



# Prayer Diary

August 2022



## 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.



**Alison Abbot** is a deacon in the Edgehill Parishes in south Warwickshire. She also works part time as a pharmacist. She is keen to use her healthcare background to explore holistic ministry in a rural context. She would value your prayers in maintaining a healthy balance between paid employment, ministry, family and rest.

**Jeremy Bevan** is a deacon at St. Barbara's, Earlsdon, in Coventry. He is a self-supporting minister, working part-time in the parish while pursuing his other 'calling': as a civil servant, he has worked on a fascinating range of government policies over the past 35+ years. He looks forward to growing together with the people of St. Barbara's.



**James Bremner** is a deacon at St Bartholomew's, Binley. James would value your prayers for all the little practical and emotional traumas of moving house, and for settling into life and ministry in Binley (and perhaps for all the poor folk who will have to put up with the Bremners!)

**Caroline Hammond** is a deacon at St John's, Westwood in the Bridge Benefice. She was originally on staff at St John's before discerning a call to ordained ministry. As part of her curacy, Caroline will be developing the Garden of Hope missional project which seeks to help people explore God through contemplation.



**Rachel King** is a deacon at St Marks Coventry. Rachel and her family have been worshipping at St Marks for the past year where Rachel has been involved with student ministry and the Academy as well as preaching and leading services. She is looking forward to continuing to help St Marks in its remit to be a city centre resource church.

**Rosemary Lowdon** is a deacon at the Revel Group of churches, combining this with her work as a Prison Chaplain. Rosemary originally trained as a Reader to assist in parish ministry, but was sent to prison for a placement, and found it a place of many conversations about God! Please pray for her as she combines prison and parish roles.



**Sam Millard** is a deacon at St Mary Magdalene's Church with Church of the Risen Christ in Wyken, Coventry. Prior to ordination training Sam worked for the church as a Community Outreach pastor, with a focus on community engagement through many different partnerships including local authorities, schools and charities.

**Stacy Nelson** is a deacon at Holy Trinity Hartshill and St Peter's Galley Common. Stacy grew up in California and migrated to sunny England several years ago. She trained at The Queen's Foundation in Birmingham and hopes God will use her in ministry to show how loved and valued each person is by their creator.



# Cycle of Prayer - August 2022

**Mon 1**

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 2**

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 3**

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 4**

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.  
\*Jean-Baptiste Vianney, Curé d'Ars, Spiritual Guide, 1859

**Fri 5**

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

**Sat 6**

The Transfiguration of our Lord

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.

**Sun 7**

Eighth 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 8**

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

**Tue 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, Karen Morris, and all the office-holders that serve the MU.  
\*Mary Sumner, Founder of the Mothers' Union, 1921

**Wed 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

**Thu 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

**Fri 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.

**Sat 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

**Sun 14**

Ninth Sunday after Trinity

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

**Mon 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."

**Tue 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.

**Wed 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.

**Thu 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.

**Fri 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.

**Sat 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

**Sun 21**

Tenth Sunday  
after Trinity

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.

**Mon 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.

**Tue 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."

**Wed 24**

Bartholomew  
the Apostle

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.

**Thu 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.

**Fri 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.

**Sat 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

**Sun 28**

Eleventh  
Sunday after  
Trinity

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

**Mon 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.

\*The Beheading of John the Baptist

**Tue 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

**Wed 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

**Tris Peattie** is a deacon at All Saints Bedworth Church and St Mary and St John, Camp Hill in Nuneaton. Tris trained at St Mellitus College in London, having previous experience as a family link worker in various church and school settings. Please pray for Tris, his wife, Hannah, and their four daughters as they settle in to Camp Hill.



**Thomas Powell** is a deacon at Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon. Thomas has spent the last 35 years in academic life, most recently as Professor of Strategy at Oxford University. Thomas studied theology at Fuller Theological Seminary (MA) and Oxford University (MTh), and trained for ordination at Ripon College in Cuddesdon.

**Matt Spina** is a deacon at St Peter's in Hillfields, Coventry. Matt grew up in New Jersey, USA but has lived in the UK for almost 20 years. Please pray for Matt and the congregation of St Peter's as together they move into a new phase of witnessing to God's love in Hillfields.



**Daniel Vickerstaff** is a deacon at St John the Baptist, Leamington Spa. Daniel is excited to be able to serve the parish of St John the Baptist as a deacon, and to minister in word, sacrament, and service to the people of south Leamington, sharing his love of the good news of the gospel through the traditions of the Church.

**Jacque Ayton** is a priest at St. Alban's church in Stoke Heath, Coventry. Jacque has especially thrived while walking alongside people in their grief through funerals and other pastoral situations, and also guiding people in their faith journey through baptism and confirmation courses.



**Matthew Bull** is a priest in the Bedworth Team. It has been a hectic year since Matthew's deacon ordination, moving to a new home and getting used to full time parish life, but the support of the team and the members of the congregation have made it a great experience. Matthew thanks God for all that he has given.

**Sarah Cushing** is a priest at All Saints, Emscote in Warwick. Sarah has found in particular, that one of her passions has been life events, which are really special to witness and minister to. Sarah also very much enjoys children's ministry, in particular, being involved with Little Saints pre-school worship and activities.



**Matt Ford** is a priest at St Martins-in-the-Fields, Finham. Matt is excited about the missional opportunities that are bubbling up in the Finham area. His time at St Martins has been incredibly rewarding and fulfilling, and Matt is excited about what God will do over the coming years.



**Hannah Gregory** is a priest in the Shipston Benefice. Hannah particularly enjoys being with the community through the foodbank, worshiping in care homes, walking alongside the bereaved, and doing school visits. She is always ready to have a chat over a cuppa and cake!

**Eira Hale** is a priest at St Nicholas' Church, Warwick. Eira has had a particular focus on mission in the new housing areas within the parish and has enjoyed making new connections and building community with residents as they move in – culminating in a rain-soaked Jubilee Street party!



**Anne-Marie Marsh** is a priest at St. John the Baptist Hillmorton and St. Gabriel's Houlton, Rugby. Anne-Marie has felt blessed and privileged to have been able to fully engage in ministerial life in her contexts, including; leading and preaching at many different services through all the church seasons, home communion and care home visits, and work in schools.

**Su McClellan** is a priest at Coventry Cathedral and leads the Church Engagement team at Embrace the Middle East. Ministering in a building which reflects and embodies both resurrection and reconciliation has been the privilege of her life. Her work at Embrace is being nurtured by the Cathedral's ministry



**Jo Parker** is a priest at St. Giles, Exhall. St. Giles church is blessed with many occasional offices and Jo has been surprised to discover a passion developing for funeral ministry. Aware that there is still much to learn, she eagerly awaits the next phase of this amazing journey. Thanks be to God!

**Andy Ruffhead** is a priest at St Paul's, Leamington Spa. Andy has a particular ministry focus on young adults, ministering to university students, those in their 20s and 30s, and overseeing the Discipleship Year and Evening Service congregation. In particular it has been a privilege to journey alongside those exploring the Christian faith.



**Ros Williams** is a priest at St Marks, Coventry. There have been many highlights of the year, which have included running Alpha at St Marks; listening to discussions and watching people find faith in Jesus Christ for the first time and baptising refugees at the One Family Church. She looks forward to working as a discernment advisor in the diocese in the year ahead.