



Prayer Diary

September 2022

Children in the Lead

In July I was lucky enough to spend a morning in the Cathedral with 350 children and staff of 5 schools in Nuneaton Deanery. The children of Stockingford Primary School, St Paul's Stockingford CofE Primary School, St Michael's CofE Primary School, All Saint's CofE Primary School and The Canons CofE Primary School came together for a service to celebrate their completion of the Archbishop of York Youth Trust (ABYYT) Young Leaders Award. Each school made a presentation to summaries their year, and the ABYYT team created a video of the impact on staff and children which you can watch on the news story section of the diocesan website.



I spoke to the children about 3 stories in the Bible which remind us that children are at the centre of the Kingdom of God. Firstly, I reminded them of the story in Luke 2:41-52. Where Jesus stays behind in the Temple with the teachers of the law deep in discussion about God and the kingdom. Even Jesus, God incarnate, wanted to learn from the people of God who God is. The rabbis were amazed at his perceptive understanding and questions. This is an example to us of the importance of debating with children, not only are we passing on our knowledge and experience of God, but we will be amazed at their reflections and experiences of God.

The second story I told was the feeding of the 5000. In this story we see Jesus preaching to a large crowd of families. They are engrossed in what he is saying and eventually the disciples realise it is time to eat and no one has planned the catering! As the adults panic, in John's account we see a small child comes forward to the disciples and Jesus with a solution. He offers his picnic of 5 loaves and two fish. Jesus takes this offering and multiplies it and 5000 men and their families are fed with more left over. This demonstrates to us that Jesus takes what children bring and multiplies it, we should be in the habit of asking children for their ideas and expect that Jesus will bless them exponentially if we take them seriously.

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Finally, I told the story in Matthew 18 when the disciples ask Jesus who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Jesus calls over a child and place him in the middle of the disciples telling them "unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." Jesus is quite clearly reminding us that children, unencumbered with the worries and realities of the world and the mistaken adult notion that we can control it and somehow earn our rank, just accept the gift. They do not need to reason, or wrestle, have evidence or rank, they just accept and allow themselves to love and be loved.

These three stories together remind us that God is our Father and we are adopted children. God wants nothing more than for us to come in wonder and faith to him as a child, when we do we will catch a glimpse of the kingdom. Please pray for the 21,000 children in Coventry Diocese schools and their families. Spend some time this month debating the kingdom with a child or young adult, or go into your local school and join in their worship, perhaps you will get a glimpse of the kingdom too!



Cycle of Prayer - September 2022

With a focus on parishes and schools in Coventry North Deanery

Thu 1 St Laurence's Primary School, Coventry. Headteacher: Michelle Cuskelly. We pray for God's blessing on pupils, teachers, staff and governors in this school community.
*Giles of Provence, Hermit, c.710

Fri 2 Coventry St John Baptist. Clergy: Dexter Bracey. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.
*The Martyrs of Papua New Guinea, 1901 and 1942

Sat 3 We give thanks for the ministry of retired clergy and the support they provide in so many ways to the lives of our churches across the diocese. We also pray that new clergy and their families will settle in quickly and feel at home in Coventry diocese.
*Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, Teacher of the Faith, 604

Sun 4 Radford St Nicholas. Clergy: Interregnum. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.
*Birinus, Bishop of Dorchester (Oxon), Apostle of Wessex, 650
Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

Mon 5 We pray for Jacqueline Ladds, Diocesan Secretary, and give thanks for her and her work in and for the diocese.
We pray for the Diocesan Business Committee which meets this morning.

Tue 6 At the start of a new academic year, we pray for all those going back to school or starting at new schools. We pray that they all may know Christ's presence with them, ahead of them and alongside them in their schools.
*Allen Gardiner, Founder of the South American Mission Society

Wed 7 Coventry Holy Trinity. Clergy: Richard Hibbert. Readers: Sue Shepherd, Geoff Wilcox. We thank God for a good arrival and welcome for our new incumbent. We pray for the reimagining our city-centre ministry to the 1000s that pass by and through Holy Trinity each day.

