



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH PRAYER DIARY – SEPTEMBER 2019

Before moving into this month's events, it is pleasant to reflect on the events of significance with which we were blessed this August. The two memorable services – the heart-warming baptism of baby Jacob O'Hara with the address on the importance of faith, and the Café Eucharist based around the Lindisfarne saints Aidan and Cuthbert. We give thanks for the sterling efforts of those who worked on Friday afternoons, weather permitting at the Morgan Rec. activities. We can be grateful that our church was still alive and active during the holiday break – but we missed our choir despite the valiant efforts of the congregation! Our thanks to the various organists.

Sunday 1 September 11th Sunday after Trinity.

Giles of Provence founded a monastery on the pilgrimage route to Compostela and the Holy Land. He tended wounded and those crippled with disease. Subsequently churches built on the outskirts of towns to cater for lepers and outcasts of society were dedicated to Giles, now the patron saint of the sick.

We pray for all those who live in Lake End Way, Towers Drive and Greystoke Court. (See prayer at the end).

Monday 2 September

Meet and walk with Bishop Steven of Oxford on his parish pilgrimage, starting at St. George's, Owlsmoor, stopping at St. John's, then on to St. Sebastians, due to reach All Saints, Wokingham for Eucharist. Feel invited to join anywhere en route or at the service. It should encourage a wonderful spirit of Christian fellowship. Don't forget to pack sandwiches!

Wednesday 4 September.

The Minus Fives starts up again. God bless their meeting. Remember Cuthbert, inspired by an angelic vision, he left the fields where he guarded the sheep and trained to become a missionary. This consecrated abbot of Lindisfarne went around preaching the gospel, with periodic withdrawals to live as a hermit in the Farne Island where he died in 686, aged about 40 years.

Thursday 5 September.

May God bless those who organise all the other activities for our young people, the Net and Pathfinders each Sunday, and the helpers during the week at the Hope Zone Drop-in Café and Zone C. We thank all those volunteers helping our youngsters to grow up with the right values in a world of such conflicting views.

Friday 6 September.

Prayers for the sick meet in the Vestry at 6.00pm. May God's healing touch work through their prayers to bring health and wholeness of mind, soul and body to those for whom help is asked. May his strength and support be with those attending the prayer circle after the 10.00am service each Sunday.

Sunday 8 September. 12th Sunday after Trinity

Recognised as the day on which the Blessed Virgin Mary was born. She was a devoted mother and learnt always to be faithful and obedient to God's word. May we learn as she did to put our trust in God's word through prayer.

Pray for all who reside in Alderbrook Close, Barwell Close and Wood End. (See prayer at the end).

Monday 9 September is the beginning of our course to introduce us to Christian Spirituality. Lisa begins the series of 7 weekly talks starting at 8.00pm.

Tuesday 10 September.

Our thanks, particularly during this holiday period, to the drivers of the minibus both during the week to COATS and to Church on Sundays. A much valued service appreciated by those who benefit from it. We should not forget either the office staff who deal with so much paperwork each week

Wednesday 11 September.

The Mothers' Union starts again with Evensong at 2.00pm.

We pray for those meeting together for the service. We thank God for The Mothers' Union organisation seeking to support Christian family life which does so much for the underprivileged around the world and those experiencing difficulties in this country.

Thursday 12 September.

We pray for our nursing homes. May they continue to look after residents with patience, sympathy and understanding. It can be, at times, a trying occupation for the nursing staff. We pray for all who have the responsibility of home nursing the sick, the frail or those with limited capabilities.

Friday 13 September.

We pray for Lisa our vicar, David our curate, Gillian, Hazel, Lewis and Julia and trainee Carol as they prepare for the Sunday services and their duties throughout the following week.

May God's presence be felt by those attending the prayer meeting offering prayers for health and wholeness at 6.00 p.m.

Saturday 14 September

Holy Cross Day. The basilica on the site of the Holy Sepulchre was dedicated on this day. It commemorates the recovery of a cross found during excavations believed to be that on which Christ was crucified. The 'cross' rather than the 'fish' has become the symbol of Christianity.

Sunday 15 September. 13th Sunday after Trinity.

On this day Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, known for his compassion and insistence on the unity of the Church, refused to participate in pagan worship when persecuted by Valerian, the Roman ruler. May we learn his courage and take care that we remain faithful to our Christian brothers and sisters of all denominations.

Appropriately, the CTC service at St. John's meets this evening. The theme will be the environment.

Monday 16 September.

The Spirituality Course continues this evening. Hazel Berry will be talking on Eco Spirituality/St Francis. She is a LLM and a Franciscan Tertiary.

Tuesday 17 September.

By now our schools will have settled down into their new term and academic year. We pray that all pupils will be enjoying the new challenges facing them in lessons planned by teachers anxious to encourage their learning with methods devised to meet their varied demands. May those settling into a new life at college or university find their new courses fulfilling.

Wednesday 18 September.

We pray that the happy combination of the Minus Fives play meeting and the coffee meeting after The Mothers' Union Corporate Communion starting at 10.00am will continue to be a rewarding experience for all. **May God bless them all.**

Thursday 19 September.

