

"It is not the strongest or most intelligent who will survive, but those who can best manage change." (Charles Darwin)

# Cults Parish Church

## *Prayer Diary October 2018*



This new chapter for Cults Kirk will be a great adventure in learning to live abundantly and encouraging others to do the same. An abundant life is one that is spiritual, that has meaning, and is full of purpose. It is lived in relationship with others and in relationship with God, who both permeates and transcends our universe; who against all odds loves us and calls us His people, and who adopts us as children.

We are a small part in a big story, a story that's still unfolding. And who knows where the Spirit will lead us next?

*(adapted from Mark Whittall "ReInvention".)*

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 19<sup>th</sup> to Andrew Fairhead.  
[andrew.fairhead@btinternet.com](mailto:andrew.fairhead@btinternet.com) Phone 01224 861926.

**Please come to our prayer meeting at 7pm on 31<sup>st</sup> October to help finish a new prayer leaflet for those who visit our buildings in need of comfort.**

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.

**Monday October 1** *The Church conference is over Lord, and now we ask You to strengthen us for the steps ahead. You have a clearer idea than we have of where they'll take us, but we pray that the journey will bring pleasant surprises and that we can all support each other.*

**Tuesday October 2** Guild Meetings resume this afternoon. We pray that the new session will be rewarding for the organisers, members and guests. May people near and far benefit from the Guild's new fundraising projects.

We pray for the Lord's guidance on our Kirk Centre Management Committee this evening. May the ideas keep coming for ways to improve our Centre and the facilities it offers to our Church and community. In this month, as always, we will be praying for some of the remarkable variety of activities in our Centre and Church.

**Wednesday October 3** *Let us thank the Lord that humans have learned the rewards of working together. Let us thank Him that Church is such a great opportunity to bring our skills together, such as at the "knitting and natter" session to make poppies for our remembrance service. May those knitting at home also feel part of this effort, and be moved by what their poppies signify.*

**Thursday October 4** Enjoying a new experience in worship is our "Young at Heart" choir, who will be singing in Church on Sunday. Let us pray for them all, and Emily their leader, as they bring their new-found skills together.

**Friday October 5** *Lord, most of us are able to enjoy a good breakfast, but we pray for those, including children, who aren't. May the "Big Scottish Breakfast" at our Centre and many other places around the country raise enough money to make a difference.*

*We give thanks for our members who run our Friday Café, popular with Academy pupils and giving them an opportunity to come into a church building.*

*The still-young have their opportunity to meet at Shuna's supper club. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will make this group the heart of the new church.*

**Saturday October 6** *May we be glad that last Sunday's retiral collection has gone to the Vine Trust, whose intrepid volunteers lend a vital hand with the practical and medical needs of disadvantaged communities in Tanzania and Peru.*

**Sunday October 7** *This wonderful world provides varied and nutritious food, but many people toil to get it to us. Our Harvest worship and meal today, at home or at Church, will give us an opportunity to acknowledge this and thank You, Lord.*

**Monday October 8** *As Tracy starts her week buying supplies for our Hub Café and preparing food, let us pray that our three Hub managers will be strengthened for their task, and that more bakers and serving volunteers will come forward to help this busy enterprise.*

**Tuesday October 9** *We pray for those who have responded to our invitation to come and work for our children and families, and youth. May this be the beginning of many fulfilling relationships among us.*

**Wednesday October 10** *A threatening deadline in Syria brings the danger of deadly fighting in Idlib province. O God, we pray that this conflict of implacable groups can be brought under control without yet more innocent and indeed guilty people being killed.*

**Thursday October 11** *Many have been eagerly awaiting this start of our Messy Church season. It is thanks to You, Lord Jesus, that we have such a happy time together.*

*"We just want peace!" A desperate Yemeni mother sums it up for the warmongers in her country and for the rest of the world. Lord of all, throughout this month we are praying for peace in all places. Our plea to the violent would be: "Try to understand what you are doing to other human beings. Then you might be able to stop it."*

**Friday October 12** *Our school children and teachers are breaking up for their holiday. Though the busy-ness of life doesn't stop, we pray that there will be opportunities to rest and refresh. We give thanks for the work and learning that happens in schools.*

**Saturday October 13** *Lord Jesus, bless our Care Group, which looks after a special part of Your flock. May their coffee morning bring joy and provide funds for Christmas presents for the elderly in our parish. May more visitors join the Group to help widen its reach.*

