



Prayer Diary

July 2021

'Being part of The Body of Christ'

Early this month, we will be welcoming into the Diocese of Coventry some new deacons and new priests. Their ordinations will be a really joyful event for them and their families and friends, but it is also an occasion for the whole Church to celebrate that these faithful Christians have been prepared to offer themselves for ministry in God's Church and to undergo a whole process of discernment, selection and training which has led them to this point.



As we pray for them and celebrate with them, it is also an occasion for all of us to reflect on what it means to be part of the Body of Christ. You will recall St. Paul's description of the Body of Christ in his first letter to the Corinthians, Chapter 12, where he likens the Body of Christ to a human body, with each part of the body having a different but necessary function in order that the whole body can work together and flourish. Those who are being ordained this month are called to fulfil specific roles within the Church and their communities. They are called to be public representatives of God and the Church in the world. The Body of Christ, the Church, consists of all baptized Christians and each of us has that calling, that special gift to offer, not through ordination but through baptism. The Church will only be able fully to live out its calling if each of us discerns what God is asking of us and offers the gift of our lives to God.

I wonder what God is calling each of you to do? What is the special gift that he has given you with which to serve Him? If you would like to explore this more, you might like to consider speaking to one of your clergy or registering for a course (www.coventry.anglican.org/called-vocations-courses.php) to help with that discernment? Often through exploring our vocation, we discover that God is calling us to be where we are now but just sometimes, He leads us into new places and new experiences and, if He does, we can trust that He will be with us each step of the way.

Sue Field
Archdeacon Pastor

'A Cathedral Adventure' - a brand new children's book

The Revd Naomi Nixon, an Associate Priest of Coventry Cathedral, has written a children's book which is illustrated by local artist, Sarah Palmer.

'A Cathedral Adventure' tells the story of Popcorn, a grey squirrel. Popcorn lives by Coventry Cathedral with her family, and one day decides to go exploring. Before long she finds herself trapped and alone in the great big Cathedral. What will she do next?



This heart-warming story follows Popcorn on her exciting adventure where she finds jungles, angels and treasure, and is helped by the friendly man in the green tapestry. The book is 32 pages and is aimed at five to eight-year-olds but is for everyone to enjoy!

Naomi Nixon has always loved using stories and creativity to bring meaning, insight and joy. She is the CEO of the Student Christian Movement (SCM) and an Associate Priest at Coventry Cathedral, where she is a leader of the St Clare's Community. She has extensive experience of using her creativity in training, teaching and preaching.

Sarah Palmer has always loved drawing and painting; she has a degree in Graphic Design from Coventry University and an MA in Children's Book Illustration from the Cambridge School of Art. Her favourite thing is creating and developing characters, so bringing Popcorn and her adventure to life was a joy.

Revd Naomi says:

"I'm so excited about the book finally being ready to buy, it's a bit of a childhood ambition come true! Not that I could have imagined writing a book to introduce a place of such powerful meaning to children, but once the idea for Popcorn's journey had taken hold in my mind I couldn't wait to write it down. Sarah's illustrations though are what really make it, we know this building is beautiful but the illustrations from a squirrel's eye view bring a whole new perspective!"

It is available to buy for £8 from St Clare's at Coventry Cathedral or online at stclaresatthecathedral.org.

Cycle of Prayer - July 2021

With a focus on parishes and schools in Alcester Deanery

Thu 1

We thank God for the eleven deaneries in our diocese and the positive impact Deanery Synods have.

*Henry, John, and Henry Venn the younger, Priests, Evangelical Divines

Fri 2

This month is Plastic Free July. Plastic Free July is a global movement that aims to encourage millions of people to be part of the solution to plastic pollution - so we can have cleaner towns, cities, countryside and oceans. Many people will be choosing to refuse single use plastic through July. We pray for this initiative.

Sat 3

Thomas the
Apostle

Coughton C of E Primary School. Headteacher: Adam Walsh. We pray for God's blessing upon all the children, teachers, staff, governors and the wider school community.

Sun 4

Fifth Sunday
after Trinity

Arden Valley Parishes. Clergy: Richard Mutter. Reader: Joan Wilkinson. We thank God for the support we have received from the Area Dean and retired clergy and for all who have contributed to our online worship on Zoom. The benefice has drawn closer together in the past year and we pray that God continues to strengthen the developing bonds of fellowship.

