



Prayer Diary

October 2020

Do not be anxious about anything

We are now in autumn proper, the last warm days of late summer, which we often enjoy in September, have faded, leaves are turning orange, golden and brown and beginning to fall thicker and faster. I enjoy nothing better than a walk on a bright, cold October day and the opportunity this gives me to marvel at the beauty of God's creation, the changing countryside, so beautifully and dramatically reflected in this season. My pleasure in all this will be increased this year by being able to share some of those walks with my two year old grandson and granddaughter, kicking leaves and collecting conkers.



As I write this I am looking forward to those walks, not least because I have booked a few days off at the beginning of October, as I have done each year for quite some time now. However, as often has been the case over the last seven months or so, my anticipation and excitement at the prospect of my holiday is tempered with doubt, uncertainty and anxiousness. Will I be able to go, will my plans come to nothing, will I have to stay at home, will I have to cancel my holiday, what is happening to this world?

We seem prone to worry and right now it seems that there is much to worry about. St. Paul recognises the concerns and worries, for the future amongst other things, of the fledgling Christian community in Philippi and writes in his letter to them words of encouragement, despite his own problems; at the time he was in prison. He is not anxious or worried for himself as he sees all the answers in Christ Jesus. He encourages the people to pray. He does not say that God will answer all our prayers by giving us what we ask for, but tells us that through prayer we will be changed and that when we really pray about our problems and choose to be thankful, God will give us peace.

⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7 NIV

Ruth Marlow
Diocesan Secretary

More than 3000 churches receive carbon footprint certificate



New data reveals that more than 3,000 churches are using a tool created by the Church of England to understand their carbon footprint.

The tool aims to help parishes measure their carbon output and energy use and provides pointers for making improvements to efficiency.

Churches are asked as part of their annual statistics return to include information from their energy bills and some basic dimensions for their church buildings. The tool then provides a calculation and issues a rating in the form of an energy chart, similar to those found on household appliances.

In February, the General Synod announced an ambitious target for the Church of England to become net zero by 2030. This tool is an important step in measuring a baseline of current emissions, and to measure progress towards achieving this goal.

This is a first step for the Church of England to understand and monitor the footprint of some 40,000 buildings across England. More and more parishes are getting involved and adding their data every day. Helping to build up a picture for the church to take action.

The tool was formally launched in April following a rigorous trial of test parishes.

In time, parishes will be able to login to an online dashboard to track their carbon footprint year on year.

The Bishop of Salisbury, chair of the Church of England's Environmental Working Group, said:

"General Synod has committed the Church to an ambitious target of reaching net zero by 2030, and to achieve this goal, all parts of the church must come together. We cannot take meaningful action in response to the climate emergency threatening our planet until we understand our own carbon footprint. Tools such as the Energy Footprint Tool and collaboration between parishes, dioceses and the national church are vital to help us on this journey."

Cycle of Prayer - October 2020

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

Thu 1 Bishop's Tachbrook. Clergy: Elaine Scrivens. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.
*Remigius, Bishop of Rheims, Apostle of the Franks, 533
*Anthony Ashley Cooper, Earl of Shaftesbury, Social Reformer, 1885

Fri 2 During October the UK Celebrates Black History Month. The main aims of Black History Month are to celebrate the achievements and contributions of black people and to educate all on black history. There will be many events, exhibitions and activities taking place online and offline. We pray that many people engage with Black History Month and it is successful in its aims.

Sat 3 Cubbington. Clergy: Graham Coles. Reader: Richard Spicer. We give thanks for the way in which everyone has kept in touch and has helped to look out for and care for their neighbours during the time of lockdown. Please pray that we can continue to increase our weekly services of worship and continue to reach out to all who live in our parish through our Sunday Message.

Sun 4 All Saints, Emscote. Clergy: Diane Thompson. Readers: Andrew Giles, Margaret Douglas. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.
*Francis of Assisi, Friar, Deacon, Founder of the Friars Minor, 1226
Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

Mon 5 Whitnash. Clergy: Richard Suffern, Steve Davies. Reader: Henry Jerwood. Praise God that we have been able to continue worship and fellowship (home groups) online and that a weekly service in church has resumed. Please pray that we can remain effectively connected with both members and community, sharing the Gospel wherever possible.

Tue 6 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.
*William Tyndale, Translator of the Scriptures, Reformation Martyr, 1536

Wed 7 St Mark's, Leamington. Clergy: Jo Parker, Ruth Smith, Heather Elson, Ellie Clack, James Lawrence. Readers: Marie Calvert, Amanda di Giovanni, Yvonne Warren. Family and Children's Worker: Ros Davis. Please pray for us as we navigate our way through opening up the church and for our growing team as we get to know one another and develop new initiatives.

