



Prayer Diary

January 2022

"Today I begin again"

As we step out into the New Year (yes, I know the Church year begins in Advent!) let us not miss out on its newness. What do I mean by this? There is always more for each of us to discover and to enter into. In Christ we are new creation, and continually through the Spirit we are being made new. As the people of Israel discovered on their long journey through the wilderness, yesterday's manna is not fresh today. How often do we miss out on what God wants to give us today, even now, this moment because we are living- in our minds - in the past or the future? How often are we truly present to God who is always present to us? Augustine, in his *Confessions* addressed to God, looking back to the time before he experienced the good news of Christ, wrote 'You were with me but I was not with you'.

All of us, no doubt, in one way or another continue to be impacted by the multifarious effects of the pandemic but we are not to let this define us. In early 6th century B.C. the people of Israel were no doubt oppressed and depressed by the circumstances in which they found themselves. Jerusalem had fallen to the invading armies of Babylon. Jeremiah, or the author of Lamentations, railed against God in no uncertain terms about this. He needed to express his desolation and anger. We too need to do this when we feel it. Having brought it all out to God, he begins to recognize and remember that God's covenant love never lets us go, his compassion never fails, 'his mercies are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness'.

St Anthony of Egypt began each day with the words 'Today I begin again'. God offers us opportunities every moment of every day to acknowledge, welcome and respond to his love. As we journey together into and through this new year, let us make time simply to *be* with God, to welcome his presence and receive his love. Let us know, not as an idea but as an *experience*, that the Lord is here, His Spirit is with us. Then we can *be* the good news of the Gospel.



+ John

St Paul's Leamington host outdoor event for community

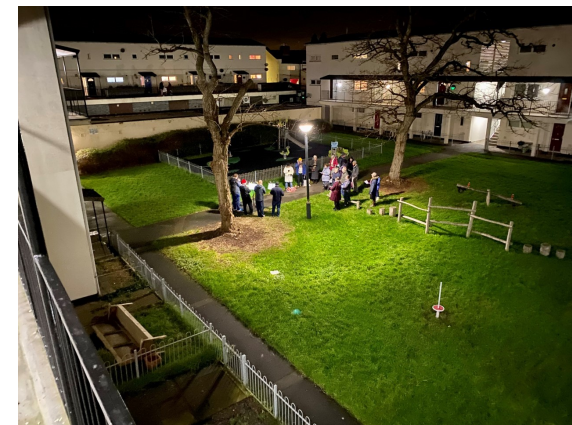
On the 15th December, St Paul's Church in Leamington hosted a festive outdoor evening for local residents.



In past years the church has put on a Christmas meal inside the church building as well as delivering gifts and singing carols in the neighbourhood. This year with Covid cases rising, St Paul's decided to do something different to ensure everyone was kept safe. They combined the two events into one outdoor festive evening. The free evening was held in the church garden and included a hog roast, mulled wine, hot chocolate, firepits, craft activities, and carol singing. During the event a group went carol singing and gift giving around the neighbourhood, inviting people to come to the church garden to take part.

Curate at St Paul's, the Revd Andy Ruffhead said:

"The vision for the event was to celebrate Christmas as community – after so long apart during the pandemic, it was wonderful to see residents from the streets around the church building connecting with one another, engaging in conversations about faith, and singing Christmas carols together."



Cycle of Prayer - January 2022

With a focus on parishes and schools in Nuneaton Deanery

Sat 1

Naming and Circumcision of Jesus

On the first day of 2022 we ask for God's blessing on the year ahead. We give thanks for the Lord's faithfulness over the last year, for the disciples gathered and the communities transformed by reconciling love. We pray that we will be filled afresh with the Holy Spirit this year.

Sun 2

First Sunday of Christmas

Wolvey CofE Primary School. Headteacher: M Parker. We pray for God's blessing upon all the children, parents, teachers, staff and governors.
*Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishops, Teachers of the Faith
*Seraphim, Monk of Sarov, Spiritual Guide, 1833
*Vedanayagam Samuel Azariah, Bishop in South India, Evangelist, 1945

Mon 3

Nuneaton, St Mary. Clergy: Roger Butcher, Brian Regan. Reader: Helen Allred. We thank God for the support of our retired priest, Fr. Brian, and others, in maintaining regular worship in church over the past year during our interregnum. Please pray for our new vicar, Fr. Roger Butcher, along with his wife Ginny and family as they join our church family.

Tue 4

Exhall. Clergy: Gail Philip, Jo Parker, Stephen Carter. Readers: Chris Wilson, John Owen. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.
We pray for all the staff and pupils returning to school today for the new term.

Wed 5

Weddington & Caldecote. Clergy: Adrian Guthrie, Martin Butt. We thank God for the pre-Christmas event on 4 December jointly organised with the Weddington Community Forum. We pray for the PCC's Mission Action Plan for St James, and the people and resources needed to action it.

