



# Prayer Diary

November 2022

## True Friendship



True friendship is a precious gift from God. We read in Proverbs 'Some friends play at friendship but a true friend sticks closer than one's nearest kin.' (18.24).

Sometimes it takes an upset or affliction in our own lives to discover who our true friends really are. But now think about this amazing truth. God wants to be your friend. Just as Abraham is called 'a friend of God' because he trusted God (James 2.23, 2 Chron.20.7, Is.41.8), so we are invited into that same friendship with God. In the Eastern Church, Jesus is called

*Philanthropos*, the friend of all humankind. But his friendship is not general or amorphous, it is specific and personal. He calls us by name. We know, for example of particular friendships he had with Mary, Martha and Lazarus – whom he describes as 'our friend' (John11.11). Jesus says to his disciples – and that means us, today – 'I no longer call you servants, but friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father' (John15.15).

Jesus invites us to share our lives with him and – amazingly - offers to share his life with us. What might that mean for us? With our closest friends we share the real stuff, our joys and our pains, our hopes and our fears. We cry with them, we laugh with them. We speak to them freely, we listen to them without judging them. We can be who we truly are with them. Whatever we are like, whatever happens, they stick with us. It is into just such a friendship that Jesus invites us, sharing our lives fully with him. But, of course, human friendship is fallible. We let each other down. 'Even my close friend, someone I trusted, one who shared my bread, has turned against me.' Ps.41.9. The friendship of God is something on which we can depend. The more we can dare to trust and obey God, the more we can enter into and enjoy his friendship (John 15.14).

+ John

## Focus on Intercultural Mission Enabler

Neil Masih is our Intercultural Mission Enabler. Here he explains what his job involves.



My role as Intercultural Mission Enabler in the diocese is exciting as I work with clergy and laity in focusing on our mission to make churches reflect the vision that John proclaims in Revelation 7:9:

*"After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands."*

Our mission is to Worshipping God – Making new disciples – Transforming communities and this applies to all regardless of race, colour or gender, inviting all to worship in front on Gods throne. This is something we need to encourage as we look for wider participation in our churches which represents a modern Britain which is certainly representative in Coventry.

I am a churchwarden at St. Pauls Foleshill which has a diverse congregation and this is aided by the parish we serve, however, as churches we need to look to being more inclusive offering people from UKME/GMH opportunities to participate in our worship through songs, readings, images used in worship and raising awareness of opportunities in the diocese. By doing so we will embrace the experiences and gifts of all as we worship and serve God together.

I have been encouraged by the warm responses from clergy, PCCs and lay people when I have visited parishes to discuss the issues around racism and how we can unite in our Christian faith to address the issues of this evil. The church should be a place of unity, love and openness and as we uphold these virtues it can be a starting point to tackle the issues of racism. God's love for us all is expressed in that He sent his only Son to die for all.

I would be interested to hear from if you are a UKME/GMH church member and are involved in lay ministry, or would like to find out more about opportunities in the Diocese, including training, as part of a network of UKME/GMH Christians, please contact me by email: [Neil.Masih@Coventry.Anglican.org](mailto:Neil.Masih@Coventry.Anglican.org)

# Cycle of Prayer - November 2022

With a focus on parishes and schools in Shipston Deanery

**Tue 1**

All Saints' Day

Brailes & Sutton, with Tysoe, Oxhill & Whatcote. Clergy: George Heighton, Heather Parbury, Jill Tucker, George Warner. Reader: Jennie Rake. We give thanks for our renewed links with our church schools in Brailes & Tysoe who have celebrated their Harvest Festivals in our churches. We pray for all those who will come to our All Souls Day services.

**Wed 2**

Ilmington Primary School. Headteacher: Paul Crouch. We thank God for this school community and pray for God's blessing on the pupils, teachers, staff and governors.  
\*Commemoration of the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)

**Thu 3**

We thank God for all those who serve as clergy in the diocese. We pray for strength and energy, especially during this busy term.  
We pray for the Bishop's Core Staff Team which meets today.  
\*Richard Hooker, Priest, Anglican Apologist, Teacher of the Faith, 1600  
\*Martin of Porres, Friar, 1639

**Fri 4**

Brailes Primary School. Headteacher: Heather Childs. We thank God for this school community and pray for God's blessing on the pupils, teachers, staff and governors.

