

"...Whoever is thirsty should come to me and drink." (John 7:37)

Cults Parish Church

Prayer Diary August 2018



May our holidays rest and enrich us, so that, when the time comes, we are ready to turn afresh to the jobs entrusted to us. May we not have to look far for support for what we do; and may we stay close through prayer to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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 September diary by August 17th 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 prays in private 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, or let Shuna know and she will confidentially notify the team.

Wednesday August 1 With our holiday club continuing this week, let us pray for help with our pledges for young people. Holy Spirit, who guides and inspires us, please help us all to value and listen to young people, and let them be active in the life, work and mission of our Kirk.

Thursday August 2 *Holy Spirit, help young and old to learn from each other, and grow with each other. This is the way God's Kingdom comes to our Church, our community and our world.*

Friday August 3 Lord Jesus, give to us the same love and respect for children and young people that You showed. Make us fit to encourage in them a true and confident faith in their Creating and Redeeming God.

Saturday August 4 *We give thanks for the Sunrise Partnership, which is hosting our strawberry tea this morning. May God bless and strengthen their work with young people who have been affected by loss and bereavement.*

Lord, we ponder the faith of our past leaders, a faith that led King George V to call for a national day of prayer on this day in 1918. One hundred days later, the armistice was signed. Grant that we can give faith to our young people now, so that in the future they can lead all to honour You.

Sunday August 5 May our continuing encounter with the story of Ruth in both services today re-ignite in us the respect and love for each other that is God's wish.

Monday August 6 *Let us all join with the organisations and individuals across the country who are praying on each of these one hundred days until Remembrance Sunday. With them, we pray for peace in the world and also peace in the hearts of men and women, that all might return to a relationship with God.*

Tuesday August 7 Let us pray for peace in young people's minds as many school pupils receive their exam results today. While some will be looking back with satisfaction on the hard work they have been asked to do, may all realise that this is only a stage in their lives, and there is still time to take kind advice on how to reach fulfilment.

Wednesday August 8 *This week, families belonging to the Church of Scotland and the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren are camping together in Larbert. Holy Spirit, thank You for making the bonds between Christians exciting, surprising and joyful.*

Thursday August 9 How glad we are that Adam and Conor have joined our Church. Bless them, Father, and give us all the grace to enrich their life in Christ and to help make it fruitful.

Friday August 10 *Lord Jesus, we are pleased that the combined efforts of our Worship and Outreach Groups has led to a successful series of Breakfast Church gatherings, which will finish on Sunday. Thank You that Your life, Your example and Your inspiration has given us all such good reason and opportunity to work together.*

Saturday August 11 As Hope Counselling hosts a strawberry coffee morning for us, we give thanks for its Christian work of bringing help and hope to those in a crisis. We give thanks that our Centre is such a good place for people to share their time, laughter, news and worries and to support vital charity work.

Sunday August 12 *I pray for the elderly, whose needs are often more than I care to notice. Let me look out for those missing the opportunity to worship, and do something about it. I thank the Holy Spirit for our Church members who take Woodend Hospital patients to their service, and who lead worship at the Deeside and Tor-Na-Dee Care Homes.*

Monday August 13 While summer is a time of enjoyment for many, others are battling with pain and debilitating diseases. Lord Jesus help them, as You used to in Palestine, and help the rest of us find kindness for them. Let us notice how brave they so often are being. Might we be able to give them some respite from their pain and worries, and help them live full lives.

Tuesday August 14 *"Spread a little happiness till dreams come true." Lord, the song doesn't just sum up beautifully our Music to Remember sessions that start again today – it makes a good prayer for all of us. There are still so many people who have to dream of better things. May we help Your Kingdom to come for them.*

Wednesday August 15 (A children's prayer) Lord Jesus, thank You for my summer holiday. Thank You for the exciting and unusual things I've seen and done. Thank You for my friends and my home. Thank You for all who love me and look after me. Please look after them. Look after everyone who needs You. Stay with me, and help me to make a good start at school next week. Amen.

