



Prayer Diary

April 2021

'He is no longer here. He is risen.' Matt.28:6

It took time for those first disciples to recognize him, but when they did their lives were changed forever. They could not contain their joy. Earlier Jesus had told them 'Your tears will be turned to joy.' The experience of encountering the risen Lord transformed those fearful, hopeless, dejected and leaderless disciples into confident evangelists who could not stop themselves sharing the good news, that 'The Lord is risen', 'Jesus is alive'. They knew that this was not just good news for them but for the whole world.



Without them sharing the gospel of the resurrection of Christ, often to the point of martyrdom, we would not now be here celebrating and sharing that same joyful news. For those first disciples and for disciples ever since what we celebrate and proclaim is not simply an event in history – which it was – but a present tense reality. The Lord *is* risen. He *is* risen indeed. Alleluia!

Evangelism is communicating not so much the idea of the resurrection or even the fact of the resurrection, but the *experience* of the risen Christ who lives in us. St Paul tells the Christ followers in Rome 'The Spirit of God who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you.' 8.11. It is only out of a living relationship with God that our faith can be contagious.

So let us pray that we, each one of us, and the whole Church may experience afresh the reality of the risen Christ within us and among us so that knowing Christ we may make Christ known.

As St Augustine put it 'Without God, we cannot. Without us, God will not.'

+ John

Saints is a key project in successful Nuneaton £23.5 million bid

Saints Nuneaton, a joint venture between Together for Change Coventry and Warwickshire and Churches in Nuneaton, is one of several key projects part of the Nuneaton Town Investment plan, which was approved as part of the government budget announced on Wednesday 3rd March.

Saints is a community hub and café based in the town centre, with a three point vision for bringing community transformation to the heart of Nuneaton.



The first point of the vision, already well underway, involves encouraging and supporting small businesses, the development of skills and raising aspirations. The portion of the funds applied for by Saints will help to facilitate the second and third points of the vision – with work in areas of physical, mental and emotional wellbeing, and encouraging the creative arts and community connection.

Funds will secure the long term future of the project in its current location, a building which was originally the Nuneaton Conservative Club. It will also enable renovation work to be carried out on St Georges Hall on the first floor of the building, as well as repurposing rooms in the basement for training and meeting.

With these areas renovated, the building will become a multi-purpose venue, with space to host more creative and innovate projects and initiatives that outwork the three-point vision and impact the community in a positive way. Furthermore, it will create opportunity for generating income with external hire of rooms, which can then be fed back into the work of Saints.

This is a landmark achievement for Saints, after opening at the beginning of 2020 and adapting to serve the community in new ways throughout the coronavirus pandemic, and there is a great deal of excitement and anticipation for the future ahead. Though it has been a challenging year for many, the securing of this bid brings hope for Nuneaton, with projects that will breathe new life into the town.

Cycle of Prayer - April 2021

With a focus on parishes and schools in Coventry South Deanery

Thu 1

Maundy
Thursday

April is National Pet Month. National Pet Month aims to educate the public on responsible pet ownership, celebrates the benefits of having pets and increases public awareness about the role of pet care specialists. We give thanks for all those who care for and look after God's creatures.
*Frederick Denison Maurice, Priest, Teacher of the Faith, 1872

Fri 2

Good Friday

"When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died; my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride." As we remember Jesus' obedience, even to death on a cross, we ask God to meet us in our brokenness.

Sat 3

Easter Eve

We pray for all those who are waiting. We remember those who are expecting good news today, of a birth or a reason to celebrate. We pray too for those who are waiting for the unknown and for those who will receive sad or difficult news today.

Sun 4

Easter Day

He has risen - Jesus is alive! We pray for Easter celebrations in communities and households across the diocese this morning.

Mon 5

Monday of
Easter Week

Coventry St Mary Magdalen. Clergy: Interregnum. We thank God for our ministry during COVID - including the Chapelfields Community Fund, Bunting for Hope and the Chapelfields Icon. Please pray for God's blessing on the mission and ministry of this parish during the interregnum, and our work as an official Inclusive Church and Visible Congregation.

Tue 6

Tuesday of
Easter Week

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.

Wed 7

Wednesday of
Easter Week

Today is World Health Day, and the slogan for 2021 is "Building a fairer, healthier world". As COVID-19 has highlighted, some people are able to live healthier lives and have better access to health services than others - entirely due to the conditions in which they are born, grow, live, work and age. We pray for greater equality in healthcare.