**Sat 5**

November is Men's Health Awareness Month. The aim is to raise awareness and fundraise for research into some of the biggest health issues faced by men: prostate cancer, testicular cancer and mental health and suicide prevention. We pray for men suffering with health conditions and pray this month is successful in its aims.

**Sun 6**

3rd Sunday before Advent

We thank God for those who serve on committees and working groups in parishes, deaneries and the diocese.  
\*Leonard, Hermit, 6th century  
\*William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury, Teacher of the Faith, 1944

**Mon 7**

Newbold and Tredington Primary School. Headteacher: Sam Welsby. We thank God for this school community and pray for God's blessing on the pupils, teachers, staff and governors.  
\*Willibrord of York, Bishop, Apostle of Frisia, 739

**Tue 8**

We thank God for the buildings and spaces he has entrusted to as places of worship. We ask God to help us steward these spaces well.  
We pray for the Investment Sub-Committee which meets today.  
\*The Saints and Martyrs of England

**Wed 9**

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.  
\*Margery Kempe, Mystic, c.1440

**Thu 10**

Ettington Primary School. Headteacher: David Johnson. We thank God for this school community and pray for God's blessing on the pupils, teachers, staff and governors.  
\*Leo the Great, Bishop of Rome, Teacher of the Faith, 461

**Fri 11**

"O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those men and women who have died in active service. As we honour their courage and cherish their memory, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever. Amen."  
\*Martin, Bishop of Tours, c.397

**Sat 12**

Shipston on Stour with Tidmington, Honington and Idlicote. Clergy: Sarah Edmonds Maguire, Jill Tucker, Hannah Gregory, Mike Harris, Nicholas Morgan. Reader: Alison Tomkinson. We give thanks for the new Cafe Sunday service and the new worship communities in care homes. We pray for outreach and mission to the new housing.

**Sun 13**

2nd Sunday before Advent

Stourdene Benefice. Clergy: Sharon Goble. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.  
\*Charles Simeon, Priest, Evangelical Divine, 1836

**Mon 14**

Today is World Diabetes Day, a day when millions of people around the world come together to raise awareness of diabetes and what it is like to live with the condition. We pray for everyone living with diabetes.  
\*Samuel Seabury, first Anglican Bishop in North America, 1796

**Tue 15**

This week is Anti-Bullying Week. The theme this year is 'Reach Out'. The aim is to take a stand against bullying and raise awareness in schools, colleges and organisations. We pray for all who are being bullied, and for initiatives that aim to prevent bullying.

**Wed 16**

This week is Interfaith week. Interfaith week aims to build good relationships and working partnerships between people of different faiths. We pray that this week is successful in highlighting the importance of interfaith relations  
\*Margaret, Queen of Scotland, Philanthropist, Reformer of the Church, 1093  
\*Edmund Rich of Abingdon, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1240

**Thu 17**

We thank God for the dedication and hard work of all headteachers in our church schools, and we pray that they may know God's vision, wisdom and strength.  
We pray for the Bishop's Core Staff Team which meets today.  
\*Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, 1200

**Fri 18**

This is Alcohol Awareness Week. Issues with alcohol seem to be increasing, with more young people drinking alcohol. We pray for those whose lives are being damaged by drink, and for the impact this has on family and friends.  
\*Elizabeth of Hungary, Princess of Thuringia, Philanthropist, 1231

**Sat 19**

Today is World Toilet Day. World Toilet Day is a United Nations observance that celebrates toilets and raises awareness of the 4.2 billion people living without access to safely managed sanitation. We pray for this initiative.  
We pray for diocesan synod that meets today.

**Sun 20**

Christ the King

We praise God for Christ the King! We reflect on Isaac Watt's hymn 'When I survey the Wondrous Cross'. We pray that we might be renewed in our love to God. "Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all."  
\*Edmund, King of the East Angles, Martyr, 870  
\*Priscilla Lydia Sellon, a Restorer of the Religious Life, 1876

**Mon 21**

As costs of food, fuel and energy continue to rise, we pray for those who will be pushed beyond breaking point by the rise in the cost of living and ask for God's provision.  
We pray for the Diocesan Audit Committee which meets today.

**Tue 22**

South Warwickshire Seven. Clergy: Ben Dyson. Reader: Clare Wells. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.  
\*Cecilia, Martyr at Rome, c.230

**Wed 23**

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.  
We pray for the Bishop's Study Day which takes place today.  
\*Clement, Bishop of Rome, Martyr, c.100

**Thu 24**

We thank God for all healthcare staff who work in our local communities, our GP and dental surgeries and clinics, our community hospitals and those who work in the field of mental healthcare. We pray for strength for them this winter.  
We pray for the Glebe Committee which meets this afternoon.

