



# Prayer Diary

August 2021



## 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.



**Jacquelynn Ayton** is a deacon at St. Alban's Church in Stoke, Coventry. She trained at Queen's Foundation in Birmingham. She has a heart for social justice issues, especially on topics of race, gender, and sexuality. Jacque is originally from the United States, but is now proudly a dual American/British citizen. She spent several years teaching English and other languages in various countries around the world, before settling in the UK with her British husband.

**Matthew Bull** is a deacon in the parish of Bedworth. Matthew has served as a Licensed Lay Minister in Hope Church Islington for more than a decade and trained at Trinity College Bristol. He is married to Sandra and they have two sons, Benjamin almost 20 and Zachariah almost 17. Matthew is very much looking forward to the challenge of being a deacon and God willing a priest next year.



**Sarah Cushing** is a deacon at All Saints, Emscote in Warwick. Sarah has lived in Stratford-upon-Avon all her life. She has one son, James, aged 30 who runs his own website and programming business, and an 8 year old cat called Lily. She is very passionate about the truth at the heart of the Gospel, as well as animal welfare, mental health issues, and coming alongside those suffering with addictions.

**Matt Ford** is a deacon at St Marks Coventry. He was originally on staff as a worship pastor when St Marks first planted and he is excited to remain part of the team as the church discovers what God is calling them to next. Matt is married to Grace, and they have the privilege of working alongside each other with Grace working as the children's minister at St Marks. Matt is passionate about people from all walks of life being drawn into the presence of God.



**Eira Hale** is a deacon at St Nicholas' Church in Warwick. Prior to her training at The Queen's Foundation in Birmingham, Eira was a Chief Inspector in Sussex Police and worked in local government in Oxfordshire and Coventry, with particular responsibility for safeguarding. Eira wants to see her fellow disciples grow in faith and become the glorious people God created them to be.

**Su McClellan** is a deacon at Coventry Cathedral. She also continues to lead the Church Engagement Team at Embrace the Middle East. She is keen to learn about the role the church can play in reconciling divided communities, locally, nationally and internationally. She is passionate about connecting Christians in the UK with our sisters and brothers in the Christian communities of the Middle East, recognising that we are all part of "the one household of God".



# Cycle of Prayer - August 2021

**Sun 1**

*Ninth Sunday  
after Trinity*

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 2**

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 who are to be ordained this year, and pray God's blessing on them in their new roles.

**Tue 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."

**Wed 4**

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 5**

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.  
\*Oswald, King of Northumbria, Martyr, 642

**Fri 6**

*The Transfig-  
uration of our  
Lord*

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.

**Sat 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

**Sun 8**

*Tenth Sunday  
after Trinity*

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

**Mon 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

**Tue 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

**Wed 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

**Thu 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.

**Fri 13**

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

**Sat 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

**Sun 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."

**Mon 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." August is National Immunisation Awareness Month. This campaign is held to highlight the importance of vaccination for people of all ages. Vaccines save lives. We pray for this campaign.

**Tue 17**

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." We give thanks for people running food banks this summer. Bless those who give and receive. Please help increase capacity of foodbanks and help the food go to those who need it most.

**Wed 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, whether online or in-person.

**Thu 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 and the welfare system.

**Fri 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."

\*Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, Teacher of the Faith, 1153

\*William and Catherine Booth, Founders of the Salvation Army

**Sat 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.

**Sun 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.

Twelfth Sunday  
after Trinity

**Mon 23**

We thank God for the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, and for the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell. 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."

**Tue 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

**Wed 25**

We pray for all who work for the Diocesan Board of Finance - for those working in the diocesan office and those working from home. We pray for God's guidance as they seek to serve and equip the whole of the Diocese of Coventry.

**Thu 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.

**Fri 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."

\*Monica, mother of Augustine of Hippo, 387

**Sat 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

**Sun 29**

We pray for those who serve in local and national government. We pray for wisdom as they make hard decisions. We pray that God would refresh and give new purpose and enthusiasm for their work.

