



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH PRAYER DIARY – NOVEMBER 2018

A month with some significant dates for our Christian church and for our nation which we ought to remember always. We begin with the first two days of the month; All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day both are often ignored in the mad rush of our contemporary world. As Christians we are indebted to those disciples and many martyrs since Jesus was among us who have given their lives as witnesses to the faith. We remember them in our prayers on this the first of November. On the second day of the month, officially All Souls' Day, all the faithful, both the living and the departed are bound together in love and prayer.

Later, on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, we remember all these who are prepared to sacrifice their lives, not only in World War I and World War II but also in its subsequent wars in the service of their country and for peace.

Thursday 1st November. All Saints' Day. The choir, well augmented, begin practising for the much-loved Christmas service of nine lessons and carols. In thanking them for their contribution we wish them the joy that they give us. **(See prayer at end)**

Friday 2nd November. All Souls' Day. Our regular short service in the vestry for prayers for the sick and suffering and any in need of healing and wholeness.

Saturday 3rd November. You are asked to bring to church tomorrow any shoe boxes filled for either young or old or any items that could be added to make up a box for "Link to Hope".

Sunday 4th November. Our service of remembrance of All Saints' Day in the morning. During the morning service we will pray for the residents of the High Street, for their families and for any dear to them experiencing difficulties of any kind, poor health or struggling with loss of faith. **(See prayer at end).**

In the evening a special service to remember our loved ones no longer with us. We light our candle in memory of each one.

Monday 5th November. Bonfire Night. An evening of fun for our Pathfinders in the Vicarage garden, thanks to Lisa and Mike.

Tuesday 6th November. The Mothers' Union meet at 7.30pm to hear Ruth Nobbs talking about "The Charge of the Light Brigade".

This evening will be the first of three sessions devoted to a course hosted by St. Sebastian's Church with St. John's in attendance on Prayer Ministry.

The Oak Lodge house group meets at 7.30pm

Wednesday 7th November. Yesterday was the date assigned to remember a former Arch Bishop of Canterbury, William Temple, who died in 1944 after having contributed through faith and

concern for social issues of the time to the debate which lead to the creation of state welfare provision of World War II.

Thursday 8th November. We ask for God's blessing on our current Arch Bishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, and the Arch Bishop of York, John Sentamu for their concern for the poor and oppressed both here and abroad.

Friday 9th November. We ask God to bless and guide our own clergy ministry leaders throughout this busy season. We thank Lisa, David, our lay ministers, Lewis, Gillian, Hazel and Carol at the start of her training.

Join your prayers with the group meeting tonight for Prayers for the Sick at 6.00pm

Saturday 10th November. We pray for all those helping with the arrangements for the Sunday services – our Church Wardens, the Welcome Team, the Sidesmen, Servers, Acolytes, Sacristans, and all contributing members of our congregation and community.

Sunday 11th November. Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday.

A service and parade in the morning, there will be a special peace Eucharist in the evening when we can offer our prayers for peace and an end, across the world, of strife, warfare and hostilities **(See prayer at end).**

Monday 12th November. May faith and unity of purpose bless the CTC meeting at the Methodist Church in the evening at 8.00pm.

Tuesday 13th November. The second meeting of the Prayer Ministry Course hosted at St. Sebastian's Church.

Wednesday 14th November. The Mothers' Union corporate communion at 10.00am in the Lady Chapel.

At the 2.00pm meeting of The Mothers' Union Nikki Bevan will present a talk on "Fashion" May the Standing Committee at their evening meeting find inspiration in their discussions.

Thursday 15th November. We pray for our visiting team, who in their free time, call on any needing comfort and reassurance in their sickness or adversity.

Friday 16th November. Margaret of Scotland. Although born into the Anglo-Saxon royal house of England, Margaret's family moved to Hungary while Danish kings reigned. She returned to England when the Normans invaded. Still perceived as a threat to the monarchy she fled to welcome safety in Scotland. In 1069 she married Malcolm III. She was a constant civilising and holy presence, instituting reforms and building churches and monasteries.

At prayers for the sick, health and wholeness will be asked for those in need.

Sunday 18th November. The Second Sunday before Advent.

We ask you to keep our thoughts and prayers centred on the true spirit of Christmas as the preparations for the festival heat up.

We ask Him to help any who may be struggling with faith. May the light of Christ be with us all.

We pray for the residents of Addiscombe Road, Blake Court and Old Pharmacy Court. **(See prayer at end)**

Monday 19th November. At 9.30am The Mothers' Union meets for prayers in the Lady Chapel or vestry.

In this month, Hilda of Whitby died. She had built the monastery, a famous seat of learning which was to become the meeting place for the Synod of Whitby, where it was decided to adopt the Roman tradition rather than the Celtic for worship. She played a crucial role in reconciliation.

Tuesday 20th November. The third and last meeting at St. Sebastian's of the Prayer Missionary Course.

