

"We know that all creation is still groaning and is in pain ..." (Romans 8:22)

Cults Parish Church

Prayer Diary September 2018

(Creation Time)



Comma butterfly

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Every inch of Earth is alive because of God's penetrating and enveloping breath. And the amazing thing about God's breath is that it blows all around us and we are not aware of the mystery enveloping us, entering us, animating us. (Norman Habel)

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 October diary by September 21st 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.

Saturday September 1 *May the extra efforts to involve more of our community in this afternoon's Christian Aid sponsored walk bear fruit. The world's needy require our support of charities, in spite of our outrage about sexual misconduct in some. Let us encourage their return to the moral high-ground, for everyone's sake.*

Sunday September 2 Many churches have dedicated this month to prayer for the protection of Creation and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles. Lord of Creation, let me listen to You, so that my own life is changed through prayer. And through prayer and determination, for the sake of our children and grandchildren, may humankind be able to reverse the spoiling of Your beautiful earth.

Monday September 3 *Though much of my life is spent in isolation from nature, I am part of it. Lord, help me to notice the nature all around me, to realise how dependent I am on my animal and vegetable companions in Your Creation, and to understand how delicate is the environment that sustains us all. Help me to love nature as You do.*

Tuesday September 4 As the Westminster Parliament resumes, and with the date for Brexit not far away, let us pray that our politicians, and the EU's, can debate with realism and honesty, and agree on a way forward that is most beneficial to all.

Wednesday September 5 *In freshers' week, let us join the anxious parents and others praying for a happy and safe start to students' lives away from home. May the students not be tempted along unproductive paths, but find genuine friends, and help each other with the worthwhile challenges ahead.*

As our Green Group meets this evening, we pray that our Church will engage with their efforts to help us care for Creation, and that we can all enjoy the positive results.

Thursday September 6 May our Kirk Centre keep bringing new benefits to our neighbours in this area, as through the new baby-signing class that is starting today. May an immediate benefit to the parents and their tiny ones be followed by a benefit to us all when we see children growing happy and contented in our midst.

Friday September 7 *St. Paul said, "Creation is still groaning and is in pain". That includes humankind, in need of deliverance. Lord God, what will it take to bring us to our full senses? We could ask for no more than Jesus Emmanuel, and yet we still disappoint You. We are sorry. Perhaps there is more Creation to come?*

Saturday September 8 Lord, bless Amy and Andrew as they get married. We pray that their lives will be full of happiness and that You will help them to share the gifts You have given them, the greatest being love.

We pray for David, Eco-congregation Scotland's new chaplain being inducted today, and Stephen, its new manager. By God's grace may they see Creation care become a grateful part of all Churches' witness.

Sunday September 9 *Let us pray for the elderly around the world who are in danger of losing contact with the faith that has sustained them throughout their lives. Might younger people realise what a loss that is, and give them more opportunity to worship.*

We give thanks for the Church of Scotland's "Crossreach" organisation, and the loving work it does not just for the elderly, but for many vulnerable groups in Scotland.

Monday September 10 Samaritans are asking us today to pray for all who are so troubled as to be contemplating suicide. Lord Jesus, move others to notice their distress and embrace them, to shine a light in their darkness that allows them to see life going on. May they realise how precious they are.

Tuesday September 11 *I might not have known it, but this is "scroll-free September", a chance for each of us to review our use of social media. It's not too late for me to join in, and perhaps I don't need to first ask my friends what they think! Lord Jesus, thank You for teaching us that we need to be vigilant about the balance of our lives.*

We pray particularly for parents and children whose lives are being harmed by gaming disorder. Lord, might the providers of games come to admit the compulsive habits they are fostering.

Wednesday September 12 Father, how can I see Your Creation not just from my human perspective, but from Your loving one? Am I really the high point of it? Considering my faults, I can hardly think so. There is so much more besides, and much more amazing. Rather than feeling elevated, I feel humbled, and that's a better feeling.

Thursday September 13 *Lord, I might read the Bible, or listen to it, but I might not understand. So I thank You for those who interpret it properly for me. May our Thursday Bible Study sessions help many to understand Your love.*

Friday September 14 We pray for the souls of all those killed in recent disasters, natural and man-made. May they be in eternal peace with You, Father. We pray for the families and friends devastated by bereavement, and for all who are having to recover from injury or loss of home and livelihood.