Thu 8 Today is UNESCO's International Literacy Day, a day to raise awareness on the issues surrounding adult and child literacy. 775 million adults lack minimum literacy skills. We pray this day highlights the importance of literacy and promotes change.
We pray for the Bishop's Core Staff Team which meets today.

Fri 9 Foleshill St Paul. Clergy: Interregnum. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.
*Charles Fuge Lowder, Priest, 1880

Sat 10 September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Childhood cancer is devastating to sufferers and their friends and families. This annual international awareness month aims to raise support and funding for children with cancer. We pray for children diagnosed with cancer.

Sun 11 Radford St Francis of Assisi. Clergy: Interregnum. We give thanks for the appointment of our new vicar, Aggy, and look forward to welcoming her and her family. We ask for continued prayers for our parish as we continue our interregnum and prepare for new beginnings and the next chapter at St Francis.
Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Mon 12 Creator God we give you thanks for all of our farmers as they harvest the crops that feed us. We thank you for the skills of those who will be bringing the harvest in, and we ask that the weather be favourable. We pray that the harvest is bountiful enough to share with all those who are in need.

Tue 13 Ansty & Shilton. Clergy: Interregnum. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.
*John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, Teacher of the Faith, 407

Wed 14 September is Blood Cancer Awareness Month. Blood cancers are collectively the third biggest cancer killer in the UK but awareness of the different types of blood cancer such as leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma, and their symptoms are low. We pray that this month helps to raise awareness and save lives.
Holy Cross Day

Thu 15 Today is World Lymphoma Day. Lymphoma is the fifth most common cancer overall in the UK, and yet most people are unaware of what the disease is. Every 27 minutes someone in the UK is diagnosed with lymphoma. We pray for all those diagnosed with lymphoma and the healthcare professionals treating them.

Fri 16

We pray for April Gold and all those who work with her at the Diocesan Board of Education. We give thanks to God for all that they do supporting, managing, caring for and inspiring schools in the diocese.

*Ninian, Bishop of Galloway, Apostle of the Picts, c.432

*Edward Bouverie Pusey, Priest, Tractarian, 1882

Sat 17

September is World Alzheimer's Month. We pray for all those affected by Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. We give thanks for the progress made in treatments and care, and we pray for greater understanding of the disease.

*Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, Visionary, 1179

Sun 18

Fourteenth
Sunday after
Trinity

Foleshill St Laurence. Clergy: Gareth Irvine, Abby Rhodes, John Samuel, Jenny Irvine. Ordinand: Becca Henney. Family Link Worker: Rea Verdon. We're thankful for the group of 17 of us who went to New Wine in Peterborough in July, which was a refreshing and restorative time together in worship and community. We pray for the development of the Mission Hub vision.

Mon 19

We pray for clergy and church leaders who are unwell. We remember especially those who cannot work and minister while they recover or receive treatment. We pray for sensitivity and understanding in churches and congregations, and for unity in working together.

*Theodore of Tarsus, Archbishop of Canterbury, 690

Tue 20

This week is National Eye Health Week. 2 million people in the UK are living with sight loss which is severe enough to have a significant impact on their daily lives. Half of this sight loss is avoidable. The aim of this week is to encourage people to get a sight test to prevent sight loss. We pray for this initiative.

Wed 21

Matthew,
Apostle and
Evangelist

Today marks the International Day of Peace. It is designed to be a day of ceasefire. We pray for God's help in our own lives to cease fighting, stop arguing and make peace with others. We pray for God's dynamic intervention of peace into the most troubled places of conflict.

We pray for the Diocesan Finance Group which meets this morning.

Thu 22

Coventry St George. Clergy: Jennifer Wickham. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.

We pray for the Bishop's Core Staff Team which meets today.

Fri 23

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, the welfare system and foodbanks.