Thursday August 16 *Our partners in Mlombwa Church, Malawi, ask us to pray that the Holy Spirit will come to dwell in their children and young people, to help them withstand the pressures of the sinful world. Thus may their church, their community and their country be enriched down the generations.*

Friday August 17 We pray for Scottish youth, and for the Church of Scotland's Youth Assembly this weekend. God bless all who encourage young people to embrace life and faith.

How wonderful that hundreds of thousands of Scots and Malawians come together in partnerships. Let us pray that tomorrow's meet-up of Aberdeen Christian groups with Malawi partnerships will give new impetus to their work, to the benefit of the very needy Malawians.

Saturday August 18 *Let us pray for Sarah and Alex as they get married in our Church today. May the Lord, Who has brought them here, continue to guard and enlighten them and bring them joy.*

We give thanks for what our pets mean to us, and thanks for those who help when they are sick or need a home. We pray for all the work that animal charities do, especially Dawgs, that is providing our strawberry tea this morning.

Sunday August 19 So it was their faith that kept the Thai boys alive while trapped in that cave! The strength, composure and sense of kinship they gained from their faith is a lesson for me. I pray that faith will be acknowledged around the world as a source of good for all people.

Monday August 20 *Lord, our school teachers offer themselves as servants of society and take on a role of special responsibility. We pray that they will see progress in their schools and pupils to reward their commitment and strengthen their morale and confidence.*

Tuesday August 21 We pray for pupils returning to school today or starting for the first time. May they find places of kindness that encourage them to grow and thrive.

Wednesday August 22 *After the holiday season, our Church life returns to more familiar patterns. We give thanks for the reassurance of the familiar, but ask the Spirit to teach us new ways of helping each other to a stronger faith.*

Thursday August 23 Look upon our community, Lord, as our MBC festival begins. See the people who work to hold us together, and those who give their talents to uplift us. See our Kirk members playing their part and adding a touch of Your Kingdom however they can. And smile on those who simply come to enjoy the events.

Friday August 24 *God of mankind, we may soon be making some of our babies in a new way. We are glad to think of the benefits of gene editing, to think that suffering might be averted, but we are uncertain about all the implications of this new technology. May wisdom prevail in its use and further development, so that it does not become harmful in any way to Your vision for us.*

Saturday August 25 Our local Leprosy Mission team continues its efforts to keep our attention on the dire consequences of that disease and to raise funds for the sufferers. May the proceeds from their coffee morning make a difference to young sufferers in West Bengal.

Sunday August 26 *Bless me Lord, so that I can be a blessing to many.*

Monday August 27 Living God, we feel with You the tragedy of every death in Syria and Yemen, and the terrible plight of those who are trying to get away from the fighting. In this period of prayers for world peace, we pray desperately that humanity's aggression and baseless intolerance can be replaced by a striving for mutual fulfilment.

Tuesday August 28 *Today, with the beauty of summer still around us, let us remember that creation is a delight to God, and we are part of it.*

Wednesday August 29 When I pray for others I feel You are using me Lord, making me one of the paths by which concern moves between You and them. Might it be so, even though Your plan for them remains hidden from me. And might I be given more feeling for Your Will.

Thursday August 30 *While the bereaved might feel the Kingdom their loved ones now inhabit is an aching distance away, the rest of us can at least try to exemplify for them Your Kingdom on earth. Bless us for that task, Lord, and make our Bereavement Group a particular place where they can enjoy that Kingdom now.*

Our Church golfers are holding their annual friendly competition today. We thank the Holy Spirit for the many ways in which we get together outside Church as well as within it.

Friday August 31 It is fitting that human creativity is exhibited in a place where we worship our Creator and feel His Spirit upon us. And so may the calligraphy exhibition in our Sanctuary for the next two days give people an opportunity to celebrate the gifts we are given. May it take their minds away from more ordinary everyday matters.