

The holy God of Israel says "Come back and quietly trust in Me.
Then you will be strong and secure." (Isaiah 30:15)

Cults Parish Church ***Prayer Diary November 2017***



(Photo: US Navy, Wikimedia Commons)

Whilst dreamers dream, Lord, bankrupt countries spend money they do not have on weapons no nation should use. But economies are blessed, workforces are kept busy supplying death to the highest standard. And business does what business does best: putting percentages before people and profit before pity, and boasting of its achievements in dividends for shareholders.

O Lord, hear our prayer for the healing of the nations. If it be Your will, let that healing begin with us.

(Ewen)

Jesus showed us it is better if our lives are prayerful.

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 December diary by November 17th to Andrew Fairhead. andrew.fairhead@btinternet.com Phone 01224 861926.

At the end of each month, everyone is welcome to a meeting in our 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.) The date of November's meeting will be announced.

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.

Wednesday November 1 *Lord, it is Your mercy that changes lives. Life is renewed when it is unexpectedly touched by You. Please renew the lives I am praying for now ... it is not for me to say how.*

Thursday November 2 Holy Spirit, Lord of our Christian activities, we pray for Your infectious energy for our Messy Church. Our willing leaders and helpers are eager to spread the Good News, and want many people of all ages to join the fun and friendship.

Friday November 3 *This bonfire weekend can be challenging for firefighters. We give thanks and pray for them and for all in our other emergency services as well: our police, ambulance crews and hospital staff, and our mountain and coastal rescuers.*

Saturday November 4 We thank the Lord for the hard work of His servant Peter in our Church. Today and next Saturday, he is suggesting to parents some good ways of passing faith on to their children. We pray this will strengthen our young congregation.

Sunday November 5 *Our Lord will witness and celebrate the wedding of Paul and Kirsty today. May the happy couple sense that their marriage is special in His eyes.*

May our two services today allow our congregation to explore different aspects of the Kingdom – the simple and the profound, the rousing and the calming – and love be obvious in them all.

Monday November 6 Our shoeboxes are gathered in. Father of us all, as we think of the recipients, so much in need of love, we are glad that Your love is added to ours. May it make a difference to them, and may whatever oppresses them be weakened.

Tuesday November 7 *"I have so much to do today! I'll need to spend three hours in prayer in order to get it all done."*
(Martin Luther)

Wednesday November 8 The occasional sunny autumn days we get are like a sign from God: "Take heart. In spite of the worries you have, I am with You. You are a thread in the tapestry I have created."

Thursday November 9 In Africa, the crops are planted. May they flourish during this growing season, to provide much-needed nourishment where there is so much hunger.

Friday November 10 This weekend we remember past wars, but Lord, we are appalled that so many are still happening, that innocent people are suffering horribly in Myanmar, Yemen, South Sudan and other places. May our prayers and remembrances have some effect on the leaders that cause such suffering.

Saturday November 11 *We've been remembering, reminding each other, for years, decades; but the scale and horror of the suffering in the wars of the world is unimaginable. That is until we think of the individuals whose lives were fearsomely taken, and their families, sweethearts and friends left despairing. We pray that all of humanity will realise that such loss and despair has no place in God's masterpiece.*

Sunday November 12 One hundred years ago, and the battle of Passchendaele has just ended, leaving half a million men dead or injured. Young men fascinated by the inventions of their day, thinking about their potential and how they would live out their dreams. They hadn't counted on the gun or the cannon, or the insane circumstances that would take them to Flanders. Father, we cannot repay what we owe them, but let us not forget it.

Monday November 13 *Let us pray for a world that is no longer gripped by offensive weapons; when we really are beating swords into ploughshares (or turbine blades). Is it imaginable? Lord Jesus, how very much we need Your help!*

Tuesday November 14 "Lord Jesus, teach us how to pray."

"You mean there is so much you want to bring to the Father, you are not sure how to say it all? Then join with Me. Consider your prayers already made."

Wednesday November 15 *A prayer for all who are worried about their health. (This may include yourself.) Lord, remind them that worries may be unfounded, or can be ended by pointers to recovery; and when that is not the case, remind them of the support they will receive, of the community they are still part of, still loved in.*

Thursday November 16 (A children's prayer.) Dear God, thank You for loving me and wanting the best for me. I'm happy to do what makes You happy. It's not difficult, because most things I can think of make You happy. Please look after all children. Amen.

