on Tuesday 31st October from 5 to 7pm.



**Tue 24** 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 the families of those who have recently been baptised - that they might discover the transforming love of Christ.

**Wed 25** 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.  
\*Crispin and Crispinian, Martyrs at Rome, c.287

**Thu 26** We thank God for those who serve on committees and working groups in parishes, deaneries and in the diocese.  
\*Alfred the Great, King of the West Saxons, Scholar, 899  
\*Cedd, Abbot of Lastingham, Bishop of the East Saxons, 664

**Fri 27** Holy Trinity, Leamington. Clergy: Christopher Wilson, Anne Morris, Penny Hughes, John Reese. We thank God for the energy and enthusiasm of our churchwardens. Please pray for us as we seek to extend our mission by applying for a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to restore the roof of our beautiful church.

**Sat 28** Today Bishop Christopher will be the guest of honour at an event at the Belgrade Theatre organised by the British Organisation for People of Asian Origin (BOPA) of which he is one of the Patrons. BOPA aims to promote British identity, integration, peace and social & community cohesion. We give thanks for the work of this organisation.  
*Simon and Jude, Apostles*

**Sun 29** St Mary's, Warwick. Clergy: Vaughan Roberts, Alycia Timmis. Reader: Doreen Mills. We thank God for our Churchwardens, PCC and all who share in the ministry of St Mary's Church. We pray for all who are planning our 2017 Christmas Tree Festival and Warwick Poppies 2018.  
*Last Sunday after Trinity*  
\*James Hannington, Bishop of Eastern Equatorial Africa, Martyr, 1885

**Mon 30** Today we pray for Bishop John as he meets with Minette Batters, the Deputy President of the National Farming Union.  
We pray for the Diocesan Audit Committee which meets today.

**Tue 31** St Paul's, Warwick. Clergy: Jonathan Hearn. We give thanks for the appointment of a 'church and community worker' and for the connections already being developed with the community. We pray for the continual leading of God through His Holy Spirit to enable us go where He leads.  
\*Martin Luther, Reformer, 1546

# Cycle of Prayer - October 2017

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

**Sun 1** Bishop's Tachbrook Primary School. Headteacher: Andy Brettell. We pray for God's blessing on the staff, teachers, pupils and governors of this community.  
*Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity*  
\*Remigius, Bishop of Rheims, Apostle of the Franks, 533  
\*Anthony Ashley Cooper, Earl of Shaftesbury, Social Reformer, 1885

**Mon 2** Cubbington. Clergy: Graham Coles. Readers: Richard Spicer, Joanna King. We thank God for our New Parish Room that is now open. We pray that we may find new and interesting ways in which to use it, both for our church family and also for the wider mission of our parish. We ask for God's blessing on the new parent and toddlers group that is starting next month.

**Tue 3** Lillington and Old Milverton. Clergy: Rosemary Pantling, Sue Fairhurst, Felicity Smith. Reader: Roderick Clark. Ordinand in training: Abby Rhodes. We pray for guidance in appointing a new incumbent and we give thanks for the dedicated service of churchwardens and church members as we continue to serve God and community.

**Wed 4** We thank God for Bishop Christopher, and pray for him as he attends the meeting of the West Midlands Bishops today in Lichfield.  
\*Francis of Assisi, Friar, Deacon, Founder of the Friars Minor, 1226

**Thu 5** St John's, Leamington. Clergy: Stephen Parker. Reader: Chris Parry. We give thanks for the arrival of Fr Stephen our new parish priest and the opportunities for mission and outreach that he has brought. We pray for the continued work of Little Lambs our new preschool group and pray for the parish, that more may come to know Jesus in this place.

**Fri 6** Today marks World Smile Day, a day to do one act of kindness and make someone smile! Please pray that God will guide you to do an act of kindness today.  
\*William Tyndale, Translator of the Scriptures, Reformation Martyr, 1536

**Sat 7** Whitnash, St. Margaret's and Warwick Gates. Clergy: Richard Suffern, Rob Budd. Reader: Henry Jerwood. We give thanks for good progress towards the formation of the new Heathcote Parish encompassing Warwick Gates and the new build surrounding it. Please pray for minister-in-charge, Rob Budd and family, also our new Young Peoples worker Ellie Culliford.