Thu 6

The Epiphany

Wolvey with Copston Magna and Withybrook. Clergy: Jonny Vaughan. Readers: David Hopkins, Yvonne Pitt. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.

Fri 7

Today we thank God for the productive synods that have taken place over the last year in Nuneaton Deanery. We pray for unity and a willingness to move forward in the deanery. We pray for the deanery team: the Revd David Poultney, the Revd Gail Phillip, David Spiers and Anne Dickinson.

Sat 8

Chilvers Coton with Astley. Clergy: Frank Seldon; Jonathan Fryer; Rupert Allen. Reader: Peter Wrigley. We thank God for being able to restart Messy Church, and for the reopening of the SAINTS project in Nuneaton town centre. We pray that God will guide us how best to engage with and support our local communities and help us to reduce our carbon footprint.

Sun 9

First Sunday of Epiphany

All Saints CofE Primary School and Nursery. Headteacher: Sally Kaminski-Gaze.
Abbey CofE Infants School. Headteacher: R Horton. We pray for God's blessing upon all the children, teachers, staff and governors.

Mon 10

Corley & Fillongley. Clergy: Interregnum. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.
*William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1645

Tue 11

Bulkington. Clergy: Charles Higgins. Readers: Ken Sleeman, Sue Turner. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.
*Mary Slessor, Missionary in West Africa, 1915

Wed 12

St. Paul's, Stockingford. Clergy: Kate Massey. Readers: Emma Kennedy, Colin Udall. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.
*Aelred of Hexham, Abbot of Rievaulx, 1167
*Benedict Biscop, Abbot of Wearmouth, Scholar, 689

Thu 13

Mancetter. Clergy: Linda Mudd. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.
*Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, Teacher of the Faith, 367
*Kentigern (Mungo), Missionary Bishop in Strathclyde and Cumbria, 603
*George Fox, Founder of the Society of Friends (the Quakers), 1691

Fri 14

Holy Trinity Attleborough. Clergy: Alison Evans. Reader: Ed Brown. We thank God for his blessings to us. Our new project 'Project Connect' which aims to connect people to each other and to the Lord, is under way. Please pray that the Tuesday drop in and family events which we are beginning to plan will bear rich fruit. Please pray too for a growth in the number of families.

Sat 15

Hartshill & Galley Common. Clergy: Heather Barnes. Readers: Nick Miles, Sally Young. We give thanks for all those who have continued to serve in new and creative ways during the pandemic. We pray for wisdom and discernment as we make new plans for the new year in terms of service, mission and ministry.

Sun 16

Second Sunday
of Epiphany

St Paul's CofE Primary School. Headteacher: Carl Thornton. We pray for God's blessing upon all the children, parents, teachers, staff and governors.

Mon 17

Today is World Religion Day. Through a variety of events held around the globe, followers of every religion are encouraged to acknowledge the similarities that different faiths have. We pray for inter-faith understanding and harmony.
We pray for the Diocesan Business Committee which meets this morning.

Tue 18

St Laurence with St John's Ansley and St Wilfrid's with St Michael's Arley. Clergy: Interregnum. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.
*Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Wed 19

St Michael's CofE Primary School. Headteacher: Chris Errington.
St Nicolas CofE Academy. Headteacher: S Thorpe. We pray for God's blessing upon all the children, teachers, staff, governors.
*Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester, 1095

Thu 20

St James' CofE Academy. Headteacher: Jane Cook.
The Canons CofE Primary School. Headteacher: Michaela Fallon. We pray for God's blessing upon all the children, parents, teachers, staff and governors.
We pray for the Diocesan Mission Fund Committee which meets today.
*Richard Rolle of Hampole, Spiritual Writer, 1349

Fri 21

Camp Hill. Clergy: Interregnum. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.
*Agnes, Child Martyr at Rome, 304

Sat 22

Atherstone. Clergy: Michael Brandsma. Reader: John Stock. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.
*Vincent of Saragossa, Deacon, first Martyr of Spain, 304

Sun 23

Third Sunday of
Epiphany

This week is Cervical Cancer Prevention Week. Every day in the UK nine women are diagnosed with cervical cancer, yet 75% of cervical cancers will be prevented by cervical screening. We pray that this week more women can learn about how they can reduce the risk of cervical cancer.

Mon 24

Horeston Grange LEP. Clergy: Interregnum. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.
*Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva, Teacher of the Faith, 1622

Tue 25

The Conversion
of Paul

Nuneaton, St Nicolas. Clergy: Interregnum. Readers: John Hitchcock and Terry Lenton. We thank God for the contribution of the Service Leader Team and Churchwardens and visiting clergy during the current vacancy. We pray for God's guidance for the incumbent appointment process and for the community outreach work of the church.

