

“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” (Isaiah 43:19)

Cults Parish Church

Prayer Diary March 2018



“Lent summons us, and enables us, to come back to the Lord wholeheartedly and in every aspect of our life.”

(Pope Francis’s 2018 Lenten message)

In addition to the following prayers, let us pray
for Shuna each day.

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 April diary by March 19th to Andrew Fairhead.
andrew.fairhead@btinternet.com Phone 01224 861926.

March’s evening prayer-meeting, to which everyone is welcome for prayers of thanksgiving and intercession and to talk informally about praying, will not be on its usual last Wednesday of the month. Please look out for its date to 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.

Thursday March 1 *We pray for charities as they strive to uphold their high moral aims, and particularly today for Christian Aid and its spring gathering in Holburn West. Let us join in thanksgiving for its support of Bolivian forest and farming communities that are increasingly marginalised by development and climate change.*

Our Messy Church restarts today. May all our loyal families and new ones be keen to join our happy thanksgiving for Jesus’s life and ministry, and His journey towards Easter.

Friday March 2 Lord, those attending a World Day of Prayer service will think the tiny country of Suriname sounds like paradise. But when we hear of its social and environmental problems, we wonder why we haven’t honoured your intention for us to look after Your Creation and each other. Help us to remember we have only borrowed the world from You, so that we will be more careful to pass it on in all its perfection.

Saturday March 3 *Fair trade is another aid movement that we instinctively support. Let us thank God for instincts like these, and pray that today’s Traidcraft “Big Brew” will arouse more interest and determination amongst us to shop ethically.*

Sunday March 4 May the Spirit of God come upon us this Lent and, via our morning and evening services today or in other ways, remind us of our purpose in His eyes – to love and honour Him and His Creation, and to give ourselves to others – as, in the wilderness, Christ determined for His own life. Amen.

Monday March 5 *We give thanks for the importance society now attaches to safeguarding, even though it has come too late to save so many children and vulnerable people from serious harm. We give thanks for the training being provided for some of our members this evening, and pray that abuse will one day be eradicated.*

Tuesday March 6 The shock of bereavement has hit many recently. Lord of the Resurrection, as You are with those affected, we pray that they are reminded that their loved ones now rejoice in heaven; and reminded that they still have friends and relatives who care dearly for them.

Wednesday March 7 *Father, we pour out our hearts to You in sadness, grief and disbelief at the devastating violence forcing so many from their homes in Myanmar, Syria and other countries. We pray they will find places of refuge for deep rest, and food and medicines to help them heal. Strengthen the charities at work there; may they be given the access they need. And may what we hear, read and see move us all to make a generous response. (Reverend Alisa MacDonald, Kingswells Parish Church)*

Thursday March 8 Lord, empower all women who find a voice in public life. Dismantle systems and transform attitudes in the media, business and civil society that demean or diminish the role of women; and raise up girls to a world of freedom their mothers could only imagine. (Rev. Dr. Sam Wells, St. Martin's in the Fields)

The First Book of Peter, being studied by our Bible Group each Thursday, encourages us all, in the face of suffering, to hold steadfastly on to Christ, who will bring us to everlasting riches in Heaven. We give thanks for that encouragement.

Friday March 9 *How troubling it is to see anyone ill; but Lord, help us to meet the challenges posed when we hear of young people suffering, perhaps from mental disorder, or complications of childbirth, or injury, or from cancer. Might we become more aware of them, and how to help. We commend to You those who can cure, or who are researching ways to do that.*

Saturday March 10 Might this be a moment in which I, like our Epiphany Group today, find quiet in the Lent season to ponder the profound imperative of my God-given life: its freedoms and beauties and responsibilities.

Sunday March 11 *The special qualities that motherhood brings forth are a major conveyor of God's love to the world. We give thanks for our own mothers, and ask for God's blessing on women for whom motherhood is difficult, on those for whom it remains an unfulfilled wish, and on those who have lost a child.*

Monday March 12 Merciful Lord, the next time a misguided person is minded to murder or abuse others, may they be turned around – to see a different way, with relieved and grateful people anxious to embrace them.

In this Pass-it-on week, Scotland's celebration of re-use, we pray that we and many others will be reminded of the benefits of swapping, donating, sharing and repairing to help make things last.