Sat 24

Allesley. Clergy: Lizzy Holland. Readers: Colin and Fey Holtum. We thank God for the blessing of our local community and the opportunities to engage with them through life events, ministry amongst refugees and events such as the Allesley Festival. We pray for our next steps as a church as we seek to structure ourselves to allow for growth in mission and ministry.

Sun 25

Fifteenth
Sunday after
Trinity

We pray for our Bishops, Christopher and John; for their ministry, positions of responsibility, their times of rest and their families.

*Lancelot Andrewes, Bishop of Winchester, Spiritual Writer, 1626

*Sergei of Radonezh, Russian Monastic Reformer, Teacher of the Faith, 1392

Mon 26

Keresley. Clergy: Interregnum. Reader: Clement Wedderburn. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.

*Wilson Carlile, Founder of the Church Army, 1942

Tue 27

Holbrooks St Luke. Clergy: Simon Oakes. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.

*Vincent de Paul, Founder of the Congregation of the Mission, 1660

Wed 28

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 the Diocesan Board of Education which meets today.

Thu 29

Michael and All
Angels

We pray for World Heart Day. On average more than 17 million people die from heart-related illnesses every year. We pray that this awareness day encourages people more attentive to their heart health.

Fri 30

Longford and Hawkesbury. Clergy: Rosalyn Murphy. Young adult and family team: Emili Lowery, Bethany Haynes, William Haynes, George Haynes. We give thanks for the energy and creativity of young adults for their devoted and joyous service to the people of God. We pray for continued new growth.

*Jerome, Translator of the Scriptures, Teacher of the Faith, 420

Mission Hub at St Laurence's, Foleshill

The new Mission Hub at St Laurence's, Foleshill was launched on 12th June. The Associate Minister for the Mission Hub, Abby Rhodes, was formally licensed. Alongside Gareth Irvine and Abby, the whole team was commissioned.

It was a joyful, spirit-filled start to what we hope will be a fruitful season. The work has already started on building relationships and connecting churches who are interested in engaging with the Mission Hub.



Our first leaders lunch has already taken place, with clergy and lay leaders sharing their hopes and dreams for their communities. From this, we are developing a leaders formation group, where we aim to work, learn and pray together, helping each other to reflect on practical as well as spiritual challenges and support each other.

We are also launching a new monthly evening service. Starting in October, the Encounter service will be a place for all – including church leaders - to rest, refuel and listen, ready for the work that God has for each of us.

There is much more to come but these two first steps reflect our desire to prioritise worship and prayer as well as relationship – with God and each other – as key to any missional activity.

Please pray for Gareth, Abby and the whole Mission Hub team at St Laurence's as they continue to follow God's leading and do get in touch if you are interested in connecting with the Mission Hub.



Revd Abby Rhodes
Associate Minister for St Laurence's Mission Hub

New Rural Life Officer and Assistant



Bishop John is pleased to announce that, following the retirement of the Reverend Canon Barbara Clutton, the Reverend Martin Davies has been appointed as Rural Life Officer and the Reverend Dan Corlett as Assistant Rural Life Officer.

Martin is currently serving his curacy at St Michael, Budbrooke where he has worshipped for more than 30 years including as a Reader. His life as a farmer means that he has many connections to farming and rural communities.

Martin says:

"Having been a farmer for over forty years, I am very aware of the constant struggles and pressures that the farming and rural communities face in today's ever-changing world. I am excited to be working with Dan Corlett with his vast experience of environmental and rural issues."

Dan has just completed his curacy in the Arden Marches Group and taken up a new role as Associate Minister in the Alcester Minster Benefice where he is taking on a specific role to support and develop the Mission Hub based in the team, which has a particular focus on rural mission. Prior to ordination, Dan attended St John, Westwood for many years and was Chief Executive of Farming and Countryside Education (FACE).

Dan says,

"I'm looking forward to working with Martin and am pleased to be continuing to work alongside the agricultural and rural communities, together with my role helping to resource the rural church at the Alcester Mission Hub. "