**Fri 25**

Today is 'Buy Nothing Day', an alternative to Black Friday. Buy Nothing Day aims to raise awareness of the environmental impact of consumerism. Today you need do just one thing: buy nothing! Please pray for this initiative.  
\*Catherine of Alexandria, Martyr, 4th century  
\*Isaac Watts, Hymn Writer, 1748

**Sat 26**

Ilmington, Tredington and neighbouring parishes. Clergy: Richard Cooke, Stephen and Jean Fletcher, Tim Seller. Reader: Ros Wakefield. We thank God for the ministry of Stephen and Jean Fletcher over the past four complex years. We pray for Stephen and Jean as they move to a new challenge in Birmingham.

**Sun 27**

First Sunday of Advent

Today we pray for Together for Change, a joint venture between the Diocese of Coventry and the Church Urban Fund. We pray for the charity's work in setting up social enterprises and local projects that will support sustainable community transformation and tackle poverty in Coventry and Warwickshire.

**Mon 28**

Tysoe Primary School. Headteacher: Paige Allister. We thank God for this school community and pray for God's blessing on the pupils, teachers, staff and governors.

**Tue 29**

We pray for all who work at the Diocesan Office under the leadership of the Diocesan Secretary, Jacqueline Ladds. We pray for God's guidance as they seek to serve and equip the whole of the Diocese of Coventry.  
\*Day of Intercession and Thanksgiving for the Missionary Work of the Church

**Wed 30**

Andrew the Apostle

On St Andrew's Day we pray for all those who, like Andrew, seek to be the fishers of men. We pray for missionary societies and all who respond to serve the church worldwide.

# Welcome to Bishop Christopher's new intern

**Tim Westley has joined the staff at Bishop's House as an intern to Bishop Christopher. Here, he introduces himself:**

Hi! My name is Tim and I'm an Intern for the Bishop of Coventry based at Bishop's House.

I grew up in North Warwickshire and have called the county my home since I was born! I attended primary, secondary and sixth form all in the same village in North Warwickshire.

After that, I went to the University of Leicester to study a 3-year Politics and International Relations BA. I was enjoying my subject area so much that I stayed on to do a master's in international security studies. Then, after an email out of the blue, I thought I'd try at this new Internship post that Bishop Christopher and the team at Bishop's House were asking for expressions of interest for. And Hey Presto, here I am!

I'm really looking forward to working with the Bishop on his commitments in the House of Lords as well as Diocesan work, getting to know Coventry and my home county of Warwickshire even more.

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

– Jeremiah, 29:11



# Racial Justice Logo Competition

The diocesan Racial Equality Advisory Group (REAG) and Racial Equality Steering Group (RESG) have announced a competition for school children to produce a logo that promotes racial justice and equality for the groups to use.

Both the REAG and the RESG work strategically to build racial equality and justice throughout the Diocese of Coventry. Both working groups adhere to the goals set out in the report of the Archbishops' Racial Justice Commission entitled From Lament to Action. This includes identifying and removing those processes, attitudes and behaviour which discriminate against members of the global majority based on skin colour, ethnic origin, language, and cultural differences.

The groups are looking for logos that are creative and colourful and in A4 size. Everyone will be a winner as all entrants with complete designs will be featured in the Big Reveal on Racial Justice Sunday 12 February 2023 at Coventry Cathedral. The selection process for the three winning designs (one from three different age categories) will include CofE school staff, a public vote and a panel of artistic judges.

**Bishop John**, Race Equality Champion says:

*"I am thrilled to commend to you the Racial Justice and Equality Logo Competition that has been launched in our schools. Wonderful work is happening in our schools to celebrate the diversity and difference that is part of our common humanity as the one human race. Young people can teach us all so much about this and it is a delight to publicise this initiative."*

**Rosalyn Murphy**, Chair of REAG says:

*"Scripture teaches us that in God's perfect and peace-filled kingdom 'a little child will lead'. Today, there is so much we can learn from our children, because they view the world through innocent, hopeful, idyllic eyes."*

*"By allowing children to lead our diocesan work on Racial Justice, we acknowledge that they have a life-long place in our churches. In fact, we're looking to them to lead us – simply by putting their messages of hope for a better future at the forefront. I look forward to seeing their artistic expressions of what equality, diversity and justice can look like."*