**Sunday October 14** *Holy Spirit, we seek Your presence during our worship today, in our homes, at our morning service, and at our Deeside Care-Home service. Then at our evening service, help us to learn from Jesus's story of the prodigal son.*

**Monday October 15** *Nkolokoti Church, a neighbour of our partner Mlombwa Church in Malawi, asks us to pray that its new men's ministry will attract the many men of its district who do not join in worship or gain fulfilment through Christ's teaching. We pray that African men can become as committed as the women to good work.*

**Tuesday October 16** *We have striven so hard to be a fair-trade church, and have encouraged others to be as well. In this time of ruthless marketing and struggling retailers, we pray that a way can be found for Traidcraft's needy suppliers to continue selling their goods. May more people come to understand the "fair" in fair trading.*

**Wednesday October 17** *Holy Spirit, thank You for suggesting to Shuna and our Church new ways of worshipping, witnessing and exploring faith. Keep up our intrigue in creative possibilities. We pray particularly that our embrace of an artist in residence, Marina, will be mutually happy and beneficial, and surprising.*

**Thursday October 18** *We pray that Shuna's new venture of an evening service for younger people, "Café Church", will bring more people and new life into our church.*

*Lord God, I know that very often I am led to prayer by what has happened to me or to others. But I thank You also for people of faith who remind me of other things I can pray about, and who find different ways of leading me into Your presence. And so may I and others be helped by our Worship and Faith Journey Group this evening, as they present to us some ways that might not have thought about.*

**Friday October 19** *How well the habit of Christian giving suits us and strengthens our community. Lord Jesus, we can't thank You enough for teaching it to us. Please be present at our Outreach Group's tea party for Florence Court residents which is to remind them that they are always welcome in the Hub. Oh ... You were coming anyway! Of course, You are always with us, in happy times and sad.*

**Saturday October 20** We pray for Pope Francis and the whole Roman Catholic Church, trying to right the devastation of sexually-deviant clergy. May all its adherents agree honestly how to reform the Church into one that Christ intended, allowing it to regain the world's trust and respect.

**Sunday October 21** *(A children's prayer.) Dear God, my Creator and Friend, You have blessed me. Help me to understand what that means, so that I can be a blessing to others. Amen.*

**Monday October 22** Let us be glad that India is introducing a new health-insurance scheme that will particularly benefit the poor. May it encourage other governments in poor and developing parts of the world to reduce inequality among their people.

**Tuesday October 23** *Lord, heed the prayers that form in our minds as we fill and wrap Christmas shoeboxes in time for next Sunday.*

**Wednesday October 24** We pray for the United Nations on its special annual day. Father, You must be saddened like us to see it split at the moment into factions, and no longer properly united by common principles. We ask You to guide all its members and representatives, and those who wield power over it.

**Thursday October 25** *We pray for the bereaved, who need strength and friendship. May they receive strength by confiding in God, and may our Friendship Group this afternoon remind them that they have known joy, and will know it again.*

**Friday October 26** The leaves are off the trees, but the new season has its own beauty. Lord, keep us safe this winter, and help us to look after those who are vulnerable to the cold, to illness or hunger. We pray for NHS staff, under pressure during the winter months, and for carers who have to give of their best as conditions get more difficult.

**Saturday October 27** *This morning, charities are selling their Christmas cards at our Kirk Centre. It's not too early to remember that God came to us at Christmas. Not too early to be thinking of sending greetings to all those special people we know; and never too early to give these charities our support.*

**Sunday October 28** "Go in peace, go in joy, go in love." This former Guild slogan applies well to the shoeboxes we will collect at Church today and send to needy people in distant lands. We thank You Lord for Blythswood charity and our local volunteers who organise the scheme and make it easy for us to take part in it.

**Monday October 29** *Risen Jesus, with us always, we have prayed this month for so many activities in our Church, but there are many others for which we now ask Your blessing. Thank you for all the fellowship and good work that our Church and Kirk Centre have seen this month. It is so rewarding to serve You.*

**Tuesday October 30** Lord, anyone who I hear crying "I can't go on" presents a special task for me. Enfold me with Your Grace, so that I can enfold them. Let me not tire, but keep giving until I hear them say "I will go on". Bless all of us with our struggles.

**Wednesday October 31** *While some shallow and superstitious ways of the world might distract us this evening, it's a good time for praying. Let us pray for everyone in need of emotional support. May our new prayer leaflet being prepared by the Prayer Group be a real help to all who come to our Church buildings seeking comfort.*