



# Prayer Diary

July 2022

## A Fresh Start

There is an interesting breed of people termed 'Futurists' or 'Futuurologists'. Their particular focus or interest lies in exploring or predicting future trends and possibilities. The question of accuracy perhaps is more open to debate.

As the summer holidays approach many of us reflect on life, past, present and future hopes.

As the future develops into the present we now inhabit, we might feel disappointment, regret, anger inadequacy, or even a sense of falling short of hopes, dreams and expectations held brightly and firmly in the past. We do love to measure, assess where and how far we have come against where we hoped we would be, about the future we had imagined for ourselves. Self-recrimination might be one response. On the other hand there is also the possibility reflecting on great achievements and failing to recognize that all we have ultimately is a gift of God.

Speaking to the Jewish people in exile, who were unsure about what the future held, and who knows what kind of regret, hurt, anger and even sense of betrayal or desertion they felt, God says in Isaiah 43.18:

*"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."*

However life is turning out, whatever mistakes we or others have made in our past, God promises a fresh start, a new beginning and fruitfulness in desert places. When the temptation is to see ourselves as 'damaged goods', or having let others or God down in the past, Jesus promises new life and new beginnings.

Jesus says: *"I have come that you might have life in all its' fullness"* (John 10.10).

Thank God that he is always in the business of enabling future possibilities for us to flourish.



**Barry Dugmore**  
**Archdeacon Missioner**

## St Matthew's, Salford Priors Count on Nature

St Matthew's Church Salford Priors has been full of activity! As part of the 'Churches Count on Nature' initiative, they have had visits from the Salford Beavers, Rainbows, Brownies as well as a whole KS1 trip from Salford Priors Academy. Including their own Muddy Church meet up, they have had over 90 children visit their churchyard to spot trees, lichen, birds, insects and plants.



Churches Count on Nature is a joint initiative promoted by Caring for God's Acre, A Rocha UK, the Church of England and the Church in Wales. Between the 4th to the 12th June, the count brought local people together to discover the wildlife in their local church yard. They recorded the species they found, combining their results with others which was collated on the Beautiful Burial Ground portal within the National Biodiversity Network (NBN), a nationwide database of wildlife in the UK.



Sarah Folkes, Family Link Worker at St Matthew's says:

*"It was a wonderful opportunity to be able to invite so many local children to our Churchyard for this special week. By giving young people the opportunity to experience God's creation, we are helping instil a sense of awe and wonder as well as responsibility for caring for the world around us. "*

# Cycle of Prayer - July 2022

With a focus on parishes and schools in Alcester Deanery

**Fri 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

**Sat 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.

**Sun 3**

Thomas the  
Apostle

The Alcester Minister Parishes. Clergy: Katie Cross, Julian Davey. Readers: Julie Lindsay, Pat Newbold, Gill Laughlin. We thank God for the launch of the Mission Hub and our Messy Church. We pray for Dan Corlett and his family as they move, and Dan is Licensed as our new Associate Minister on 20th July.

**Mon 4**

Wootton Wawen C of E Primary School. Headteacher: S Gair. 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.

**Tue 5**

Heart of England Benefice. Clergy: Peter Walker, Sheila Bridge, Michael Godfrey. Reader: Judith Meehan. Family Link Worker: Sarah Folkes. We give thanks for Sheila's arrival in Salford Priors last Summer and a new house group in Bidford. Please pray for wisdom and provision for the Temple Grafton church building which is becoming unsafe and uneconomic.

**Wed 6**

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.

\*Thomas More and John Fisher, Reformation Martyrs, 1535

**Thu 7**

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.

We pray for the Glebe Committee which meets this afternoon.

**Fri 8**

Arden Marches Group. Clergy: Kate Mier, Judy Stote, Alan Tostevin. Readers: Pat Wheeler, Joan Lock, Alan Greathead. We give thanks for our Family Link Worker, Angela Corlett, who is already making a difference to our ministry among families. We pray for our curate, Dan Corlett, as he moves on to a new role with the Rural Mission Hub in Alcester.

**Sat 9**

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

**Sun 10**

Fourth Sunday  
after Trinity

Churches of Arden. Clergy: Alison Hampton, Phil Hanson, James Holden. Readers: Judith Cox, Norrie Moore. We are grateful for the wonderful school at Wootton, where the children are encouraged to walk in faith. It is a real family of the Kingdom. We pray for unity and flourishing at a continuing time of change

**Mon 11**

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.

\*Benedict of Nursia, Father of Western Monasticism, c.550

**Tue 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.

**Wed 13**

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.

We pray for the Investment Sub-Committee which meets today.

**Thu 14**

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 Bishop's Core Staff Team which meets today.

\*John Keble, Priest, Tractarian, Poet, 1866

**Fri 15**

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.

\*Swithun, Bishop of Winchester, c.862

\*Bonaventure, Friar, Bishop, Teacher of the Faith, 1274

**Sat 16**

May the blessing of God be upon our farms and on all the cereal crops of our countryside. May they receive rain to swell the grain and sun to ripen it. We pray that the harvest be safely gathered in and stored, and may we see ourselves as harvesters for eternal life.

\*Osmund, Bishop of Salisbury, 1099

**Sun 17**

Fifth Sunday  
after Trinity

Beaudesert, Henley-in-Arden and Ullenhall. Clergy: John Ganjavi. Reader: Malcolm Aldridge. We thank God for the combining of our two parishes of Henley and Ullenhall. We pray for guidance for the new combined PCC, especially in view of the Rector retiring at the end of the year.

