



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH PRAYER DIARY – OCTOBER 2018

Having recently introduced two sets of friends, staying with me, into our church services, we can take pleasure in their comments about the friendly welcome received. Both enjoyed the services and seeing how we “do things”. Delighted we can be but not complacent. We know that we have work to do in making our church attractive to young families in our parish especially as the numbers are growing. We need yet more of that spirit underpinning last month's magnificent achievement by those who took part in the 'Ride and Stride' event. Several slots this month are devoted to us asking for our Lord's help in planning for the future with our existing organisations and possibly others particularly with youngsters and young families. We want our Church to thrive and prosper. We love it as it is, but our beliefs should tell us that we need to be open to other ways of “doing things”. However, the compliments about our friendliness represent a very good start.

As we are praying for some kind of revelation in making the church attractive to young families and youngsters, if you have not already been to visit the “Book of Revelation” Exhibition at Guildford Cathedral, you should go. It is still open until 13th October. Not only does this magnificent Cathedral give a sense of a church loved by all its community, exciting in its own right, but this exhibition of tapestries drafted out of glorious silks depicting the Book of Revelation, by a lady experiencing the sadness and grief of bereavement is revealing too. Dramatic changes in life can bring about unexpected talents and experiences enriching life still more. We should never allow ourselves to be discouraged.

Monday 1st October. The Beatitude course begins at 8.00pm in the Church hall.
May God grant fresh insights into these familiar words given to us by our Lord from the mountain to guide our Christian lives.

Tuesday 2nd October. Join in the service of Women's World Day of Prayer at 7.30pm and the Ecumenical Service of the Mothers' Union.
We pray that The Communications Group Meeting tonight will produce ideas to further promote our church as an attractive place to visit.

Wednesday 3rd October. Pray for the young people of our parish and diocese. May further inspiration and encouragement be given to the leaders of our youth organisations; Minus Fives, The Net, Pathfinders, Hope Zone, JAC, and the Cubs, Brownies, Scouts and Guides Groups.

Thursday 4th October. As our young people settle down into their new schools, colleges, universities or into the world of work, may they receive the Lord's blessing. Give them happiness and contentment, pride in their work and learning and an awareness of God's grace.

Friday 5th October. We ask most particularly for help and inspiration in making our church important and attractive to all our parish. May the young families moving into their new houses find St. John's warm and welcoming and feel that they want to belong.
Prayers for Sick at 6.00pm in the Lady Chapel.

Saturday 6th October. A day to give thanks for the food which God gives us each year, our farmers and agriculturists
Our thanks to the organisers of Messy Church and to the members of the Mothers' Union supplying the lunch to the youngsters. May those who attend enjoy it and glean through these efforts an awareness of God's generosity.
The adults who sit down at 7.30pm to the delicious Harvest Supper will be very appreciative and well fed!

Sunday 7th October. Our thanks to the organisers and supporters of the Food Bank. Still, we ask Lord, that it should become unnecessary.
May gratitude and happiness pervade our Harvest Festival Service.
Please pray for the residents of Church Road East and Albert Walk. **(See prayer at the end).**

Monday 8th October. The Beatitudes Course continues.

Tuesday 9th October. At 7.30pm the House Group meets at Oak Lodge.

Wednesday 10th October. May yet further inspiration inform the meeting of the Pastoral Visiting Group.
The Mothers' Union meets at 2.00pm to hear Nigel Turner talking on the subject of Wellington College lakes.

Thursday 11th October. The Ladies of Finchampstead Church are looking forward to welcoming us to an afternoon tea on the theme of World War II.
This is the day allotted to Philip, one of seven Greek speaking followers, 'full of Spirit and Wisdom', chosen to distribute food to Greek widows. In Samaria he prepared the way for Peter and John who preached and baptised. He baptised the Ethiopian official having explained the significance of the prophet Isaiah, demonstrating throughout his life in different ways that Christ is for us all.

Friday 12th October. We celebrate the lives of two remarkable women; Elizabeth Fry famous for her work for prison reform and creating night shelters for the homeless; Edith Cavell, a nurse whose Christian faith compelled her to treat the wounded on both sides in World War I. She did

smuggle British soldiers back from Belgium to Holland for which she was shot, unrepentant, convinced that she had been doing her Christian duty.

Prayers for Sick at 6.00pm in the Lady Chapel. Join in spirit with your prayers, if not in body.

Saturday 13th October. We celebrate the memory of Edward the Confessor 1042-1066. A true Christian Saxon King who balanced diplomacy with the stronger characters he had to encounter both home and abroad – a leader we could use today. His remains, formerly buried in the monastery he founded dedicated, to St. Peter on Thorney Island by the river Thames, were transported in 1162 to Westminster Abbey.

Sunday 14th October. We pray for the residents and families of Kings Road and Emerson Court. **(See prayer at the end).**

The baptism of Graham Luther; we pray for a joyful occasion to mark his welcome into our church fellowship and the Christian faith.

Monday 15th October. The Mothers' Union monthly Prayer Meeting at 10.00am

The third Beatitude Meeting at 8.00pm.

We ask that all who attend these meetings will feel comforted by this fresh look at our faith and practice.

Wednesday 17th October. The usual Wednesday morning Communion Service is a corporate communion with the Mothers' Union.

May the meeting of the Governing Body of the C of E School feel inspired by God's grace to deal with the school's business at this difficult time. We pray for the return to good health of the school's headmistress.