Wed 26

Bournebrook CofE Primary School. Headteacher: Alison Patchett.
Queen's CofE Academy. Headteacher: Hannah Carvell. We pray for God's blessing upon all the children, parents, teachers, staff and governors.
*Timothy and Titus, Companions of Paul

Thu 27

Today is Holocaust Memorial Day. A day to remember the millions of people killed in the Holocaust and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. We pray for God to defend and protect all those who fall victim to the forces of evil and to give us the courage to stand against hatred and oppression.

Fri 28

Bedworth Team. Clergy: Ann Poultney, David Poultney, Tim Mitchell, Matthew Bull. Readers: Dee Badland, Ruth Ison, Maggi Savi-Baden. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.
*Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Philosopher, Teacher of the Faith, 1274

Sat 29

We pray for Saints Nuneaton, a community enterprise led by Together for Change. Based in Nuneaton town centre, Saints aims to tackle unemployment and lack of education, enhance physical, mental and emotional wellbeing, and to inspire and connect people through the creative arts.

Sun 30

Fourth Sunday
of Epiphany

Today is Young Carers Awareness Day. The purpose of the day is to raise public awareness of the challenges faced by young carers. We pray for young people who are carers and the people they care for.
*Charles, King and Martyr, 1649

Mon 31

We thank God for the George Eliot Hospital and the Mary Ann Evans Hospice. We pray for all staff and volunteers, and especially chaplain, Martin Hammond and his team.
We pray for the Bishop's Study Day which takes place today.
*John Bosco, Priest, Founder of the Salesian Teaching Order, 1888

Bishop of Coventry to lead Further and Higher Education work

The Bishop of Coventry, Dr Christopher Cocksworth, has accepted an invitation from the Archbishops and Canterbury and York to be the Church of England's lead bishop for Higher and Further Education, succeeding the Bishop of Winchester who has held the role for the last six years.



Commenting on his appointment Bishop Christopher said:

"Coventry Diocese is home to a number of Further and Higher Education institutions, and I am looking forward to extending my links with other institutions more widely and to demonstrating the Church's commitment to this vital sector of our national life."

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, said:

"We are delighted that Bishop Christopher has accepted this role. His academic background, experience and wisdom will be a blessing to this important area of our work. As we take forward our Vision for Further and Higher Education, Bishop Christopher will champion the church's commitment to supporting excellence and educational opportunities for all, as well as encouraging the important work chaplains do across educational communities."

Until the 19th century, all British universities were religious foundations, and The Church of England has maintained this long-standing involvement. It has a particular connection with the universities that make up the Cathedrals' Group of universities. These Anglican foundation universities have a historic church foundation which is a core part of their ethos and commitment to creating a fairer, wiser and more caring world. They fulfil a vital role in their local communities, and are significant contributors to the development of education as they train a quarter of all the teachers in England between them.

Nigel Genders, the Church of England's Chief Education Officer said:

"The Church wants to see people flourishing in all aspects of their lives. For us that means working with universities and colleges as well as government departments, getting involved in national debates about what universities and further education colleges are for. Bishop Christopher will bring great wisdom and experience to this engagement."

St David, Newbold on Stour receives funding from National Churches Trust

St David, Newbold on Stour, well known for its magnificent stained glass, is to share in a £473,700 funding package from the National Churches Trust. A £5,000 National Churches Trust Cornerstone Grant will help fund urgent work to St David's church to keep it at the heart of the local community.



Broadcaster and journalist Huw Edwards, Vice President of The National Churches Trust, said:

"I'm delighted that the much loved church of St David, Newbold on Stour is being helped with a £5,000 National Churches Trust Cornerstone Grant. The grant will help fund the installation of a much needed kitchen and toilets, safeguarding unique local heritage and help St David continue to support local people."

The parish of St David's, Newbold on Stour with Armscote, was built in 1835. It is a large church built in the Gothic style of local two toned white/grey sandstone with rich brown accents of ironstone, lancet windows, and an open roof with ornamental rafters.

The stained-glass windows of the chancel are completely filled with late Victorian glass, the most significant being the east window of three lancets, dated 1884, most likely the work of Lavers & Westlake. The central window is an unusual depiction of the Apocalyptic Christ as described in the Revelation of St John. The "Son of Man" holds an open book, seven stars in his right hand, and a sword issuing from his mouth; before Him stand seven lampstands and below ecclesiastics look up in adoration. The smaller lancets flanking this are more down to earth depictions of Christ as teacher and healer.

The grant will help fund the installation of a kitchen and toilets. Newbold's population is growing and the new facilities will enable the church hold a wide range of community events.

This will substantially increase revenue, helping put the church on a firmer financial footing. Churchwarden, Gillian Marsden who is overseeing the project said:

"The completion of this project will have a life-changing effect on our parish church, it will open up numerous opportunities to expand and extend the use of the building for the community."