Mon 5

Beaudesert with Henley-in-Arden and Ullenhall. Clergy: John Ganjavi. Readers: Warwick Rogers, Malcolm Aldridge. We thank God for the faithfulness of our congregations and for the good rapport between church and community. Please pray for insight and wisdom as we adapt our church programme for the future, that we may fulfil our purpose in this place.

Tue 6

Heart of England Benefice. Clergy: Peter Walker. Reader: Judith Meehan. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.
*Thomas More and John Fisher, Reformation Martyrs, 1535

Wed 7

Henley-in-Arden C of E Primary School. Headteacher: Adam Walsh. We pray for God's blessing upon all the children, teachers, staff, governors and the wider school community.
We pray for the Bishop's Council which meets today.

Thu 8

Wootton Wawen C of E Primary School. Headteacher: Marion Jones. We pray for God's blessing upon all the children, teachers, staff, governors and the wider school community.
We pray for the Glebe Committee which meets this afternoon.

Fri 9

Dunnington C of E Primary School. Headteacher: Fiona Templeton. We pray for God's blessing upon all the children, teachers, staff, governors and the wider school community.

Sat 10

Wilmcote C of E Primary School. Headteacher: Liz Banyard. We pray for God's blessing upon all the children, teachers, staff, governors and the wider school community.

Sun 11

Sixth Sunday
after Trinity

Arden Marches Group. Clergy: Kate Mier, Dan Corlett. Readers: Alan Greathead, Joy Holland, Joan Lock, Susan Ludlow, Rosemary Tostevin, Pat Wheeler. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.
*Benedict of Nursia, Father of Western Monasticism, c.550

Mon 12

We pray for the Cathedral's work with children: for more ways to explore faith with our young choristers and for all those children who visit as part of our schools' programme and for those who will come with families during the school holidays.

Tue 13

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.
We pray for the Diocesan Mission Fund Committee which meets today.

Wed 14

July is the Samaritans' 'Talk to Us' month. The aim is to raise awareness that the Samaritans are available 24/7 to listen to people talk over the phone on 116 123. We thank God for the life saving work of the Samaritans.
*John Keble, Priest, Tractarian, Poet, 1866

Thu 15

We pray for the Bishop's Core Staff Team which meets today.
*Swithun, Bishop of Winchester, c.862
*Bonaventure, Friar, Bishop, Teacher of the Faith, 1274

Fri 16 Mappleborough Green C of E Primary School. Headteacher: Alex Finch. We pray for God's blessing upon all the children, teachers, staff, governors and the wider school community.
*Osmund, Bishop of Salisbury, 1099

Sat 17 Churches of Arden. Clergy: Alison Hampton, Phil Hanson, James Holden. Readers: Norrie Moore, Judith Cox. We thank God for drawing Aston Cantlow into the Churches of Arden Group. We are excited about the possibilities this new relationship brings in the service of the Lord. We pray for family and youth work with a longing to grow to grow our churches younger.

Sun 18 We pray for safe travel for all those going on holidays this summer. Please give care and wisdom to all responsible for carrying passengers on public transport.
*Elizabeth Ferard, first Deaconess of the Church of England 1883
Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Mon 19 As many schools finish for the summer holiday this week, we pray for all families with school-age children. We thank God for the rest and fun that many children will enjoy this summer. We pray for families for whom the extended holiday can bring extra tension, conflict or hardship.
*Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa, and his sister Macrina, c.394 and c.379

Tue 20 Studley St Mary's C of E Academy. Headteacher: Rebecca Gordon. We pray for God's blessing upon all the children, teachers, staff, governors and the wider school community.
*Margaret of Antioch, Martyr, 4th century
*Bartolomé de las Casas, Apostle to the Indies, 1566

Wed 21 We thank God for the provision of the Mission Fund and for the support it has offered to many churches and deaneries in their projects and efforts in mission. We pray for continued access to support, and enthusiasm for making new disciples in all areas of this diocese.

Thu 22 Salford Priors C of E Primary School. Headteacher: P Dhugga. We pray for God's blessing upon all the children, teachers, staff, governors and the wider school community.
Mary Magdalene

Fri 23 This week is Love Parks Week 2021. We thank God for local parks and the joy they bring, particularly during lockdown. We pray for park keepers, gardeners and cleaners who work hard to maintain and protect parks.
*Bridget of Sweden, Abbess of Vadstena, 1373

Sat 24 Wilmcote with Billesley. Clergy: David Benskin. We thank God for Zoom providing a platform for Sunday Eucharistic services and sustaining our worshipping community through lockdown. By the work of the spirit we have increased our attendance. However, like many churches, we are an ageing congregation. We pray that God will lead families and young people to us.