**Mon 18**

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.

\*Elizabeth Ferard, first Deaconess of the Church of England 1883

**Tue 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

**Wed 20**

We pray for the chaplains serving at HMP Onley and HMP Ryehill. May the Lord bless and protect them and the prisoners they work with.

\*Margaret of Antioch, Martyr, 4th century

\*Bartolomé de las Casas, Apostle to the Indies, 1566

**Thu 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.

**Fri 22**

Mary  
Magdalene

This week is Love Parks Week 2022. We thank God for local parks and the joy they bring, particularly during the covid lockdowns. We pray for park keepers, gardeners and cleaners who work hard to maintain and protect parks.

**Sat 23**

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.

\*Bridget of Sweden, Abbess of Vadstena, 1373

**Sun 24**

Sixth Sunday  
after Trinity

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.

**Mon 25**

James the  
Apostle

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.

**Tue 26**

Wilmcote with Billesley. Clergy: David Benskin. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.

\*Anne and Joachim, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**Wed 27**

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.

\*Brooke Foss Westcott, Bishop of Durham, Teacher of the Faith, 1901

**Thu 28**

Arden Valley Parishes. Clergy: Richard Mutter, Richard Livingstone. Reader: Joan Wilkinson. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.

**Fri 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

**Sat 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

**Sun 31**

Seventh  
Sunday after  
Trinity

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.

\*Ignatius of Loyola, Founder of the Society of Jesus, 1556

## £1.8m funding for Saints, Nuneaton

Together for Change is pleased to announce that it will be receiving £1.8m to purchase and renovate the building that houses the Saints Nuneaton project.

These funds come from the bid that Nuneaton made for the central government 'Towns Fund', for which the town was awarded £23.5m. They will be used to renovate the first floor of the building, including St Georges Hall, and its surrounding rooms and facilities.



Work is expected to begin in autumn/winter 2022, with the aim of opening the doors on the new space by autumn 2023.

Jet Jones, Together for Change CEO, says:

*"We have renovated the former Saints nightclub into a community hub with a training café for young people, market stalls, free children's play area and training rooms where we focus on starting enterprises and equipping people with the skills they need for life or to find work.*

*We survived three lockdowns and the pandemic as a small start-up business thanks to the fantastic support of the local community, and it has been wonderful to see many churches in Nuneaton get behind this project and offer volunteer support.*

*We are now moving on to phase two and are so grateful for this government funding which will enable us to renovate the upstairs St George's Hall which is beautiful with a wooden dance floor and stage which we want to bring back into community use to host events, functions and weddings – we already have one wedding booking!"*

Bishop Christopher says:

*"There's a real and deep commitment among the churches of Nuneaton to serve the whole community. They want the very best deal for the town and especially its young people. Saints is a living embodiment of that commitment and I'm so glad that it's being entrusted with Towns Deal funding so that its transformative work can grow and flourish for all of the town."*

Head over to the Saints Nuneaton website: [www.saintsnuneaton.org](http://www.saintsnuneaton.org) to read more about the work of the Saints project

## St Edith's, Monks Kirby gets £59,229 grant

St Edith's Church in Monks Kirby has good reason to celebrate, as it has received a £59,229 grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, made possible by money raised by National Lottery players.

The much-needed funding now means church members can proceed with the urgent stonework repairs to the pinnacles on the church tower. Work is expected to start in early July.



Alongside the repair work, the Heritage Fund has given funding for a number of heritage engagement activities (both digital and in person) which all celebrate the 'architectural gem' that St Edith's Church represents. The range of planned activities were inspired by local villagers who gave suggestions about how they would best like to explore St Edith's unique heritage.

The celebration officially kicks off on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July between 2.00-5.00pm with a free-of-charge open afternoon and tea party which St Edith's Church. During the open afternoon, visitors will also be able to help make a replica LEGO® model of St Edith's Church which has been specially commissioned as part of the celebrations and will comprise over 15,000 LEGO® bricks! People will also be able to explore the church using a newly refreshed family heritage trail, try out bell-ringing, see some of the newly-developed digital and hard-copy heritage interpretation products, whilst listening to a short musical performance given by The St Andrew's Community Choir.

St Edith's Church is a Grade I listed building, located in Monks Kirby (one of the Revel villages) near to Rugby, Warwickshire. It is the largest parish church in Warwickshire, measuring approximately 110ft by 50ft. The first church on the site of St Edith's is said to have been founded in 917 by Ethelfleda, daughter of Alfred the Great. However, the current Priory Church of St Edith's dates from 1077, when Geoffrey de la Guerche, a Breton knight rebuilt the church.

Commenting on the award, Patricia Barnett, a church representative, said:

*"We are thrilled to have received this support thanks to National Lottery players. The funding allows us to carry out urgent repairs to the church pinnacles on the tower. It also gives us an opportunity to engage people of all ages with the diverse heritage that St Edith's has on offer. This means local people will be able to have lots of fun exploring the church in person and through a range of new digital products. We will also have the chance to create a long-lasting recording in the form of a bespoke LEGO® model of the church. We are grateful to the Heritage Fund, Trinity College Cambridge, Coventry Diocese and the Warwickshire and Coventry Historic Churches Trust who have all supported us financially."*