Thu 8

Thursday of
Easter Week

Finham St Martin. Clergy: Matt Taylor, Abby Rhodes. Reader: Andrew Barclay. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members. We thank God for all headteachers in our diocese as they work to support their staff, pupils and vulnerable families during the pandemic. We pray that God gives them wisdom and comfort during this time.

Fri 9

Friday of Easter
Week

We pray for hospital and hospice chaplains in our diocese; Ricarda Witcombe, Martin Hammond, Nell Cockell, Rosemary Pantling, Sue Miles, Simon Betteridge, Steve Tash, Liz Jones, Sharon Crofts and Simon Moul. *Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lutheran Pastor, Martyr, 1945

Sat 10

Saturday of
Easter Week

Fletchamstead. Clergy: Steve Burch. Readers: Helen Kearney, Tim Pollard, Anne Lancaster. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community. *William Law, Priest, Spiritual Writer, 1761 *William of Ockham, Friar, Philosopher, Teacher of the Faith, 1347

Sun 11

Second Sunday
of Easter

April is International Caesarean Awareness Month. One in four babies born in the UK is delivered by a caesarean section. Caesareans can be life-saving interventions for women and babies when complications occur. We pray for the medical teams who carry out caesareans and we pray for healing for women who have caesareans.

Mon 12

This week is Parkinson's Awareness Week. As there is no cure for Parkinson's, this is an annual opportunity to raise awareness and much needed funds to support people with living with the condition, to improve quality of life and to ensure that people live better for longer. We pray that this week is effective. We pray for the Diocesan Audit Committee which meets today.

Tue 13

We pray for all those working from home and those going back into their workplaces as they find new patterns, routines and ways of connecting with colleagues. We pray for families juggling the demands of working, looking after children and caring for elderly relatives.

Wed 14

Allesley Park and Whoberley. Clergy: Andy March, Carolyn Powell. Reader: Nic Thorpe. We thank God for good engagement with online worship throughout the pandemic and for mutual support from those within church family. Please pray for God's guidance as we recover from pandemic and return to in-person community.

Thu 15

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

Fri 16 We pray for prison chaplains in our diocese; Sarah Gillard-Faulkner, Rosemary Lowdon, David Spademan, Peter Ireson and Kate Hitchcox. We pray that God gives them strength and wisdom in their work.
*Isabella Gilmore, Deaconess, 1923

Sat 17 We give thanks for all those who make music in the Cathedral. We pray for new ways for the Cathedral to make connections with the choir families. We pray for the Bishop's Council which meets today.

Sun 18 Cheylesmore. Clergy: Arthur Woo. Readers: John Scattergood, Tony Price. We are thankful for good online engagement through the pandemic. Please pray we can restart youth ministries and services, and pray as we begin thinking about a large renovation project.
Third Sunday of Easter

Mon 19 We pray for all who work at the Diocesan Office. We pray for God's guidance as they seek to serve and equip the whole of the Diocese of Coventry.
*Alphege, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr, 1012

Tue 20 Eastern Green. Clergy: Phil Richardson, Lynnette Clarke. Readers: Sue Masters, Lesley Lee. We thank God for Greg and Fran's 16 year Ministry and the rich legacy they have left behind. Please pray for our churchwardens and all our church family, as we engage in the process of finding a new vicar, and continue to maintain community outreach.

Wed 21 April is Stress Awareness Month, when health care professionals and experts seek to increase public awareness about both the causes and cures for the problem of stress. We pray for all those affected by stress at this time and for those who seek to support them.
*Anselm, Abbot of Le Bec, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1109

Thu 22 Tile Hill. Clergy: Interregnum. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community. We pray for the Diocesan Mission Fund Committee which meets today.