Sun 25 Bidford on Avon C of E Primary School. Headteacher: Andy Simms. We pray for God's blessing upon all the children, teachers, staff, governors and the wider school community.
James the Apostle

Mon 26 We pray for the Archdeacons team under the leadership of Archdeacon Pastor, Sue Field and Archdeacon Missioner, Barry Dugmore.
*Anne and Joachim, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Tue 27 Alcester St Nicholas' C of E Primary School. Headteacher: Adam Walsh. We pray for God's blessing upon all the children, teachers, staff, governors and the wider school community.
*Brooke Foss Westcott, Bishop of Durham, Teacher of the Faith, 1901

Wed 28 The Alcester Minister Parishes. Clergy: Katie Cross, Sue Henwood, Julian Davey. Readers: Julie Lindsay, Patricia Newbold, Gill Laughlin. We thank God for our new Rector and Beth as she work with families in the community. Please pray for Sue as she retires in July and the work of the ecumenical partnerships planning events to mark loss and thankfulness.

Thu 29 Today is International Tiger day. Wild tiger numbers are declining, leaving them on the brink of extinction. We pray for animal organisations such as the WWF, the IFAW and the Smithsonian Institute, who do important tiger conservation work.
*Mary, Martha and Lazarus, Companions of Our Lord

Fri 30 On World Friendship Day, 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.
*William Wilberforce, Social Reformer, 1833

Sat 31 Temple Grafton C of E Primary School. Headteacher: Mary Gray. We pray for God's blessing upon all the children, teachers, staff, governors and the wider school community.
*Ignatius of Loyola, Founder of the Society of Jesus, 1556

Compassionate Rugby



University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire (UHCW) NHS Trust has launched Compassionate Rugby, a community movement to help Rugby recover from Covid-19.

Many people live with feelings of loneliness and don't feel they belong to a community, however during the pandemic there was a strong positive

reaction from communities which helped bring people together with many people reaching out to support each other, often connecting with their neighbours for the first time.

Compassionate Rugby appeals to this same spirit and hopes to build a movement of compassion to ensure that the Rugby community is able to continue supporting each other.

Head of Compassionate Communities, the Revd Simon Betteridge, Chaplain at UHCW, explained what the initiative will mean to the Rugby community:

"Compassionate Rugby is a movement through which it is hoped that people of different ages and backgrounds will join together, learning more about each other, and creating new ways to support one another and celebrate what it means to be part of the community in Rugby."

The movement started this month with Story Circles, where people are given a voice and an opportunity to share their experiences with others in their community. Story Circles are a simple, powerful way to get to know each other better, and for everyone to be valued and heard. Open to everyone – individuals, businesses, community groups, young and old.

The Compassionate Rugby team are looking for volunteers to be community befrienders and help create circles of support around each other.

Find out more at www.compassionaterugby.co.uk

Director of Healthy Churches and New Worshipping Communities

Archdeacon Barry is pleased to announce that The Reverend Sally Buddle has been appointed as the Director of Healthy Churches and New Worshipping Communities.



This is a key role in helping the Diocese of Coventry to deliver its ambitions for a culture change in making and growing new disciples. It involves developing a more mission-focused approach to the planning and deployment of resources in order to launch and grow 150 new worshipping communities by 2030.

Sally is currently Vicar and Deanery Evangelism Adviser in Bath.

Archdeacon Barry said:

"I am delighted that Sally is coming to join us as a colleague in the Diocese, in the Mission and Discipleship team. Her skills and gifts have prepared her well for undertaking a pivotal role in enabling our vision of growing new worshipping communities with the essential qualities of Healthy Church at their heart. I look forward to working with her. Please pray for Sally as she prepares to take on this significant role and make plans to move to Coventry."

Sally said:

"I'm really excited to be joining you in the Diocese of Coventry as we look forward to building on the foundations of your Healthy Churches to develop many more new worshipping communities. I've worked on urban estates, in village, suburban and city contexts, and most recently as Deanery Evangelism Adviser in Bath."

"My passions are for pioneering and fresh expressions, helping people to reach their God-given potential and for discovering Christ amongst the least, the last and the lost. I'm married to Steve, a former teacher, exams officer and worship leader and we have two adult children."

Sally will be starting this new role on 1 September.