

'Helping all of us to include and value children, young people and households'



For the Church of England at large, “Growing Faith is the movement that exists to put children, young people and families instinctively at the heart of all the mission and ministry of the Church by changing the culture of the Church of England. It comes from the vision set by the House of Bishops and endorsed by General Synod in 2019. It involves **churches, schools and households** working together to help children, young people and families have life in all its fullness. The Growing Faith Foundation seeks to benefit children and young people, helping them create the world they want to live in, specifically through the lens of the Christian faith. Every Diocese has appointed one or more Growing Faith Champions to take forward the Growing Faith mission locally. The Growing Faith Foundation is developing work in four main areas: Networks, Learning Hubs, Programmes and Research.”

[The Growing Faith Foundation](#) | [The Church of England](#)

Coventry Diocesan vision towards 2030

- Growth in children, families and young people on a faith journey
- At least 150 new worshipping communities in a variety of styles and locations (including church schools)
- Children, young people and families across the diocese are connected with our mission via schools’ ministry, parish or local mission partnerships

[Coventry Diocese Board of Education \(DBE\)](#) April Gold says, “The Diocesan Board of Education are pivoting to Growing Faith. We have 18,500 children and about 2,000 staff in the schools - all age groups who are massively under-represented in our churches, not forgetting their parents. The Board are passionate about inviting the parish in to worship with the children and to use the space as a child and family friendly environment for worship. We start a new triennium in January 2025 and will be asking for nominations for Synod in October and November 2024.”

Education Sunday is September 8th this year [Education Sunday – Churches Together in England](#) “We’d like every church, across the traditions, to take a moment during their services on Sunday 8 September to pray for all the learners and educators in their community.” James Henney, our Diocesan Growing Faith Enabler says “As we start the new school, please pray for those children and school staff who are anxious about returning to school. Pray for peaceful atmospheres of nurturing and learning in our schools. ”

PLEASE PRAY,

..... for schools [Pray For Schools](#) have a nice resource with 10 ways to pray for your local school:- [Ten Ways to Pray for Schools](#)

..... for all children starting new schools and all staff joining our schools. Pray for governors of our schools, too.

..... for Local Authorities of Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull

..... for the Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) staff at the Diocese of Coventry MAT (CEO, Michael Cowland), Inspire Education Trust (CEO, Lois Whitehouse), Arden Forest CofE MAT (CEO, Adam Walsh), Fosse MAT (CEO, Lindsey Oscroft), Stour Federation MAT (CEO, Christian Hilton) and Messenger Trust (CEO, Andrew Taylor)

AD = Area Dean; C = Clergy; IR = Interregnum; Schools included are all Church of England schools. Other schools may be mentioned on page 3.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
TRINITY 14 1 WARWICK & LEAMINGTON DEANERY AD - Jonathan Jee	2 St John the Baptist, Leamington C – Stephen Parker	3 Holy Trinity, Leamington C – Esther Peers	4 St Michael, Budbrooke C – David Brown	<u>Bishop Meetings (am)</u> 5 All Saints, Leamington Spa C – Christopher Wilson	Growing Faith 6 Trauma and mental health awareness	7 St Margaret, Whitnash C – Ben Cook
EDUCATION SUNDAY 8 St Margaret's Primary, Whitnash EH - Sukie Owers HOS Ruth Anstee	9 St Mary's, Warwick C – Angus Aagaard	10 St Nicholas, Warwick C – Linda Duckers	11 <u>DAC (Buildings)</u> St Chad, Bishop's Tachbrook C - Jonathan Smith	12 Bishop's Tachbrook Primary, H – Cathryn Kilbey	Growing Faith 13 Growing Faith Networks	LAY MINISTRY 14 Celebration of Lay Ministry: Licencing of 2 new Readers, 1 transferring in; renewals of PTO/licenses
TRINITY 16 15 St Paul's, Leamington Spa C – Jonathan Jee	16 St Paul's Primary, L/Spa H – Matthew Bown	17 Race Equality Strategy Group	18 St Mary's, Leamington C – Becky Jones	19 All Saints, Emscote C – vacancy	Growing Faith 20 Serving Local Schools <u>YOUTH CITY PRAYER & PRAISE TONIGHT</u>	21 All Saints Junior, Warwick EH - Jon Queralt HOS - Sandra Sutherland
TRINITY 17 22 St Mark's, Leamington C – Tim Broadbent	EDUCATION BOARD 23 Recruitment of DBE Board Members from October 2024.	<u>Cathedral Chapter</u> 24 St Mary, Cubbington C – Ann Hall (collation today)	<u>DBE Board meeting</u> 25 Cubbington Primary H – Juliet Jones	<u>Diocesan Env Group</u> 26 St Mary Magdalene, Lillington C - William Smith	Growing Faith 27 Chaplains in Education	28 St James, Old Milverton C – Sue Fairhurst
TRINITY 18 29 St Paul's, Warwick C – Jonathan Hearn	30 Heathcote Parish Church C – Rob Budd	WARWICK & LEAMINGTON <u>Clergy with PTO</u> – Steve Davies, Robert Langton, Roger Garratt, Anne Morris	DEANERY Andrew Gorham, Alistair Mort, Roy Greenland, John Reese, David Herbert	The Season of Creation runs this year from 1 September to 4 October. A Rocha resources for your church can be found here:- Season of Creation - Resources		

PRAYER DIARY

Of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the sceptre of uprightness is the sceptre of your kingdom... God has anointed you with the oil of gladness... [Hebrews 1.8,9](#)

Coming up – the Themes for the final 3 months of 2024 are, Loving One Another/ Racial Justice (October), Generous Giving (November) and Advent/Christmas (December). Do consider sending me your prayer suggestions, and any other jottings.