Thirteenth  
Sunday after  
Trinity

\*The Beheading of John the Baptist

**Mon 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

**Tue 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



**Anne-Marie Marsh** is a deacon at St. John the Baptist, Hillmorton and St. Gabriel's Houlton, Rugby. Before training Anne-Marie was a Civil Servant within the department of work and pensions and has wide managerial experience, as well as vast experience working with those most vulnerable in our communities. Anne-Marie is particularly passionate about social justice and bringing the gospel to communities.

**Jo Parker** is a deacon at St. Giles, Exhall. Jo trained full time at the Queen's Foundation in Birmingham, and has thoroughly enjoyed the luxury of studying after her hectic life as a Maths teacher, mother of three young adults and churchwarden. Jo's husband Colin died suddenly at the end of last year and she asks for your prayers as she embarks on the next stage of ministry without him.



**Andy Ruffhead** is a deacon at St Paul's, Leamington Spa. Before training he worked at the Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics, whilst worshipping at St Aldates church in Oxford. He fell in love with the Church as God's broken yet beloved family, and is passionate about the local church bringing God's Kingdom to its communities.

**John Samuel** is a deacon at St. Laurence's Church, Foleshill. He worked as motor trader and his wife, Sandra, is a health care worker. John graduated in Theology and Ministerial Studies in 2017. During his studies, God began to call him to ordained ministry in the Church of England. John trained at St. Mellitus College in Chelmsford. John loves to make disciples through preaching, teaching, pastoral care, practical help and friendships.



**Ros Williams** is a deacon at St Marks, Coventry. She trained for ordination at St Mellitus College and her placement church was Holy Trinity Clapham. Before training Ros worked in a large Roman Catholic secondary school for girls in South London teaching History and German. She loves leading Alpha courses and seeing people find faith and hope in Jesus.

**Sarah Ashelby** is a priest at The Bridge Benefice, Coventry with a particular focus on St Stephen's, Canley. Over the past year, Sarah has felt a strong calling to be 'among the people' and the new Food Hub set up in Canley during the pandemic has offered many connections and friendships to be built with local residents. As a priest she looks forward to deepens the call to bring others to Jesus and serving the poorest and most vulnerable in her communities.



**Daniel Bennett** is a priest at Stoke St Michael. Daniel's ministry has included recording online services from his study, contributing to outdoor Wild Messy Church sessions, and delivering school assemblies. He also organised the church's support of Christmas present appeals by two charities for the children of Coventry. He looks forward to where the Spirit will lead him in the coming year.

**Andy Clasper** is a priest at St Mark's, Swanswell. Andy has been given a brief which includes leadership of the social transformation ministry of St Mark's, something that he is hugely passionate about. One of the highlights of the year has been the amazing Worldfoods Food Hub that has emerged, providing ethnically-appropriate food to the refugee population of Hillfields each week.



**Martin Davies** is a priest at St. Michael's Budbrooke. Despite the Covid restrictions, it has been a fantastic, and busy year for Martin; learning new skills, but also learning to organise his time between work and ministry which very often merge and become one and the same. A lovely consequence of living, working and ministering in the community.

**Heather Elson** is a priest at St Mark's Church in Leamington Spa. Heather has had the privilege of offering pastoral support to one of the local primary schools which has led to the agreement that she will now be the school chaplain, which she is very excited about! Heather is looking forward to seeing what the next two years has in store, with our surprising and loving God!



**Glenn Lowde** is a priest at St Mark's Bilton. Glenn has learnt lots of new skills in streaming services and keeping in contact with the St Mark's community in different ways - with such things as virtual coffee meetings, leading home groups on zoom and pastoral calls via the telephone. He has found it a privilege to be supporting families through these difficult times with funerals and interments.

**Mike Stewart** is a priest at St Andrew's, Shuttery. There have been many highlights over the last 12 months: walking along side families suffering with bereavement at this difficult time, leading services in person and online, getting to know people despite the restrictions, and leading a service of compline each night which has developed into a small worshipping community that extends far outside the parish.