We pray for the hard-working staff of our local hospitals: Frimley, Royal Berks, Heatherwood and Broadmoor. We ask for God's blessing on the doctors, surgeons, anaesthetists, radiologists, therapists and all paramedics.

Friday 20 September.

We pray for all those who service our community: police and fire services; our shopkeepers who bring personality to our village and those in local government who must be frustrated when so much is limited by central government; the producers and deliverers of our Crowthorne Eye Prayers for health and wholeness at 6.00 p.m.

Saturday 21 September.

The writer of the gospel in the New Testament, St. Matthew, is celebrated on this day. Despite his profession as a tax collector for the Romans, he was accepted utterly by Christ as a friend. Christ through this friendship shows his message that no one is excluded from Christian fellowship.

Sunday 22 September. 14th Sunday after Trinity.

We are asked to pray for the residents, relatives and friends of Lower Dukes Ride, Ruskin Court and Victoria Place. (See prayer at the end).

Monday 23 September. Julia will be leading this evening's lecture as part of the autumn course on Benedictine Spirituality/Lectio Divina.

Tuesday 24 September. On this evening the P.C.C. meet for the first time since the summer break.

Wednesday 25 September. The Deanery Synod meets this evening.

It is also the festival of Sergei of Radonezh, the patron saint of Russia. He founded 40 monasteries and was renowned for bringing an end to civil wars by persuading participants to share discussion on topics at issue. A lesson for all.

Thursday 26 September.

On this day in 1942 the founder of the Church Army, Wilson Carlisle, died. As a curate he recognised the importance of establishing contact between the Church and the working classes. The Army is one of the charities St. John's supports. We know that we have been able to assist some of the poorer people in the Peckham area of London with our Christmas tree gifts.

Friday 27 September.

We give thanks for the many people, in our congregation, who offer their various talents so generously: the cleaners and flower arrangers, workers in the office, the sacristans, servers and acolytes, those who help with finances, looking after the fabric of the church, serve on committees, tend the grave yard so assiduously, attend to the sound system, the library and the Fair Trade stall, singers in the choir and members of the welcome teams who warmly greet us and serve us with tea or coffee after meetings or services. So many – we are truly blessed.

The prayers for health and wholeness this evening at 6.00pm.

Saturday 28 September.

Another opportunity for fun for youngsters (and parents too!) at Messy Church with harvest as the theme – craft stalls, short service followed by a light lunch.

Sunday 29 September. 15th Sunday after Trinity.

Harvest Festival when we give thanks for our good fortune in still being able to enjoy good food despite the uncertainty of the weather and when there are so many, in different parts of the world, who go hungry.

The Feast of St. Michael and All Angels. St. Michael is generally regarded as the protector of all Christian souls, particularly at the hour of death. His festival is kept throughout the western world.

We pray for the residents of Heath Hill Road and Lily Court. (See prayer at the end).

Monday 30 September.

The fourth of the 'spiritual' lectures led by Lisa on the subject of 'Ignatian spirituality'/Imaginative Contemplation.

Prayers of thanks for the Saints and Martyrs.

This month we learn of the festivals and lives of saints and martyrs who showed us ways in which we might be better Christians.

Matthew abandoned the life of acquisition of riches, Cuthbert, influenced by a vision, became a shepherd of people rather than sheep; Cyprian of Carthage clung to his faith rather than worship with pagans, as did the twentieth century martyrs of Papua New Guinea. Humility and obedience are the qualities they share with the Blessed Virgin Mary who ignored the criticism which must assuredly stigmatised the early days of her pregnancy. May their example help us to live fuller, richer lives in God's service.

Two Prayers for Harvest

May God
who clothes
and feeds the birds of the sky,
who leads the lambs to pasture
and the deer to water,
who multiplied loaves and fishes,
and changed water into wine,
 lead us,
 feed us,
 multiply us,
 and change us,
 until we reflect
the glory of our creator
throughout all eternity.

Ray Simpson

Teach us Lord,
that the skills and ingenuity you
have given humankind,
can either sustain your creation or
destroy it.
Remind us that the fate of the
planet is in our hands,
each of having a part to play.
Help us faithfully to do our bit and
grant that others may do the same.

Nick Fawcett

Praying for Streets

Lord, we ask you to bless the residents of the streets in our parish for whom are asked this month.

Bless their friends, relations and all whom they hold most dear.

Strengthen them in trouble or need,
ease the suffering of the sick,

comfort the dying or any who know the pain of bereavement.

May all learn to put their faith and trust in you and find strength.

Amen.

A Prayer for our Missions

Remembering particularly, this month, the Church Army, give grace and wisdom to all workers in the missions we support. Help them to feel and bring help to those in difficult situations. We ask you to bless not only those working daily in places of such need but their representatives striving to raise money here in our Church:-

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
JAC, a centre for disaffected youngsters

A Prayer for Peace

The holiday time gave space
to recuperate and to reassess.
In praying for peace
we ask for peace of heart,
peace among the nations,
peace in our communities.
May our young people, here and abroad,
and starting in the world of work
make good their renewed energy,
helping them to face the rigours, possible opposition,
and tedium of the tasks they face.

Lord, you have given us Thy Word for a light to shine
upon our faith,
grant us to meditate on the Word and follow its teaching,
that we may find in it the light that shines more, and more
and more until the perfect day;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