Thursday 18th October. On this day as we remember Christ's disciple and author of one book in the Bible, the former doctor Luke. Let us also remember and give thanks for all those involved in our area with our health; our doctors, nurses, care workers, care homes, hospitals and hospices.

Friday 19th October. We pray today for all those who work so hard in our Church office, producing all the various documents, prayer guides and monthly news.

Prayers for Sick at 6.00pm in the Lady Chapel. Remember all the sick and frail in your prayers.

Sunday 21st October 10.00am Communion will take the form of Café Eucharist.

Pray for the residents and families of Fosseyway, Leaside, and The Rise. **(See prayer at the end).**

Monday 22nd October. Pray for all those who help with our Sunday Services to bring a sense of community; our welcome team, sidesmen, the acolytes, servers, readers and leaders of intercessions.

Tuesday 23rd October. The House Group meets at Oak Lodge this evening.

Today commemorates James the brother of Jesus, the first Bishop of Jerusalem. He was included among those who witnessed our Lord's ascension. He is regarded as the leader of the Jewish community when the church expanded to include the Gentiles. Sadly, having brought many to Christ, he was, it is believed, stoned to death.

Wednesday 24th October. Give thanks for those responsible for the maintenance of our church; its treasurer, the Stewardship Committee, the Standing Committee, those involved in any reparation work, spring cleaning or gardening.

Thursday 25th October. We remember Crispin and Crispinian, shoemakers who preached the Christian faith in Gaul, executed by the Romans. Cited as examples of ordinary men able to influence others to the faith.

Friday 26th October. Another early King, Alfred the Great (849 – 899) who as leader in his country could be an example to our current politicians. He conquered the Viking invaders, established religious houses as centres for learning, for care of the sick, the poor and travellers. A learned man himself, he translated books into English, established a legal code based on compassionate Christian values.

Prayers for Sick at 6.00pm in the vestry or Lady Chapel.

Saturday 27th October. A day set aside for Simon, 'The Zealot', who fought against the Roman occupation before becoming one of the apostles.

A day on which we remember Jude, the brother of James. Often ignored, perhaps because of the similarity of name with Judas Iscariot.. He could be, however, a very popular saint as he is the saint of lost causes.

Sunday 28th October. We pray for the residents and relatives of Carlisle Court. **(See prayer at the end).**

Monday 29th October. A meeting of the Stewardship Committee concerned importantly with our finances. Our thoughts are with them.

Tuesday 30th October. We pray for those concerned with the beautiful appearance of the church; its cleaners, its flower arrangers, those that care for the linen and vestments; the friendly greeting by the welcome team and the tea/coffee refreshment team.

Wednesday 31st October. Finally, we pray for our choir, its leader and our organist, for all of whom we remain utterly grateful and thankful. It would be very much a lifeless, soulless building without their efforts.

Also, in this context, we pray for the Social Committee who put in so much hard work every year, building up a sense of fun and community.

A Prayer of Thanks

We thank you Lord, that included in the special days set aside this month there is such a variety of Christian people who inspired by their faith showed in their everyday deeds and actions, strength, courage and a sense of what was right. There are Kings, Saints, wealthy and ordinary people, educated and uneducated, who dedicated their lives exercising bravery, self-sacrifice, compassion and justice – all in your name. Amen

A Prayer for Streets

Lord, we ask your blessing on all those people living in Church Road East, Albert Walk, Kings Road, Emerson Court, Fosseyway, Leaside, The Rise and Carlisle Court.

Be with any who may be experiencing sadness, anxiety, grief or any other kind of adversity. Support them and any among their family and friends who may be suffering. May they find comfort that a belief in you can give. Amen.

A Prayer for Harvest
Bread of Tomorrow

What do you bring to Christ's table?

We bring bread,
made by many people's work,
from an unjust world
where some have plenty
and most go hungry.

At this table all are fed,
and no-one turned away.
Thanks be to God.

What do you bring to Christ's table?

We bring wine,
made by many people's work,
from an unjust world
where some have leisure
and most struggle to survive.

At this table all share the cup
of pain and celebration,
and no-one is denied.
Thanks be to God.

These gifts shall be for us
the body and blood of Christ.
Our witness against hunger,
our cry against injustice,
and our hope for a world
where God is fully known
and every child is fed.
Thanks be to God.

Brian Wren
From a Eucharistic prayer, Wendy Robins
Ed. 'Let All The World' (USPG 1990)
Corinthians 11. 17-19

**A Prayer for Freedom, Peace and Harmony Among the Nations and an end
to Power Politics.**

To you, Creator of nature and humanity,
of truth and beauty, I pray.
Hear my voice, for it is the voice of the victims of all wars,
and violence among individuals and nations.
Hear my voice, for it is the voice of all children who suffer and will suffer
when people put their faith in weapons and war.
Hear my voice, for it is the voice of those who suffer
poverty, hunger and hardship
and will suffer, while governments think only of money and power.
Hear my voice when I beg you to instil into the hearts of all
human beings, the wisdom of peace, the strength of justice,
and the joy of fellowship.
O God, hear my voice, and grant unto the world your everlasting peace.

A Prayer for our Church and its Future

**Heavenly Father, we ask that you will help us to
share the responsibility and guide us in ways to grow in faith,
love one another,
care for those in need,
reach out to the young and their families,
making your message attractive to them,
so that all newcomers can wish to join us.**

Amen.



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