The house group meets this evening at 7.30pm at Oak Lodge.

Wednesday 21st November. We thank God for the hard work regularly put in by those who work in the church office. They prepare St. John's News, print the relevant service booklets, the weekly pew sheets and many other tasks. Thanks to Sarah for taking on the task of writing up the pew sheets. We pray that other volunteers will come forward to lighten the load. Thanks to Ken for the website and Anne Pelham who keeps the library well organised and leads the Reading Group.

Thursday 22nd November. Grateful thanks to the two Annes, Mohan and Pelham, who keep the Fair Trade stall running.

Thanks too, to the organisers, drivers and supporters of the Food Bank, much appreciated by the needy would it were not so.

Friday 23rd November. We look to our youngsters in the future to keep our church the flourishing witness to Christ that it is now; The Net and the crèche, the Wednesday Minus Fives and the Pathfinders.

We look to the youngsters who attend Hope Zone drop in café and Zone Six will recognise in the helpers there the value of the Church.

Prayers for the Sick - Meeting at 6.00pm in the Lady Chapel.

Saturday 24th November. We give thanks for the leaders of the missions we support, listed below.

Sunday 25th November. Missions Sunday/Christ the King. The preacher, Neil Graham of 'Embrace' will speak at both services. This is the charity that supports Palestinians in Israel (**See prayer at end**).

Please pray for the residents, families and friends where there is need in The Avenue and Aldworth Gardens.

Monday 26th November. Flushed with the success of their last Messy Church, the committee and helpers, meet to discuss future plans.

Tuesday 27th November. We pray for the old people in our care homes, the residents of Nugee Court and Oak Lodge and those in the sheltered accommodation residences opening in our community. We pray for all those who work with and for the aging people in our parish, the staff and helpers at COATS and the shop, the minibus drivers and the Good Neighbours team. Our thanks to all the medics and carers. By the grace of God we have many to thank.

Wednesday 28th November. May inspiration continue to bring imaginative ideas to the teachers of the NET each Sunday. They meet to decide on future plans..

Thursday 29th November. A prayer for all our local schools after a busy term who will soon be planning for Christmas. God Bless all and may the true significance of Christ's birth be with them as the time approaches.

Friday 30th November. Andrew became the patron saint of Scotland because of the legend that his relics were brought there in the eighth century. He remained faithful to his Lord right up to his martyrdom on the X shaped cross. We trust that, despite differences and challenges, there will be continued harmony between England and Scotland.

Prayers for sick at 6.00pm in the Lady Chapel.

A Prayer of All Saints' Day

O Lord, grant that in following the example of your Saints we may live wholly and Godly lives, and inspired by their witness may steadfastly dedicate ourselves to serve you and live to your glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God world without end.

Lord fill our lives with
the alleluias of angels,
the hosannas of heaven,
and the sanctity of the saints.

and for All Souls' Day

We give thanks to all who have witnessed
to your love even to death.
We pray for all who have died for their faith in you
and we remember the holy martyrs.
We ask your blessing upon our loved ones departed from us.
May we share with them in the joys of your eternal kingdom.

David Adam

Remembrance Sunday

May the memory of two world wars strengthen our efforts for peace.
May the memory of those who died inspire our service to the living,
May the knowledge of all the destruction in so many wars since
And the suffering of so many soldiers, young and old innocent civilians,
May these memories and that knowledge move us all to build for the future,
O God of peace,
O Father of souls,
O Builder of the Kingdom of Souls.

An adaptation of George Appleton.

The Prayer of Saint Francis.

Lord, make us instruments of thy peace.
Where there is hatred, let us sow love.
Where there is injury, pardon,
Where there is discord, union,
Where there is doubt, faith,
Where there is despair, hope,
Where there is darkness, light,
Where there is sadness, joy,
For thy mercy and for thy truth's sake.

A Prayer by Palestinian Women, Jerusalem.

From the land of The Resurrection and the cradle of the promise of salvation to all womenkind through Jesus Christ our Lord, and with a candle of hope, we pray to you, God our Father, that the action of peace-seekers and peace-makers may bear fruit so that hope will take the place of despair, justice will prevail over oppression, peace will turn strife into love.

A Prayer for the Streets in our Parish as listed.

The High Street, Addiscombe Road, Blake Court, Old Pharmacy Court,
The Avenue and Alworth Gardens.

Lord, bless the people living in these streets as requested
be with any experiencing grief, sickness, anxiety or depression.
Support them and any member of their extended family or friends who may
be suffering.
Help any who find faith difficult. We pray that all can be brought to a point
where they can recognise the comfort of faith.

Missions our Church Support

Church Missionary Society;
The Church Army;
The Leprosy Mission;
Embrace the Middle East;
Corymeela Community;
Bible Society;
Children's Society;
Hope Zone and Zone 6 Drop-in Café;
Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service
JAC, a centre for disaffected youngsters