Tuesday March 13 *We give thanks for the variety of activities and good work undertaken and enjoyed by the Guild, and for its aims to know and serve Christ's world. May its open evening attract many visitors from ours and other Churches. Lord Jesus, at this, our time of reflection on Your ministry, Irene's description of her visit to Your still-troubled Land will surely convince us of the need to continue Your work.*

Wednesday March 14 The Reverend Canon Anne Dyer has just been consecrated as the Episcopal Church's new Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney. Let us pray that the whole Diocese will welcome and support her, and that their future together will be blessed.

Thursday March 15 *May the Lord bless the work of our Care Group, and may He bless the encouragement that Shuna is taking such care to give to all the variety of groups inspired by our Christian fellowship and calling.*

Friday March 16 We pray that the Outreach Core Group's efforts to enhance the welcome of our Church will continue to be fruitful, and particularly that the newcomers to our expanding residential area will feel encouraged to be part of a real community.

Saturday March 17 *Our two Guild groups have more gatherings and offerings this month. Let us pray that today's coffee morning and Tuesday's joint meeting will bring people to socialise, but also to learn, and to join them.*

Sunday March 18 How fitting it is that young musicians are performing this afternoon in our Sanctuary. Artistic creation and performance are surely wondrous gifts from God.

Monday March 19 *(A children's prayer) Lord Jesus, You came from God, and He did miracles for You. So when I hear about Your promises, I'll know them to be true.*

Tuesday March 20 The weather at this time of year, though still mixed, is occasionally glorious. A beautiful day of any kind demands a walk to celebrate it, or even just a step outside for the fresh air, or a good look at it through the window. My faith demands it. (An idea by Donna Sinclair)

Wednesday March 21 *Let us pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance of our Worship and Faith Journey Groups as they consider combining their work of fostering these important parts of our personal and Church life. We pray also that the Spirit will guide one of us to become convenor of the new Group.*

Thursday March 22 "Bring us, Lord our God, at our last awakening, into the house and gate of Heaven." (John Donne.) We give thanks in awe for the deep engagement that poetry affords with key parts of the human and Christian journey; for the skill and sensitivity of authors like Janet Morley, collector of the moving poems that our poetry group has been reading during Lent.

Our sadness at the Church's shortage of ministers, and its inability to resource many more, is known to God. We pray that the Holy Spirit will prompt new ways of sharing ministry within and between congregations. May Its guidance be discerned at this evening's meeting of ministers and elders from our local "Cluster" of parishes.

Friday March 23 *Some people live in plain sight of us, and we don't notice them. They don't figure in our lives; we don't want to get involved with them. We are ashamed, Father, by the knowledge that none of the judgements we make about people matter to You. We pray that Your Light will overcome our darkness. (Shuna)*

Saturday March 24 We pray for the children who attend our local Churches and who are having fun together this morning at Culter Church. May "Professor Potty" and his visitors from other times and places give them ideas for combatting climate change.

Earth Hour is another event today to be thankful for. We are glad that there is so much more emphasis nowadays on care for God's Creation.

Sunday March 25 *Lord, some of Your followers at that impromptu celebration on the first Palm Sunday must have wondered about the future. May our celebrations this morning and this evening, two thousand years later, have as much enthusiasm, but even more understanding that Your Church is indeed lasting and crucial to the world.*

Monday March 26 What a special privilege it is to share our sanctuary this Holy Week with the congregations of Culter Kirk and St. Devenick's. May all of us receive insights into Christ's Passion which will enrich our own lives and witness.

Tuesday March 27 *We ask your blessing, dear Lord, on everyone who has become part of our "Music to Remember". We rejoice at the rewarding experience for all involved. We thank the many people who have come along to the sessions, and the wonderful core of people who put it all together to make it a friendly, happy, relaxed morning with lots of laughter - a morning of true fellowship. "Happy to Meet - Sorry to Part".*

Wednesday March 28 The last Wednesday evening of each month has become a special time for prayer at Culter Kirk; but this evening, Lord Jesus, Your praying at this intense time in Your life and ministry will be uppermost in our minds. We marvel at the strength You drew from Your Father, and His endorsement of Your difficult but faultless path.

Thursday March 29 *"I am giving you a new command. You must love each other, just as I have loved you. If you love each other, everyone will know that you are my disciples."*

Friday March 30 O Generous Love, that He who smote the foe in man, for man, should undergo the agony of death for man. (Based on words of John Henry Newman)

Saturday March 31 *God of love and power, how can I comprehend what happened in the tomb? It is hard enough to comprehend that, in spite of all that had gone before, You restored the Loving Relationship, first with Your Son, and therefore with all of us.*