BEING HEALTHY CHURCH
 "Changing the culture of the Church of England so that everyone instinctively put children and young people at the heart of all we do." **Growing Faith Foundation**
 What's important to Growing Faith is that children and young people, their carers and parents, the adults surrounding them in church and in school all help shape the church, flourish within it and work together to grow what Jesus called the kingdom of heaven in every community.

SPECIFIC DAYS IN SEPTEMBER 2024

Warwick & Leamington Deanery Area Dean, Jonathan Jee; Assistant Area Deans David Brown and Esther Peers. Lay Chair, Claire Russell

2 – St John the Baptist, Leamington Spa C – Daniel Vickerstaff

3 – Holy Trinity, Leamington Spa - Give thanks for our young people and children, that they will continue to invite their friends and that they come to know Jesus. Please pray for God to continue to draw new people to our church, for good discipleship and for our plans to renew our heating and building

4 – St Michael, Budbrooke We thank God for the heart for growth each of our ministries and missional communities have. Pray for an Amen from the church, as we share simpler communication around growing as disciples together, and that the Lord gives each ministry fruitful strategies for mission so we see more of all ages turn / return to Jesus. C - Martin Davies (also Diocesan Rural Officer), Mary Lodge (PTO), R, with PTO – Bob Dubock, Ray Filby

5 – All Saints, Leamington Spa Give thanks for the newly re-founded children's choir. Pray for the children and their families, and for all who are working with children.

7 – St Margaret, Whitnash

8 - St Margaret's CofE Primary School, Whitnash

9 – St Mary's, Warwick R with PTO – Doreen Mills

10 – St Nicholas, Warwick. We are thankful for our new children and families worker; pray that she settles into the role well and that God will bless her ministry and for the children, families and growing number of young people here. We are excited to see a number of members of the congregation, young and old, coming to confirmation in September, please pray for them as they affirm their faith. The church welcomes many visitors through various community activities; please pray for guidance and discernment in prioritizing time and resources as we seek to share Jesus with those who visit, and reach out to the community through activities such as *Pause in the Park*, *Toddlers, Messy Church* and the *Bus*. Prayers for speedy replacement of their boiler in time for the winter. C Anita Morgan (also Dean, Self-Supporting Ministry), John Alderman (PTO), +David Evans R – Fiona Trewick, Carole Ellis.

11 – St Chad, Bishop's Tachbrook - have started a youth group that meets regularly for fun and discipleship. Thank God that young people are coming and engaging, and pray for the team that run the group – that God would continue to strengthen and encourage them.

12 – Bishop's Tachbook CofE Primary

15 – St Paul's, Leamington (also designated as Mission Hub) We are so grateful for the 150th anniversary of the first service at St Paul's this year with lots of outreach events and celebrations. It is also wonderful to see our church growing in ethnic diversity. Please pray for the multiple Alpha courses we are running and supporting over the Autumn term. C – Eleanor Jeans, Andy Ruffhead, Graeme Pringle (Associate) R Jan Pringle

16 – St Paul's CofE Primary, Leamington Praise God for the hunger and excitement amongst the children when talking about faith. Please pray for the new RE curriculum - that it would help children and staff to examine their faith further and meet with God.

18 – St Mary's, Leamington Priors - Barry Poultney (PTO funerals)

19 – All Saints, Emscote – Warwick Please pray for the churchwardens and the new administrator at All Saints Emscote now that the period of interregnum has begun.

C David Pettifor (PTO) R - Andrew Giles

21 – All Saints CofE Junior, Emscote – Warwick – *“they have a fabulous prayer space which children freely use during the day as a calm reflection space. Please pray for that, and give thanks for prayers offered there by children and staff.”*

22 – St Mark's, Leamington - R – Marie Calvert, Amanda Di Giovanni.

24 – St Mary's, Cubbington Pray for Revd Ann Hall, licensed today as Priest-in-Charge. R – Jo King (also Warden of Readers)

25 – Cubbington CofE Primary

26 – St Mary Magdalene, Lillington C (associate) – Rosemary Pantling; C – Cerys Smith R – Roderick Clark, Len Dixon

28 - St James, Old Milverton - Have very little indoor space, but have started a regular Muddy Church for children and families that makes use of their beautiful church yard and the surrounding countryside. Pray for opportunities for them to grow and deepen relationships in the community that gather around this event.