Saturday September 15 *(A children's prayer.) Father God, thank You for this world, and for loving me as well. That makes me feel special. Amen.*

Sunday September 16 With the harvesting of crops nearly complete, and the Deeside local food festival today, we give thanks for the producers of our food. This year has been difficult for many of them, but Lord, we commend their commitment to feeding us with ever-improving quality and sustainability. We ask You to bless their efforts.

Monday September 17 *Holy Spirit, we want our Kirk to become something new, and we believe it can. Help us to understand what Christ wants us to do here in Cults. Harness the gifts that each one of us has, so that together we shall see all the colours of a life in Him and show the rainbow to others as well. Amen.*

Tuesday September 18 At the start of the Guild's new session we pray that its members will be given guidance and strength for raising the much needed funds for their various projects, and that new members will come and join this happy and worthwhile group.

Wednesday September 19 *Lord Jesus, what a blessing it is that we in Your Church family are all so different. We have so much to enjoy about each other. We don't need to be frightened of welcoming all people here in Cults. You will keep us right.*

Thursday September 20 Thank You, Holy Spirit, for our members who commit themselves to serve our Church. Our Congregational Board, meeting this evening, has to be realistic but bold. Quite a challenge, but we know You will help them!

Friday September 21 *The UN invites all nations to honour a cessation of hostilities on this International Day of Peace. At the same time, people around the world are praying that this day can calm some angry minds and sow seeds of peace. Jesus, You had the same mission on earth. We have faith that You hear our prayer.*

Saturday September 22 This past week has also been dedicated to encouraging Israel and Palestine to make peace. God of all countries and people, a breakthrough is needed there. We pray it will come sooner rather than later.

Sunday September 23 *Officially the first day of autumn, and the signs are certainly around us. May we become more aware of what has been grown and harvested for our benefit, and how dependent it is on the environment and our actions. We pray that soil and sea gets some renewal over the quieter season to come, while humans encourage each other to take what we need next year with more care.*

Monday September 24 Father, open our hearts to Your whole Creation in all its beauty and brokenness. As the earth cries out, as temperatures rise, as oceans change, as creatures die, open our hearts to hear the cries of Creation. (Rev. John Watson)

Tuesday September 25 *As refugees are being encouraged to return to Syria, we pray that they will be safe: that there will be no unlawful reprisals but much listening. The country needs the reconciliation of all its people in order to recover from its disaster.*

Wednesday September 26 Father, thank You for accepting so many kinds of prayer. It's just as well my prayers don't have to be clever or well thought out as I realise how many I have unconsciously made to You! But help me to be more aware when prayers are needed. You will regard my awareness as a prayer in itself.

Thursday September 27 *May the grieving be comforted, Lord. They didn't want to be grieving, and they don't know how they will get through it; but may they see that they don't have to do it in private – that there are others wanting to grieve with them. Thank You that our Bereavement Friendship Group provides the opportunity for grieving to be shared.*

Friday September 28 Lord, it's funny – no, it's miraculous – how You come to my aid when my faith is shaken. I start noticing the signs that You are present and an influence in the world. All that is divisive, or would seek to deny You, is feeble compared with the wonders You have given us, and the brave kindness You have inspired in people.

Saturday September 29 *Macmillan is aiming for the world's biggest coffee morning, with events all around the country. Let us pray that, alongside the goodwill, valuable funds will be raised to help sufferers with nursing, equipment and research.*

Lord Jesus, You are well aware of the challenges Your Church faces these days. Send the Holy Spirit to guide our Church conference today, so that we can write "A New Chapter" together with good humour and courage.

Sunday September 30 I pray for Mlombwa Church in Malawi and all churches like it, where faith is celebrated and shared by poor people. I think of its newly-acquired bus bringing infirm and far-flung members, so that the congregation may be even bigger than before. I pray that our congregation can learn from Mlombwa's, while helping them with their needs.

(A prayer for our Communion day.) "Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst. **Make us Your bread**, broken for others, shared until all are fed." (Bernadette Farrell)