Thu 8 St Nicholas, Warwick. Clergy: Linda Duckers, Anita Morgan. Reader: Fiona Trewick. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.
We pray for the Bishop's Core and Extended Staff teams which meet today.

Fri 9 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.
*Denys, Bishop of Paris, and his Companions, Martyrs, c.250
*Robert Grosseteste, Bishop of Lincoln, Philosopher, Scientist, 1253

Sat 10 Today is World Mental Health Day. This year's theme is 'Working together to prevent suicide'. We pray that this day helps raise awareness of the scale of suicide around the world and the role we can play to prevent it.
*Paulinus, Bishop of York, Missionary, 644
*Thomas Traherne, Poet, Spiritual Writer, 1674

Sun 11 St John's, Leamington. Clergy: Stephen Parker. Reader: Claire Russell. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.
*Ethelburga, Abbess of Barking, 675
*James the Deacon, companion of Paulinus, 7th century
Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

Mon 12 We give thanks for the ministry of retired clergy and the support they provide in so many ways to the lives of our churches across the diocese.
*Wilfrid of Ripon, Bishop, Missionary, 709
*Elizabeth Fry, Prison Reformer, 1845
*Edith Cavell, Nurse, 1915

Tue 13 St Paul's Primary School, Leamington. Headteacher: Matthew Bown. We pray for God's blessing on the staff, teachers, pupils and governors of this community.
We pray for the Diocesan Trustees who meet this afternoon.
*Edward the Confessor, King of England, 1066

Wed 14 Lillington. Clergy: William Smith, Rosemary Pantling, Sue Fairhurst. Readers: Roderick Clark, Len Dixon. We pray for those returning to worship in the building, our on going online ministry and work with younger families at a new worship for all service on Sundays.
We pray for the Diocesan Board of Education which meets today.

Thu 15 This week is Baby Loss awareness week. The week aims to raise awareness of pregnancy and baby loss, to drive for improvements in both care and support for those affected, and to work on preventing baby loss. We pray for all those who have suffered the heartbreak of baby loss.
*Teresa of Avila, Teacher of the Faith, 1582

Fri 16 This week is 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.
*Nicholas Ridley and Hugh Latimer, Reformation Martyrs, 1555

Sat 17 Today is International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. This day has been observed every year since 1993 when the United Nations General Assembly designated the day to promote awareness of the need to eradicate poverty and destitution. We pray for all those who live in poverty.
*Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, Martyr, c.107

Sun 18 All Saints, Leamington. Clergy: Christopher Wilson. We thank God for developing vision and deepening faith. Please pray for, struggling businesses and people in our town; students; those in the creative industries; the marginalised, especially LGBT+; and our support for them all. Also we pray for funds to repair the building, and planning for Remembrance and Christmas.
Luke the Evangelist

Mon 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.
*Henry Martyn, Translator of the Scriptures, Missionary in India and Persia

Tue 20 Heathcote. Clergy: Rob Budd, Alister Mort. Readers: Henry Jerwood. We thank God for the food parcels that the church has distributed to families in the parish. We pray that our church family will increasingly know every good thing we have in Christ and be active and effective in sharing this with others. We pray for the Bishop's Council which meets today.

Wed 21 Holy Trinity, Leamington. Clergy: Esther Peers, Christopher Wilson, John Reese, Anne Morris, Geoff Morris, Penny Hughes. We thank God for the completion of our roof repairs and refurbishment. Please pray for us as we seek to take the life of the church forward to be an innovative and creative Christian community hub where all are welcome and feel equally at home.

Thu 22 All Saints Junior School, Warwick. Headteacher: Debi Cossins. We pray for God's blessing on the staff, teachers, pupils and governors of this community. We pray for the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches (DAC).

Fri 23 St Paul's, Leamington. Clergy: Jonathan Jee, Reader: Jan Pringle. We thank God for our technical team who enable us to provide a good online worship experience and our church family who have supported each other wonderfully in this time. Please pray for decisions about opening up worship and casting vision as we seek to move into a greater outreach ministry.

Sat 24 Budbrooke. Clergy: David Brown, Martin Davies, Mary Lodge. Readers: Bob Dubock, Raymond Filby. We thank God for his guidance and the doors of opportunity serving the community has opened. Please pray the Lord will help us form deeper connections. As we plan to worship in smaller communities we pray for our teams and their vision, patterns and impact.