Fri 23 Earlsdon. Clergy: Tulo Raistrick. We thank God for the way that church members have supported one another through phone calls and pastoral help during the last year, as well as sharing in our online services. Please pray for our various groups as they seek to re-build post-COVID, especially our young family services, Prayers and Bears, and Buzz at St B's.
George, Patron of England

Sat 24 This week is MS Awareness Week. We pray for the Multiple Sclerosis Trust, who are working with health professionals across the UK to develop ways of helping MS teams deliver the best possible care to everyone affected by MS.
*Mellitus, Bishop of London, first Bishop at St Paul's, 624

Sun 25 St James Styvechale. Clergy: Josh Maynard. Reader: Barbara Carr. We thank God for the way people have engaged with church enthusiastically over the past year. Please pray for our Church community as we engage with our 'Set Free' Vision focus that individuals, the church and the wider community would know Christ's freedom.
Mark the Evangelist

Mon 26 At this time of renewal we thank God for all that he gives us, particularly for creation, which continues to sustain and delight us. We give thanks for the colours, sights, smells and sounds of spring, for the song of birds, the call of lambs in the fields, new growth emerging from the earth and everything that means new life, we thank you Lord.

Tue 27 April is Bowel Cancer Awareness month. We pray for all those affected by bowel cancer, the medical professionals who care for them, and for all those who are carrying out research, looking for better treatments..
*Christina Rossetti, Poet, 1894

Wed 28 Westwood, Bridge Benefice. Clergy: David Hammond, Sarah Ashelby, Ann Peachy. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community. We pray for the Diocesan Finance Group which meets this morning.
*Peter Chanel, Missionary in the South Pacific, Martyr, 1841

Thu 29 Canley, Bridge Benefice. Clergy: Sarah Ashelby, David Hammond. We thank God for new people joining us via online worship and for closer connections with those in need in our area through the pandemic response. Please pray for us as we develop wider mission and deeper discipleship to children and young people in our local area.

Fri 30 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.
*Pandita Mary Ramabai, Translator of the Scriptures, 1922

New Message Bus to be based in Warwick

Work has begun on a double decker bus to turn it into a Message Bus for the young people of Warwick and the surrounding areas.

Message Buses are part of The Message, a UK Christian charity that delivers work in schools, creates Christian youth resources and supports local churches with mission and evangelism training. Message Buses are state of the art mobile youth centres that work across the UK. This new bus will be the first Message Bus in the Midlands.



Together for Change obtained funding through the Warwick Churches Team and King Henry 8th Trust, to give a grant to the Message Trust which has enabled the Message Bus to be commissioned. The bus will be based in Warwick and used to support young people in that area, but it can also be hired out across the diocese when it is free, with the main objective being to launch new Christian youth groups and support existing youth groups and schools work. The bus can accommodate up to 30 young people from a classroom - giving ample space for learning.

The bus is currently being stripped out and prepared for the installation of state of the art technologies including; Xboxes, karaoke machines, plasma screens, iPads and also a kitchen that will serve hot food. There will also be an outdoor space with seating, outdoor plasma screens, a parasol and food hatch.

A full time Youth Evangelist/Bus Manager has also been funded to enable the bus to run and deliver quality youth provision. This person will be responsible for raising volunteers and additional bus drivers who can facilitate the vision of the bus youth ministry.

CEO of Together for Change, Jet Jones says;

"The Message Trust have a long history of working with the most disadvantaged young people and engaging them with exciting presentations on the gospel of Jesus and we are looking forward to partnering with them. Watch this space for more updates on this exciting project!"

Everyday Faith



We have all been placed in a unique context at a specific time with people that matter to God. Everyday Faith seeks to explore how we can live as God's people and positively influence those around us as we encounter God in our everyday lives. The Serving Christ team are excited to host a series of workshops to equip and encourage you to live out your faith seven days a week.

The first three events will take place online via zoom. Register at coventry.anglican.org/everyday-faith/

Everyday Faith: Resourcing the Church

How can your church inspire everyday faith? This workshop will give you tools and ideas to empower those in your church to live out their faith each day, in their home, work, rest and play. We encourage you to come with one or two others from your church where possible so you can share ideas and support one another's plans going forwards. Saturday 24 April, 10:00am-12:15pm

Everyday Faith: Conversations

For many of us, we rarely talk about our relationship with God and the challenges and joys of living out our faith, even with other Christians! We may share the struggles and joys of life with friends and families but can stop one step short of exploring how God might be working in a situation and praying together. In this session we will explore ways to inspire and encourage one another's faith through conversations at home, with friends, in our workplaces and in church.

Monday 24 May, 7:30-9:00pm

Everyday Faith: Stay On Point

Keeping your eyes fixed on Jesus in the world of email and Netflix can be a challenge. This workshop explores how we can do this.

Monday 14 June, 7:30-9:00pm