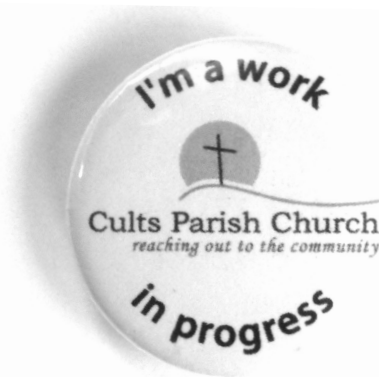


God loves us all and can use us to His glory in spite of our human frailties.
Isn't that Good News? (Seasons of the Spirit worship material)

Prayer Diary October 2017



“God has created me to do some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. I shall do good. I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth, in my own place.”
(John Henry Newman)

The Faith Journey Core Group hopes that this Prayer Diary will be a useful daily companion that will help unite us in prayer at Cults Kirk. Please send your contributions or requests for the November diary by October 20th to Andrew Fairhead.
andrew.fairhead@btinternet.com Phone 01224 861926.

At 7pm on the last Wednesday of each month, everyone is welcome to meet in Morven at the Kirk Centre for prayers of thanksgiving and intercession, and to talk informally about praying. (You don't have to talk if you would rather just be there in silence.)

Our prayer team will pray for individuals, or about more confidential matters on your behalf. Please put your written request into one of the prayer boxes at the Kirk or the Kirk Centre, and it will be passed confidentially to the team.

Sunday October 1 May our evening services on “sacred spaces” help many to come closer to You. Lord, do I always know the significance of where I am, of how I feel? Am I ever in a sacred space? Let me look out for You wherever I am, however I feel. May I realise how many of these places and feelings are sacred.

Monday October 2 *Lord, help us to see all the beauty in creation, in nature around us, in the change from summer to autumn colours. Help us to see Your goodness in the kindness of people, in the laughter of children, in the love of family and friends. Keep our eyes fixed on Your blessings and fill us with joy so that we will be bright lights in this world to overcome darkness.*

Tuesday October 3 We give thanks for the many ways we get together. Lord Jesus, bless our Guild as it starts its new session this afternoon and seeks to serve You. We will support their projects to reduce suffering at home and abroad.

Wednesday October 4 *Are You telling us, Holy Spirit, that it's time to buckle down, not to expect miracles for our Church or ourselves without making an effort? Yes, whether it should be a mental or physical effort on my part, I can imagine us getting on with the job we've got quite good at – being Cults Kirk together. Help us to support each other to follow Christ. You might make my small effort part of a miracle after all.*

Thursday October 5 With faith-based activities at our Church Centre today, I shall think about faith as well. Our Bible-study group will get reassurance from Paul that it is faith in God and Christ that matters, not adherence to religious “laws”. Messy Church aims to pass on why we follow Jesus, and our Revelation group will find out how faith can be reinforced in troubling times. Plenty for me to think about and follow up!

Friday October 6 *We offer to God our sheer gratitude and admiration for peacemakers. We pray that we might emulate their bravery in a small way, and that honours given to them will encourage them to struggle on for a better world.*

Saturday October 7 We pray for the elderly, who deserve our respect, gratitude and care. And so we give thanks for our Care Group, whose coffee morning will raise funds for gifts, which in turn will raise morale.

Sunday October 8 *We pray for and give thanks for our farmers, fisherfolk, and all who produce and sell our food, both locally and worldwide. May their gathering be safe and their labour justly rewarded. We are grateful that food is so plentiful for us, and will purchase it carefully to support the producers and not cause waste.*

We pray for the many worldwide who rely on a harvest of goodwill from Christian Aid and other agencies; and for those even nearby who rely on a harvest of human caring.

Monday October 9 Lord, they've left home and You know how I miss them: my child at school or college, university, or at their new job; my partner at work; someone on a journey. Thank You for the times we have spent together, nurturing each other. Keep me strong while they are away. May they know they are loved, even though we've sometimes had "words". Be with us when we next meet.

Tuesday October 10 *In this World Food Week, let us give thanks that organisations like Mary's Meals, Aberdeen Muslims, and Unilever, and individuals as well, are providing breakfasts for millions of schoolchildren in many parts of the world, who would other-wise not be able to concentrate on learning, or even have the energy to go to school.*

Wednesday October 11 We ask God to bless Kenneth, our interim moderator, who is holding the reins for our Church as well as his own. We are grateful for the time and effort he is devoting to us, and for the way he is conducting meetings and offices for us with such willingness, sensitivity and good humour.

