

## May Prayer Diary

‘The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake’ Psalm 23:1-3

*Pray to the Father through the Son in the power of the Spirit for:*

**SATURDAY 1** Our link Diocese of Nandyal, India: for the diocese and its leaders, and for the mission and ministry of all Christians in India as they seek to live the gospel. For the ministries of education and healing in the diocese, especially for the educational institutions the diocese itself runs and St Werburgh’s Mission Hospital in Nandyal.

**MONDAY 3** Cippenham: Angeline Ruredzo. Pray that COVID-19 infection cases in the community come down. For our elderly to continue getting the assistance they need. For the legion of volunteers to stay strong and encouraged in the fantastic work they are doing. For the church to be a beacon in our area.

**TUESDAY 4** Burnham: Janet Minkkinen, Samson Kuponiyi, Sue Smith, Ian Fordyce and Barry Marsden. For our relationship with St Peter’s CE Primary School and for the foundation governors and the vacancies that need to be filled. For working towards our Silver Eco Church and our ongoing work with Inclusive Church.

**WEDNESDAY 5** Iver: Robert Gooding, Jim Daspher. For those who live on their own who are not interacting with other people. For the wellbeing of those suffering loneliness. For confidence to start to mix in small groups again. For congregations to return to church when we are open again and the time is right. For those who have joined the online services and the way ahead for our services.

**THURSDAY 6** Wexham: Andrew Parry, Jill Bell, Chris Collinge, Gordon Briggs. That we may, through community and faithful ritual, help people to find in Jesus Christ meaning in life; and their particular purpose within that meaning. For all leaders, ordained and lay, who feel enervated after this last year.

**FRIDAY 7** Iver Heath: Andrew Montgomerie. For a successful and joyful return to in-church worship at Pentecost. For the refurbishment of our Church Centre, to be completed by June.

**SATURDAY 8** Slough Deaf Church: Vera Hunt. For our church and their club, who will probably not be able to meet until July when lockdown eases further.

**MONDAY 10** Cowley Deanery: Geoff Bayliss, Tony Phelan, Trevor Jones. For opportunities to work collaboratively as we build the kingdom of God. For those elected at Deanery Synod. For the developing chaplaincy plans for The Oxford Academy.

**TUESDAY 11** Cowley: Geoff Bayliss, Gemma Beesley, Mark Oxbrow, Alison Lockhart, Max Dias Butron. For God's guiding hand as we rediscover what the 'new normal' will be. For the building project at St James' Church as we strive to become a resource better able to serve God's people and the community of Cowley. For the congregation of Grace Church as they work with their recently granted Bishops' Mission Order (BMO).

St Christopher's CE Primary School, St Francis CE Primary School, Church Cowley St James CE Primary School.

**WEDNESDAY 12** Headington St Andrew: Darren McFarland, Jennifer Strawbridge. For the plans for our 900th anniversary year in 2022. For the establishment of our Mary Garden as a pandemic memorial.

St Andrew's CE Primary School.

**THURSDAY 13** Headington Quarry: For the ministry team. For all who live in our parish as we recover from the pandemic. For our new children's Forest Church services, and our building redevelopment plans.

**FRIDAY 14** Headington St Mary: Eric Bossward, Ben Baker. For our two in-person services and monthly open-air services attracting newcomers and neighbours. For the ongoing support and fundraising for our building redevelopment plans which will transform our impact in the community.

**SATURDAY 15** Littlemore with Sandford-on-Thames: Margreet Armistead, Hannah Cartwright, Teresa Morgan, Robert Morgan, Benjamin Johnson, Ross Martin, Paddy Watson. For a Spirit-led opening to the wider community of the renewed building of St Mary and St Nicholas Church in Littlemore. For residents and staff at Vale House Dementia Centre, particularly for the new management team. The Oxford CE Academy, Lawn Upton CE Middle School, John Henry Newman CE Academy.

**MONDAY 17** Cowley St John: Phil Ritchie, Claire Browes. For the forthcoming ordinations to the priesthood taking place in June and for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we seek to discern a path for the parish coming out of lockdown.

St Mary and St John CE Primary School

**TUESDAY 18** Blackbird Leys: Heather Carter, Denise Morrey-Carter, Paul Bedford. For the final hurdle in our planning application. The Secretary of State has to rubber stamp the approval by 20 May. For our church community as we forge ahead with major fundraising needed to complete the project.

**WEDNESDAY 19** Highfield: James Larminie, Christine Tucker, Janet Marx. For the churchwardens as they lead the church through the last part of a long vacancy. For our recently appointed minister, the Revd Leon Catallo, and his family, as they prepare to join us in July.

