



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH PRAYER DIARY – MAY 2019

This diary was drafted in the afternoon of our stirring Palm Sunday service which began with the procession of swaying palms. Memorable items followed: lovely solos by two choristers and an organ recital of "O Sacred Head". Our congregation responded vigorously when the dramatization of the Passion story was relayed, so sensitively compiled. No wonder new comers to the church spoke of their enjoyment and even more importantly of the warmth and friendliness of their welcome.

Wednesday 1st May. Wish Bishop Andrew and his wife a happy retirement. There will be a special service at Reading Minster to wish them both God's speed.

We celebrate the festival of the two original apostles, James and Philip. This James is often known as 'James the Less' and also perhaps 'James the Younger', whose mother witnessed the Crucifixion. Philip questioned Christ's capability to feed the five thousand and leads to Christ's farewell discourse at the last supper. The relics of both are buried in Rome in a church dedicated on that day.

Thursday 2nd May. We pray that despite the cynicism and apathy engendered by the lack of progress in the Brexit negotiations, all will exercise their right and vote in the forthcoming elections. We hope and pray that our elected representatives will be sincerely inspired to improve the ills and concerns that affect us currently.

Friday 3rd May. Henry Vaughan, doctor and poet who modelled his religious writing on the style of John Donne and George Herbert, was born in 1622. He fought in the Civil War as a Royalist, was captured, lost his beloved younger brother in the fighting, his dear wife, the execution of the King and saw the church he loved suppressed. He found comfort in the story of the passion and found light, hope and peace in the crucifixion.

"All things that be, praise Him, and had
Their lesson taught them when first made."

Join us in our Prayers for the Sick at 6.00pm in the Vestry

Sunday 5th May – Third Sunday after Easter.

We pray for the residents of Pinefields Close and Barracane Drive.

Monday 6th May.

Our May Fair.

**Lord bless all our endeavours as you have done in past years.
Whatever the weather (we hope and pray that it is fine) may our
Crowthorne residents turn out in force, enjoy the sense of
community and spend generously so that we can continue to support
all those deserving charities.
The many who have been working hard prior to the day deserve a
good result for all their efforts.**

Wednesday 8th May

At 2.00pm the Mothers' Union will hear Gloria Richards talking on the subject of 'Adopted for your own.'

On this day in 1373 Julian of Norwich experienced a series of visions revealing aspects of God's love. The next 20 years of her life were spent interpreting these visions. Her writings are much loved in their own right, not just because her first book was the first to be written in English by a woman.

The Standing Committee meets this evening. We wish them well in their deliberations.

Thursday 9th May. We pray for our schools, having returned after the Easter Break. We hope staff and pupils feel rested and able to settle into study. Senior school pupils will be very aware that important examinations are very near. We wish them every success and freedom from anxiety, their parents too!

Friday 10th May. We ask for God's blessing on our group that meets at 6.00pm that pray for the sick and seek good health and wellbeing on our families, friends and relations. Join with us praying for those whose names appear on the Prayer Board.

Sunday 12th May – Fourth Sunday after Easter.

We pray for the residents of South Meadow, their relatives and friends.

This Sunday is the start of Christian Aid Week with a service at St. James, Finchampstead. The importance of this week cannot be overstated. The shortage of people prepared to act as collectors grows and yet the need for aid has never been greater all over the world. It is not always an easy task – some might experience abuse, if not apathy. Not everyone is prepared to recognise the importance of this organisation in helping the poor and destitute and yet there are some encouraging smiles which makes the task bearable as does the knowledge that God is with us.

Tuesday 14 May. St. Matthais was chosen by lot rather than by voting, so that Judas Iscariot was replaced, bringing the number of Christ's apostles up to 12 so that they might 'sit on the thrones, judging the 12 tribes of Israel'.

Wednesday 15th May. The Book Club meets at 8.00pm in the Church Hall to discuss some of the women chosen by God, depicted in a work of fiction based on biblical stories entitled "Lineage of Grace" by Francine Rivers.

Leigh Welham will be sworn in as our new Church Warden at a visitation in Bray. She has our very good wishes in her new office.

Thursday 16th May. We give thanks for the leaders and helpers at all the organisations who look after our young people – The Minus Fives, The Net, Pathfinders, Hope Zone, Drop in Café and Zone Six.