Thursday October 12 *We pray for all in our Church who are taking on extra responsibility during our search for a minister. Calm their times of worry, Lord, and bless their hard work.*

Friday October 13 You know well enough, Lord, that we want the world to be peace-ful, but why does that not seem possible without violent action in some places, and the suffering of innocent people? We are filled with anguish for them, and pray that they will be delivered safely, and will one day know what a secure life such as ours is like.

Saturday October 14 *Tomorrow is Baby Loss Awareness Day, when bereaved families will commemorate their babies' all-too-brief lives, knowing that thousands of parents elsewhere in the world will be doing the same. Lord, we will remember how something as beautiful and sacred as life is also so fragile. Make us sensitive to those who have had to meet the tragedy of loss.*

Sunday October 15 Thank you Lord for the music of the world which brings happiness to all. We pray for Emily our organist, and the church choir and orchestra. Bless our singing at Church, which is our active worship. Bless those who arrange our Music in the Sanctuary recitals, and the performers. It means so much to those who cannot travel far to have good music provided locally.

Monday October 16 *Our Outreach core group is stepping in today and next Monday to make the meal for our Lunch Club. May we all be willing to step in when needed.*

On this World Food Day, we are reminded that hunger and malnutrition take more lives in the world than anything else. We give thanks for the World Food Programme and all organisations and individuals feeding the hungry.

Tuesday October 17 Let us each pray for peace in the troubled regions we have heard about recently. And let us pray for comfort for the victims of man-made or natural tragedies, that they may receive spiritual strength and practical help.

Wednesday October 18 *(A children's prayer) I believe in Jesus, who told the whole world about love. I believe He was God on earth, as a human.*

Thursday October 19 May the light of harmony shine in your home. May the light of kindness shine from your hands. May the light of understanding shine in your mind. May the light of love and peace shine from your heart. (Hindu prayer for Diwali)

Friday October 20 *It's not Church as we know it, but our Friday café brings young people to enjoy themselves. Lord Jesus, help us to find more ways to make a difference to your young flock.*

Saturday October 21 Creator God, keep your guiding hand on humanity as we gain the ability to edit the genes of developing embryos. We are of course pursuing it because of its perceived advantages, but will this intervention become the norm, and if so, what will our expectations be? All technology can be used for good or bad. Help us to avoid the bad.

Sunday October 22 *During this One-World Week, let us ask the Lord to guide our thoughts on how we could be better neighbours to our global brothers and sisters in the way we use energy and resources, the way we shop, and the way we share our wealth.*

Monday October 23 Let us pray for all work in all countries that helps the disadvantaged and stops cultural oppression of certain types. Lord Jesus, who championed this work, strengthen it now so that enlightenment will come to all, and security to the oppressed.

Tuesday October 24 *Holy Spirit, we are so glad that our Music to Remember sessions seem to be providing such pleasure to a group that knows heartache as well. It is what we do to follow Christ. We follow Him also by passing on a little grace to*

those who don't see much of it. May the shoeboxes being packed by the Guild this evening, and by ourselves, be enough to provide a little encouragement to them.

Wednesday October 25 Lord, what is prayer? Surely when I am being thankful to You (which I hope is often!), that is prayer. Hear me also when I pray on others' behalf that they will be given strength to weather the storm. I will make my prayer now...

Thursday October 26 *Let us pray for those who have been bereaved and are feeling sad and lonely. We know, Father, that You are right there beside them. May they feel Your comforting presence so that they know they are not alone. Bless the comfort we offer them ourselves, particularly through our Bereavement Friendship Group.*

Friday October 27 We pray for those few special schools in Malawi for deaf and blind children. May the means be found to offer this education to all who need it. (Though we often mention Malawi in our prayers, we are bringing to the Lord all countries that have similar needs.)

Saturday October 28 *Lord Jesus, it is surely right that charity is such a big part of our society. Though we would wish that support for the needy could be found by other means, we are honouring You when we offer what we can. Bless the charities represented at our Christmas-card sale and coffee morning. May they get the support they deserve.*

Through the Holy Spirit, we join those at Charlotte Chapel in Edinburgh to celebrate God's faithfulness to Scripture Union over the 150 years of its ministry across the world. With them, may we all commit ourselves afresh to reaching the next generation of young people.

Sunday October 29 (A prayer from the Bible Society for Bible Sunday.) Thank you, Almighty God, for the Bible. May it be like a torch for our lives, showing us which way to go, showing us how to live. May it be a light and strength for each day. Use us to love and serve others in the power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Monday October 30 *Lord, we tend to think of the people of the past being blind to so much that we now understand. Surely we do things better now? But how much do we still not understand? Most of it?*

Tuesday October 31 On this day five hundred years ago, Martin Luther pinned his challenge to the church door. Lord Jesus, on Your behalf may we always be seeking to eradicate practices that dishonour You in the Church to which we put Your name.