**THURSDAY 20** Marston and Elsfield: Skye Denno, Andy Gosler, Neil Barker, David Cranston, Joel Denno, Geoff Hale. For Elsfield: motivation for the PCC and church family as we look to sharing peace in our community and being bridge-builders in offering spaces for prayer, creativity and hospitality. For Marston – for wisdom and guidance as we seek to be a loving community that lives out the Christ-like vision of an inside-out church and as we start our online Living in Love and Faith course in May/June.

**FRIDAY 21** Iffley: Andrew McKearney, Nikolaj Christensen, Graham Low, David Barton, Sarah McKearney. For the many couples trying to arrange their wedding in difficult circumstances. For those church groups that have found the last year particularly difficult, especially our bellringers, choir and musicians.

**SATURDAY 22** New Marston: Elaine Bardwell, Alison Salvesen, Tony Phelan. For the re-opening of our church for in-person worship and for our community outreach. Give thanks for all the positives that have come during a time of such darkness.  
St Michael's CE Primary School.

**MONDAY 24** Oxford St Clement: Rachel Gibson, Judith Gretton-Dann, Dave Burt, Freya Sidhu. For wisdom and discernment: as we recruit an operations manager and children and families' worker; and as we discern how, as COVID restrictions slowly ease, we reshape different ways to be, and to reach out, as church community. For so many who have been affected in different ways by the last year – and for our response within and beyond our church family, as we seek to love and support people.

**TUESDAY 25** Newbury Deanery: David Mcleod, Bruce Laurie, Mark Knight, Philip Read. For our plans for developing online church for Advent. For the ministry and mission of our benefices in vacancy and the ongoing exploration of a partial reorganisation.

**WEDNESDAY 26** East Downland: John Toogood, Douglas Dales, William McDowell, Denise Brown. In the joy of the gift of the Holy Spirit we remember Augustine, sent to re-evangelise England, and pray for our own parishes, that we might share the Good News in word and deed.  
Beedon CE Primary School, Stockcross CE Primary School.

**THURSDAY 27** Walbury Beacon: Tim Wood, Jennifer Veasey, Richard Paschal. For the restructuring of the benefice and the appointment of a new priest in charge.  
Enborne CE Primary School, Kintbury St Mary's CE Primary School.

**FRIDAY 28** Greenham: David McLeod, Brian Jones, John Bramhall, Martin Cawte. For our use of technology to further enhance our online ministry. For our support of the young and the vulnerable in our community.

**SATURDAY 29** Newbury St Nicolas and Speen St Mary: Will Hunter-Smart, Jackie Fountain, Joy Mawdesley, Janice Macdonald, Jane Sutton, Edward Carthy, Caroline Chichester, Pam McKellen. For wisdom for lay and ordained leaders to make the right decisions regarding services and wider ministry as COVID restrictions lift. For both churches to allow the appropriate space and time for Recovery, Rejoicing, Re-envisioning and Rebuilding over the coming months.  
St Nicolas CE Junior School.

**MONDAY 31** Thatcham: Mark Bennet, Nicola Hulks, Brenda Harland, Angela Brennan, Marcia Wadham, Leonard Onugha. For our in-person ministry to our community, particularly baptisms, weddings and civic events, and also for the resumption of work with children and families (including our new mission initiatives, led by Nicola). For Thatcham Park CE School, awaiting its much-delayed SIAMS inspection, and for the continued strong relations between our church and school. For our choir, church musicians and bellringers as they regroup. For Revd Leonard Onugha as he prepares to move on to Finchampstead. Give thanks for the creativity which has been shown in the last year and pray for the continued creative use of our churchyard in ministry and mission.

## Prayer on Sundays

**SUNDAY 2** For all those who joined our churches via online worship, that they would know the presence of God in our churches and among the congregation as churches reopen.

**SUNDAY 9** For Annual Parochial Church Meeting elections and for all those serving in new ways in our churches; that they would be empowered for their task by the Holy Spirit.

**SUNDAY 16** For all our church members as we share the life-changing presence of Jesus with our neighbours.

**SUNDAY 23** For the developing relationship between our churches and communities; a relationship that changed as churches responded to the pandemic.

**SUNDAY 30** For Mark Humphriss, our diocesan secretary, that he would know God's provision and be blessed with wisdom as he works for the good of the diocese at this challenging time.

## Links

Prayers from Christian Concern for One World: [ccow.org.uk/weekly-prayer-email](https://ccow.org.uk/weekly-prayer-email)

Topical prayers from the Church of England: [churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/topical-prayers.aspx](https://churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/topical-prayers.aspx)