Friday 17th May. We pray for all those concerned with the care of our health and wellbeing; the carers in our Nursing Homes, the staff at Broadmoor Hospital, our doctors, nurses and the medical staff at all the hospitals that serve our community, our own doctors, district nurses, chemists and ambulance teams and the COATS team.

In praying for the sick at 6.00pm in addition we will pray as ever for God's strength and support on all those who have the responsibility of care in their own homes.

Sunday 19th May. Before the 10.00am service there will be a Breakfast where 8 meet 10, always a pleasant occasion, prompting a sense of community.

We pray for the residents of Upper Broadmoor Road.

Tuesday 21st May. The House group meets at Oak Lodge at 7.30pm.

The newly formed PCC meets tonight at 8.00pm for their first meeting since the AGM. We wish them well in their new offices and pray God will inspire their thoughts and deliberations in the year ahead.

Wednesday 22nd May. The governing body of the C of E School meets this evening as do the CT at St. James, Finchampstead. Our prayers are with both groups.

Thursday 23rd May. We pray for those organisations who provide support for the less fortunate in these difficult times; the Food Bank, Fair Trade and the Bracknell Shelter. May God continue to encourage those leaders on our PCC responsible for the individual missions we support.

Friday 24th May. We remember John and Charles Wesley who were responsible for founding the Methodist Church and composing so many of the beautiful hymns we sing throughout the church's year.

Join your prayers with the group meeting at 6.00pm in the vestry for the sick.

Saturday 25th May. We remember The Venerable Bede who wrote a complete history of Christian England up to 729AD and commentaries on the bible.

Sunday 26th May. We commemorate the life of St. Augustine who re-evangelised the English Church on the instigation of Pope Gregory the Great. The Celtic way of worship conceded to the auspices of Rome at the Synod of Whitby. Augustine became our first Archbishop of Canterbury. We pray for the residents of Llangar Grove.

Monday 27th, Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th May are Rogation Days on which Christians pray for a fruitful harvest. With climate change and pollution this could take on a new importance in our lives.

Thursday 30th May Ascension Day. The day Christ required his followers to go out into the world to spread the good news.

We pray for our clergy and lay readers whose responsibility it is to lead our worship.

We also remember Josephine Butler, died 1906, who experienced much abuse in her struggle to improve women's education and to overcome the sexual exploitation of women and girls.

Let us pray that others will continue to fight for justice, not only throughout the world, but in our country too.

Friday 31st May. We close this month's diary thanking all those who contribute to the work of keeping our church the warm, welcoming place it is; the Welcome Team, the Servers and Acolytes, the cleaning team, the flower arrangers, the coffee team and those who maintain the churchyard and all the other organisations.

Monday 29 April. Adult Confirmation classes begin this evening.. We ask that the love of Christ will bless their studies and all find a true fellowship in studying his word.

A short pray for Jesus to watch over us all
(We include the residents of the street mentioned above.)

**Watch, O Lord, over us throughout the day,
Watch, O Lord, over us when we sleep tonight.
Tend our sick ones and rest our weary ones.
May we wake safely in the morning to start**

Each new day trusting in your love for us all.

A Prayer for the Success of our May Fair which helps the funds of the missions we support and Christian Aid.

Our Lord, we ask you to bless all those who work to help others. We thank you for their unselfish hard work and trust they achieve a rich reward for their efforts throughout the year.

The missions we 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

Make us worthy, Lord
To serve our fellow men
Throughout the world who live and die
In poverty or hunger.
Give them, through our hands,
This day our daily bread
And by our understanding love,
Give peace and joy.

Mother Teresa, Calcutta.

A prayer for Ascension Day

The Collect.

Grant, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that like as we do believe thy only begotten son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens; so we may also in heart and mind thither ascend, and with Him continually dwell, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

Amen

Our final prayer must be for the restoration of Notre Dame Cathedral, which has stood as a landmark on the Parisian horizon and a statement for Christianity for over 850 years. Christopher Wren's discovery when he began the reconstruction of St. Pauls must stand as a good omen. He found among the ruins a stone with the words "Resurgam" engraved – "Rise again". It became the cornerstone of the new St. Paul's – an echo of Christ's own elevation to the heavens.



Ascension