29 – St Paul's, Warwick – thankful for Jonathan's ministry as he is retiring and plans for a closer ministry link with St Michael's, Budbrooke. For Children's worker – Caroline Mara

30 – Heathcote Parish Church -

C = Clergy R = Reader H = Headteacher

James Henney, the Diocesan Growing Faith Enabler says,

“As we start the new school, please pray for those children and school staff who are anxious about returning to school. Pray for peaceful atmospheres of nurturing and learning in our schools.”

Growing Faith prayer points: Through a combination of different funding streams, the Diocese in collaboration with a number of parish churches have been able to secure funding for a number of part time Children, Youth and Families workers across the Diocese. Please pray for the recruitment process, that the right people end up in the right places.

Youth City Prayer and Praise; For 10 years, churches from across the city of Coventry have gathered to worship, and intercede for the city. This year, a group from a variety of church traditions and denominations gathered to plan the first 'Youth' City Praise and Prayer gathering. The evening was attended by 250 young people and 100 youth leaders from across the city and was a powerful show of unity and passion for the presence of God. Most excitingly, the musicians for the evening were almost all young people, and the leadership team also includes a group of young people who are instrumental in shaping and directing the event. Please pray for preparations for the next event on Friday 20 September.

PRAYER JOTTINGS – SEPTEMBER 2024

- The final extracts, this month, from Mark Oakley's **'The Collage of God' – Chapter 7, 'Laughing' and 'Postscript'** (pp. 86-103) and **'God Soaked Life' – Epilogue and Taking Part** by Chris Webb (pp 179-184).

- **first from Mark Oakley**

'Laughter is a very large piece of my collage of faith. I can think of no better way of spending time than laughing with family or friends And of watching comic genius at work on the stage or screen.... To write this book and not mention laughter would be as negligent as failing to mention God.' (p.87ff). He goes on, 'It has been said that too many clergy take as their motto in life: 'Start each day with a smile – get it over with.'" (p. 90) – he quotes a past Canon of St Paul's cathedral, who said 'when wit is combined with sense and information, when it is softened by benevolence and restrained by principle, when it is in the hands of one who loves humour, justice, decency, good nature, morality and religion, wit is then a beautiful part of nature.' (p. 90) St Francis described his monastic order as jokers and jesters of God. At times, when God laughs in the Bible, it is usually at people rather than with them...humour can comfort and disturb (p. 93). He concludes, **'to be able to laugh brings change and possibility into your life as you view yourself, your limitations and foibles, your absurdities and enjoyments, in a strong light. It is, for me, a holy act.'** (p. 97)



In the postscript he quotes Nennius, 'I have made a heap of all that I could find'.... 'The pieces of the collage I have introduced here are mere scraps of fabric of a much greater creation. **They are important fragments that begin to outline a soul's shaping and architecture...**' (pp. 98, 99) 'I have tried to argue that it is a **confidently poetic, truthful, laughing, serving, prayerful Church that will be able to share conversations with such a world**

about a hidden God who reveals to us all we need to discover.' (p. 102)

- **and from Chris Webb**

'So close to the end, you're finally able to see clearly what really mattered. Perhaps not, as it turns out, your wealth, your reputation, your sense of achievement, your possessions, your career – all those things you were so attentive to over the years. **Instead, you see that it was always about people and relationships. About love, kindness, gentleness, grace, compassion,**

friendship... And your friendship with God, you realise, always meant so much too. From the beginning, God had been creating a community of loving people in which he would dwell.' (p. 180) Having posed the questions as if it was the end of our life, he then switches suddenly 'Now imagine one more thing. Imagine this is not the day before you die. Instead, it is simply *today*. Another ordinary day in this extraordinary life. **Imagine that you still have time: time to explore, to learn, to grow, to change, to live. What might it look like for you today – this wild, beautiful, magnificent God-soaked life?'** (p. 181)

So, **'how do we live a God-soaked life?'**

1. **We accept Jesus' invitation to participate in God's community of love.**
2. **We are seeking renewal of our hearts so we can love as Christ loves.**
3. **We are fearlessly honest about our weaknesses, failures and limits.**
4. **We long to experience God in silence, prayer and Scripture.**
5. **We nurture awareness of God in everyday life.**
6. **We share life together with love, grace, mercy, and reconciliation.**
7. **We share the hope and courage to challenge the "lordless powers."**

'We follow Jesus, as best we can, we follow Jesus. That's enough.' (p. 183)

Prayer for our Schools – a bookmark prayer

Loving Father,

Thank you for all who are part of our school. Please grant them your encouragement, wisdom and peace.

Strengthen teachers with heavy workloads. May they be firm, patient, expecting excellence but forgiving mistakes. May they support their students, playing to strengths, helping with struggles and motivating them to do their best.

Comfort and restore those living under shadows of unhappiness, abuse, pain or fear. May many find faith discovering their identity in You and knowing Your amazing grace in their lives.

Please pour out Your blessings upon our whole school community.

In Jesus name. Amen

from the Pray for Schools website

- Each month **we focus on a different Deanery; this month it is Warwick and Leamington.** *In October we will be praying for Coventry East Deanery, in November, Coventry North and then the Kenilworth Deanery in December. I look forward to receiving updates from area deans and clergy, and anyone else with specific prayer requests.*

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