



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH PRAYER DIARY – JULY 2017

The last two months have given us very little news of love and peace in our national community. Let us pray and hope that the summer holiday will bring us the love, joy and peace we all crave and pray for.

**Goodness is stronger than evil;
love is stronger than hate;
light is stronger than darkness;
life is stronger than death;
victory is ours through him who loves us.**

Desmond Tutu

Sunday 2nd July 10.00a.m. Service is a Baptism Service.

We shall pray for the health and wellbeing of all the residents of Lake End Way, Towers Drive, Grey Stoke Court, their families, friends, relations and all those dear to them.

6.00p.m. Songs of Praise for the community at St. John's.

Monday 3rd July This day is apportioned to Thomas, Christ's loyal apostle, most famous for his refusal to accept the reports of Christ's resurrection. He did not need to touch Christ's wounds, when shown, but adamantly proclaimed Him as 'My Lord and my God!' May we be blessed with his absolute faith having been given so much evidence of Christ's life and love for us.

Tuesday 4th July. We are asked to join members of the CTC as they take a walk of faith round the TRL site. The members are very keen for the Church to make inroads with the new residents as they arrive and have a say in the building provisions made.

Tuesday 4th July is also the day of the MU Social Evening to which all interested are invited, particularly the husbands of the lady members. May they be blessed with a happy occasion.

Thursday 6th July. Two more strong upholders of the faith are commemorated on this day. Both Thomas More and John Fisher had been loyal servants of and were admired by Henry VIII. Both would not put their loyalty to the King before their loyalty to their faith in the Church and the Papacy. Both were highly principled men whose devotion to their faith rather than person power serve as noble examples.

Sunday 9th July. We pray for the residents of Alderbrook Close, Barwell Close and Wood End, their families, friends and all dear to them that God will bless them all and give them peace, joy and happiness.

Tuesday 11th July. We pray that God will be with the P.C.C. as they meet to discuss their agenda items.

Wednesday 12th July. The governing body of our Church of England primary school meets. May God be with them in their deliberations.

This afternoon the members of the MU have their annual tea party - a happy event for this organisation which contributes so much to our Church life.

Saturday 15th July. On this day St. Swithun, the bones of this former ninth century Bishop of Winchester, were finally interred 'humbly' as he had requested. His successor had moved his grave to an elaborate shrine in the new Cathedral. Although there were many cures and miracles claimed, it is reputed to have rained for forty days as forecast, because his bones had been disturbed. His feast day is synonymous with summer storms rather than occasion for celebrating Christian simplicity and holiness.

Sunday 16th July. We ask for God's blessings on the families, friends, relatives and loved ones of the residents of Goldsmith Way and Hardy Green.

Tuesday 18th July. There will be a service for our school leavers from the C of E School at St. John's. We ask that their future will be a bright and happy one and that God will be with them all in the future. They will have had a good start in their primary school

Wednesday 19th July. A meeting for the Pastoral Visiting Group. We pray that their future calls will be greeted with the warm and generous response they deserve and the callers find their call appreciated.

Saturday 22nd July is the day allotted to Mary Magdalene, the 'Apostle to the Apostles'. She is mentioned in all four gospels and accompanied Christ through his entire ministry. She was privileged to be the first to witness the appearance of the risen Lord (see prayer at the end)

Sunday 23rd July. We pray that God will be with the residents, families, relatives and relations and all those close to their hearts, of Lower Dukes Ride and Ruskin Court.

Tuesday 25th July is dedicated to James, the Apostle, often called 'the Great' who with his brother John, were among the first of Christ's apostles. They were with him at the Transfiguration and in the Garden of Gethsemane. They annoyed the others by asking to sit on either side of Christ in Heaven. James was put to death by the sword by Herod Agrippa in a bid to stop the flow of those hearing the good news and becoming followers.

Wednesday 26th July. On this day we remember the parents of Mary, the specially chosen mother of the Christ Child, Anna and Joachim.

Friday 28th July sees the beginning of the Summer Activities this year. This will be the first of the four Fridays given over to our young people on the Morgan Recreation Ground. They have been very successful in the past and a valuable way in which our churches can communicate with our youngsters.

Saturday 29th July a day on which we can remember three loyal followers of Christ: Lazarus, whom Jesus loved so much he brought him back from the dead; Mary, who anointed his feet and then on another occasion, listened to his teaching while Martha served. Mary is taken to be the example of the contemplative, spiritual life and Martha, active spiritual life (see prayer at the end.)

This is the day when we can remember with gratitude many social reformers, like William Wilberforce who campaigned against slavery and Josephine Butler, who took a keen interest in women's education.

We thank you Lord for their example, their exemplary courage and deep faith.

Sunday 30th July. We remember Joseph of Arimathea who recovered the body of Jesus, after the crucifixion, at some personal risk to himself and had it properly buried in an appropriate tomb. This was a selfless act which we remember today.

Again we pray for the residents of our streets. On this Sunday we remember the residents, the family, the friends and dear ones of White City and Kentigern Drive.

A Prayer for Mary Magdalene

Almighty God
Whose Son restored Mary Magdalene
to health of mind and body
and called her to be a witness of his resurrection'
forgive our sins and heal us by your grace,
that we may serve you in the power of his risen life.

From the Collect of the Day

A Prayer inspired by Lazarus, Mary and Martha

God our Father,
whose Son enjoyed the love of his friends,
in learning, argument and hospitality.
May we so rejoice in your love
that the world may come to know
the depth of your wisdom, the wonder of your compassion,
and your power to bring life out of death.

And the Gift of Friendship

God of surprises,
when I think you are not present in my life,
you reveal yourself in the love of friends and family.
Nurture me in your never-ending affection.