Friday November 17 *It's a lovely part of life that silliness put to serious use. This is the day of big laughs for the Children in Need appeal. We pray that many children's lives can be changed for good.*

Saturday November 18 As concerns mount over the ability of antibiotics to keep us safe, we thank the Lord for the abilities He has given us to overcome such problems. Let us thank Him for the astounding intricacy of nature, and pray that we will find new ways of fighting infection.

Sunday November 19 *Our Guild is leading the service this morning with the theme*

"Go in Love". Let us pray for all those leading the service, and that we shall all be encouraged to show God's love within our Community and in the wider world.

We pray that the idea of fair trade will be appreciated by more people, not just at our Traidcraft Christmas Fayre this morning, but at all the outlets our Team supports.

Monday November 20 Gracious God, Spirit of life and love, we ask for Your blessings on the Queen and Prince Philip as they reach another momentous stage of their long lives together. Bless us all as we strive to nurture the loving relationships that make our lives wonderful and fulfilling.

Tuesday November 21 *As we pray that our search for a new minister may soon be over, we pray the same for our neighbours at St. Devenick's: that the Holy Spirit will bring to them a new rector who can foster their yearning for the Lord and His ways.*

Wednesday November 22 The Scottish Episcopal Church is in need of our prayers for its brave leading of the Anglican Communion towards respect for same-sex relationships. Let us pray that the exemplary graciousness of its stance will help the Communion towards enlightenment without further disruption.

Thursday November 23 *Father in Heaven, how comforting are Your intimations of immortality to those who mourn, and to all of us as we think of beloved souls now separated from the body. But we know that we can also soften a mourner's grief. Our gentle humanity is Your gift for that. Help us not to let shyness stay our touch.*

An important meeting for our Board and Session this evening. Lord, we've all put our names on your sederunt, but we would hate that to mean literally "they sat". Thank goodness You have given us active jobs to do. We pray that, in the end, poor St. Peter won't only be counting us as bums on seats.

Friday November 24 As winter approaches, doctors, nurses and other health workers are under increasing pressure. Let us pray that the health service can be managed this winter in ways that will ease their burden, allowing them to direct their generous skills to providing the care that many will suddenly require.

Saturday November 25 *May many be tempted, Lord! Not just by the aroma and tastes to be had at our Questions and Croissants breakfast, but by the opportunity to raise questions that have been whispering inside. Bless our members who are there to encourage.*

We believe in the power of prayer, and today the Church of Scotland, that is all of us, is encouraged to pray as one for all the work of the Church. Lord, we give thanks that so much vibrant work is being done in Your name. We pray for Your guidance, Your encouragement and Your revelation. We pray for Your grace for all people.

Sunday November 26 We pray that Ewen and Joan will find a new Christian family that shares their own strong desires. And we will continue to praise the Lord, whose love towards us goes on forever. We praise the Lord for answered prayer. We praise the Lord that he is with us.

Monday November 27 *Loving your neighbour as yourself is harder than it sounds, but is also much more interesting. At times of international insecurity, stress and fear: there is never a more important time to listen through the ears and look through the eyes of our neighbour – if only to see ourselves as we are seen. (Rt. Rev. Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds)*

Tuesday November 28 Ron Ferguson reminds us that the challenge to the churches today is to live much closer to the gospel of Christ. It's a challenge not just for the churches, but for me as well. May I concentrate more on that precious gospel.

Wednesday November 29 *Roman Catholics have given a name – structural sin -- to the unfairness that is built into our society, into the way we live. Lord Jesus, surely "your sins are forgiven" doesn't include that? I remember that in Your mission to save each one of us You vehemently attacked structural sin. I'm sorry for my part in it.*

Thursday November 30 We pray for all who will find this winter challenging: for the elderly and frail, in danger of falling on ice or in darker homes; for all ages for whom warmth and food do not come easily; for those at risk from chronic or acute illness; for those in jobs that are made more dangerous by bad weather.

Sadly, this winter we also have many facing financial hardship because of the Universal Credit system. We pray for them, and also that the system can be made fairer.