

## **St Andrew's and All Saints Prayer Diary – September 2020**

We will continue the pattern from July of praying by weeks rather than days, until our churches are open for more activities.

Each week we will include prayer for our churches, our town, our nation and the world.

Let us continue to hold in prayer those who lead our churches and their families:

Dave and Alice Bruce, Joshua and Eleanor

Peter and Emma Myres, Charlotte, Pippa, James and Alice

Eddy and Hanna Edwards

Helen Attree, Kim, Becky and Lauren

**Week 1 – Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September to Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September.**

### **Main focus – schools**

We pray for the schools within our parish, for the staff and the pupils as they start the Autumn term very differently from the start of the school year in 2019.

Pray for our primary schools: Malvern Parish School and the head teacher Sue Parker, the Wyche C of E Primary School and the new head Stephen Murphy, Malvern Wells Primary School and the head teacher Alison Earp.

Pray for our secondary schools: the Chase High School and its head Mike Fieldhouse, Malvern College and its head Keith Metcalfe.

Pray for The Bridge, and particularly for the more vulnerable pupils returning to school. Also the director and head teacher, Neil and Sue Hornby and the deputy head Kath Barclay.

Remember in prayer those in our churches who attend or work in other schools in Malvern and elsewhere.

### **Also pray**

For our churches as they begin to open services again:

All Saints continuing its in-person Communion service at 10am.

St Andrew's beginning an interactive in-person showing of the pre-recorded service at 10.30, and for the children and young people attending their own groups. Also for the Thursday noon service beginning on 10<sup>th</sup> September. Youth meetings beginning on Sunday evenings at St Andrew's.

Pray for the restaurants and cafes in and around Malvern which have had successful openings with the Eat Out to Help Out scheme. Pray that people will continue to patronise these places and the businesses will begin to flourish again.

Pray for our government and the decisions they make concerning the release of lockdown over the United Kingdom. For wise decisions and good counsel.

Pray for the countries in Europe which have been adversely affected by a lack of tourism.

## **Week 2 – Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September to Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September.**

### **Main focus – Malvern**

Pray for the various support services and Christian activities:

For the Octagon and its activities, particularly supporting those who are more vulnerable in our community.

For the Food Bank and those whom it supports. Pray for Peter Buchanan and his team of workers and volunteers, and for those who are blessed by the food parcels. Pray for those who are needing to use it for the first time, and for families in need across the town.

For CAP and the work which is going on remotely at this time. Pray for Chris Mesley and Denise Ditchburn as they head this up, for the befrienders, and also for Colin Robbins and the Blessings team.

For the Lyttelton Well, the bookshop, café and counselling service. For the many volunteers involved with the Well. Pray too for Chris Copeland and the chaplaincy team.

### **Also pray**

For three members of St Andrew's who are moving on from us. Ruth Gould is moving to Weston-Super-Mare to work as a Children and Families leader at St Paul's church. The church has a focus on reaching out and serving the community. Pray for God's blessing on Ruth, that she will settle quickly and make a real difference through her work there. Lisa and Emma O'Kane have made the decision to "hide away" with Jesus over the next 9 months. Pray that they will be able to "be" and "not do" as they look to the Lord's direction for their future and their location. For Lisa as she disciples Emma, and Emma as she returns to school.

Pray for our government and the opposition, that they may seek to work together to overcome the Coronavirus. Pray for Christians in parliament to have a real influence over decisions.

Pray for our world, and particularly places where there is unrest and conflict, such as Belarus and America. For fairness and justice to prevail.

## **Week 3 – Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September to Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September.**

### **Main focus – the United Kingdom**

Pray for the Queen and the Royal Family. Thank God for the Queen's Christian faith and the way she expresses her faith so openly. Pray for safety and protection as she and Prince Philip stay isolated from many people and even their own family.

Pray for the four countries of the UK and their leaders for a desire for unity of purpose as they tackle the Coronavirus.

For Boris Johnson

For Scotland and Nicola Sturgeon

For Wales and Mark Drakeford

For Northern Ireland and Arlene Phillips.

Pray for those who are in towns and cities required to be in local lockdown, that people will follow guidelines and that virus infections and deaths will reduce.

Pray for our local MP Harriet Baldwin and the work she does on behalf of our community.

Pray for those who are serving the Lord in the UK, Pray particularly for Nick Russell, serving with the Church Army in Greenwich. Pray for other individuals known to us, serving in mission whether full-time, part-time or voluntarily.

### **Also pray**

For our church leaders as they plan for future services. for each one to know the presence and direction of the Holy Spirit as they look to God for direction. Pray too for the most vulnerable members of our churches, and for those who cannot attend in person and may not have internet access. That they may still feel a part of our church family and that they may be supported.

It is virtually impossible to look from our churches or from the hills and not see the building work going on at the Qinetiq site. Pray for the safety of those working on the site and for those who will occupy the homes to be built there.

Pray for areas in the world which are suffering from a high number of infections and deaths from Covid 19. For governments to make wise and informed decisions over protecting people. Pray particularly for countries in South America and also India.

## **Week 4 – Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September to Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September.**

### **Main focus – the World**

Pray for those nations which are closed to the gospel, and where it is dangerous to profess a Christian faith. For Open Doors as they endeavour to support Christians in these countries. The top 10 on the Open Doors Watch list, where Christians experience most extreme persecution are: North Korea, Afghanistan, Somalia, Libya, Pakistan, Eritrea, Sudan, Yemen, Iran and India.

Pray for our Mission partners serving the Lord across the world:

- Jon and Elise Fletcher, working with UNOH (Urban Neighbours of Hope) in the slums of Bangkok
- Terry and Hanka English, working with Josiah Venture in Czechia
- Ben and Katie Ray, working with Neema Crafts with CMS in Tanzania
- Mike Bassous, working with the Bible Society in Lebanon, and also Eloise Wharton on her gap year.
- George and Happy Otieno, with the Msalato Theological College in Tanzania.
- Pat Blanchard working with CMS in Peru

Pray too for any personal contacts you may have with Christians working in other countries.

### **Also pray**

For our churches to have a real impact in our area as we look towards the Autumn and beyond. For new ways to bless Malvern and to be a presence for good in our communities.

For churches across Malvern as they begin to open their services.

For our nation – perhaps pray in the words of this song:

Lord, we long for You to move in power,  
There's a hunger deep within our hearts  
To see healing in our nation.  
Send Your Spirit to revive us.

*Heal our nation, heal our nation, heal our nation,  
Pour out Your Spirit on this land.*

Amen