**Sun 8**

Seventeenth  
Sunday after  
Trinity

Today Bishop Christopher will be preaching and presiding in the Cathedral at the retirement service for Mrs Sue Hosiene who has given 40 years of devoted service to the diocese and the Cathedral. We thank God for Sue's dedication and pray for her as she starts this new season of life.

**Mon 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.

\*Denys, Bishop of Paris, and his Companions, Martyrs, c.250  
\*Robert Grosseteste, Bishop of Lincoln, Philosopher, Scientist, 1253

**Tue 10**

We pray for the discernment process for the appointment of the Archdeacon Pastor which is taking place today.

We pray for the Diocesan Trustees who meet this afternoon.

\*Paulinus, Bishop of York, Missionary, 644  
\*Thomas Traherne, Poet, Spiritual Writer, 1674

**Wed 11**

St Margaret's Junior School, Whitnash. Headteacher: Sukie Owers. We pray for God's blessing on the children, staff, families and governors of this community.

\*Ethelburga, Abbess of Barking, 675  
\*James the Deacon, companion of Paulinus, 7th century

**Thu 12**

Bishop's Tachbrook. Clergy: Elaine Scrivens and those with PTO; Jenny Lister and Christine Pollard. We give thanks for the opening of the St Chad's Centre and the success of the 3 Cs Cafe. 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.

**Fri 13**

All Saints Junior School, Warwick. 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

**Sat 14**

St Mark's, Leamington. Clergy: Jo Parker. Readers: David Calvert, David Wigman. We give thanks for all who supported us through our vacancy. We pray for our new vicar, the Revd Jo Parker, who we are sure will add greatly to the life of the parish and town. Please pray for a resurgence of church growth and continuing development of our children, schools and family work.

**Sun 15**

Eighteenth  
Sunday after  
Trinity

St Paul's, Leamington. Clergy: Jonathan Jee, Adam Tams. Operations Director: Jan Pringle. After several staff changes, we pray for our staff to work well together and for future decisions about staffing. Please also pray as we make plans for our renewed focus on adult discipleship with an outward focus.

\*Teresa of Avila, Teacher of the Faith, 1582

**Mon 16**

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.

We pray for the Bishop's Council which meets this evening.

\*Nicholas Ridley and Hugh Latimer, Reformation Martyrs, 1555

**Tue 17**

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

We pray for the Diocesan Board of Education which meets today.

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

**Wed 18**

Luke the  
Evangelist

Today Bishop John will be visiting a farm that is part of Care Farming UK. The movement involves the therapeutic use of farming practices and this particular farm provides a unique experience for young people and adults with Autism Spectrum Condition. We give thanks for the work of Care Farming UK.

**Thu 19**

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 Bishop's Core and Extended Staff teams which meet today.  
\*Henry Martyn, Translator of the Scriptures, Missionary in India and Persia

**Fri 20**

Budbrooke. Clergy: David Brown & Mary Lodge. Readers: Martin Davies, Bob Dubock & Ray Filby. We thank God for the amazing people who make up our church family. Please pray for boldness and faith as we pursue a vision to make missionary disciples. Ask the Lord to bless the CROWN rule of life, teach us to pray with one heart and mind and bring breakthrough in mission.

**Sat 21**

St Mary's, Leamington. Clergy: Vacancy. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.

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

**Sun 22**

Nineteenth  
Sunday after  
Trinity

All Saints, Emscote. Clergy: Diane Thompson. Readers: Andrew Giles, Margaret Douglas. We thank God for our community links and for diverse ways of belonging to All Saints. Please pray for: Memory Cafe, settling in with new attenders, volunteers and programme; further exploration and expansion of our ministry with children and young families.

**Mon 23**

All Saints, Leamington. Clergy: Christopher Wilson, Anne Morris. We thank God for developing community engagement and deepening spirituality. Please pray for new outreach among LGBT+ people, our Grace Arts Café drop-in for people experiencing loneliness, depression & anxiety, a sleep out in November in aid of Helping Hands and our major grant applications.