Sun 25 Cubbington Primary School. Headteacher: Juliet Jones. We pray for God's blessing on the staff, teachers, pupils and governors of this community.
Last Sunday after Trinity
*Crispin and Crispinian, Martyrs at Rome, c.287

Mon 26 St James Old Milverton. Clergy: William Smith, Rosemary Pantling, Sue Fairhurst. Reader: Len Dixon. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.
*Alfred the Great, King of the West Saxons, Scholar, 899
*Cedd, Abbot of Lastingham, Bishop of the East Saxons, 664

Tue 27 St Mary's, Warwick. Clergy: Vaughan Roberts, Alycia Timmis. Reader: Doreen Mills. We thank God for all who've supported St Mary's sacrificially and in many different ways during these testing times. Please pray for our curate Alycia as she prepares to move on to be Priest-in-Charge of the Northleach Benefice in the New Year.

Wed 28 St Mary's, Leamington. Clergy: Becky Jones. We thank God for his love and for hope. We give thanks for opportunities to share the gospel through Alpha, Pathway Ministries and CAP. We pray for: 1. Transformation for the poor, those whose wellbeing is suffering 2. Hospitality, prayer & telling others the hope of Jesus' gospel, for His Kingdom to come.
Simon and Jude, Apostles

Thu 29 Today is World Psoriasis Day. Psoriasis affects over 125 million people around the world. We pray that World Psoriasis Day raises the profile of this debilitating disease and increases awareness of the effect it has on people's lives.
*James Hannington, Bishop of Eastern Equatorial Africa, Martyr, 1885

Fri 30 St Paul's, Warwick. Clergy: Jonathan Hearn. We thank God that since the beginning of lockdown we have been able to provide meals for our 'Make Lunch' families and others. Please pray how we can develop these links and share God's love over the coming months & find creative ways of engaging with our community despite restrictions

Sat 31 Bishop's Tachbrook Primary School. Headteacher: C Kilbey. We pray for God's blessing on the staff, teachers, pupils and governors of this community.
*Martin Luther, Reformer, 1546

The Big Church Read

The Big Church Read was founded in 2020 as a joint initiative from St Andrew's Bookshop and Hodder & Stoughton to encourage a culture of reading good Christian books within the UK Church.



It's no exaggeration to say that books change lives and we all know the feeling of wanting to share a book that we've really enjoyed with all our family and friends. The Big Church Read brings together this passion for good Christian books from the UK's biggest booksellers and publishers to create a national Church book club that we can all take part in for free.

The Big Church Read works by churches, organisations or individuals committing to read through a chosen book together at a chosen time, meeting in small groups either in person or online to talk about what they've read. The team at The Big Church Read will send out a reading plan which means you'll be able to read through the book as a group over a 4 to 8-week period. Each week they will release an exclusive video on their website (www.thebigchurchread.co.uk) where the author of the chosen book will talk through the themes in that week's section.

The team will run a brand new Big Church Read three times a year and announce the dates on their website. You can either join in live with them as they read through the book together — or start at any point once the video and resource materials are live.

Bishop John says:

*"I commend this initiative from Hodder in encouraging the whole church to read, to reflect, to share in the wisdom of God communicated by a range of authors. What is also so good about it is that it provides very good material for Home Groups. The very first book, *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry*, had already been commended to me by a number of people in the diocese and I believe will nourish us, not least in these pandemic times, to be more rooted in Christ and the silence of God."*

Take Heart

Take Heart is a new project that everyone can get involved with. Created by Suzanne Dugmore, Take Heart started with the simple act of making a heart, attaching a Bible verse of hope and then giving it away.



The dictionary definition of Take Heart is "to be courageous; to regain one's courage -*Take heart, help will arrive shortly and everything will be fine*" (Your Dictionary). Take Heart is also used in the Bible a number of times, in the Psalms, Ezra, Matthew, Mark and others. John 16:33 says, "I have said all these things to you so that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have trouble: but **take heart!** I have overcome the world".

Take Heart is about promoting the Christian message of God's unconditional love for us. Take Heart taps into the very basic human need to know that we are loved and worthy of love regardless of our circumstance, looks, gender, disability or anything else.

This year has been a difficult year for many as our lives have been turned upside down due to Covid 19. But we can take heart as Jesus is our saviour and our hope. Through the Take Heart project we can share that message.

We can share the message by using our creativity by making hearts, attaching Bible verses of hope and giving them away. This is something we can do in our own homes whilst being part of a community with a purpose. Having a sense of purpose and practising creativity is also good for our own mental health.

Suzanne Dugmore says;

"From an idea hatched in Devon in 2013, it is exciting to see 'Take Heart' being used in Coventry Diocese. A simple idea which benefits us as individuals and communities, but also scatters seeds of God's hope and love into a hurting and confused world in a very gentle way."

Find out more about the project and access resources and ideas on our Take Heart page on the website—<http://coventry.anglican.org/take-heart.php>