

"Let our lives display His Name." (Christopher Martin Idle)

Cults Parish Church

Prayer Diary March 2019



A Prayer for a Shared Future

God of past, present and future, be with us as we take our next steps as nations together. May we strive to love our neighbour as ourselves: listening and speaking with respectful kindness; embracing difference.

Remembering how much all have been forgiven by You, may we offer friendship, grant mercy, and seek peace and justice in our shared future. Amen.

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 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.

Friday March 1 "Come," You say, "everything is ready!" Lord Jesus, You are inviting me to God's Kingdom. Well, sorry, but I may be too pre-occupied and busy to come. "I'm sorry too," You rebuke, "but the feast will be enjoyed, by those who never thought they were invited." On this World Day of Prayer, I thank the women of Slovenia for making me wonder if I should be spending more time with God.

Saturday March 2 *We pray for peace for our nation: a sense of ease, a sense of common purpose. Lord, help everyone to become channels of Your peace. (Rev. Margaret Shuttleworth, Sauchie and Coalsnaughton Parish Church.)*

Sunday March 3 Lord Jesus, let me meet You in the ordinary places of my life. Then, like the woman at the well, may I be moved to be an effective witness for You, and by my words and actions build Your kingdom here on earth.

Monday March 4 *We thank God for the flourishing social life that our Kirk Centre encourages, exemplified today by the Monday lunch club and the Knit and Natter group. Thank You Holy Spirit for our instinct to reach out and welcome.*

Tuesday March 5 Lord Jesus, we have been praying to You about Shamima Begum's sad and difficult case in the light of the values we have learned from You. You would not have judged Shamima harshly, but would invite repentance. May goodness be reasserted in the end. We pray for the salvation of all who have made wrong choices, and all whose hopeful choices have gone wrong.

Wednesday March 6 *Saviour, I am in awe of immense courage You showed at all times in Your ministry. You knew the steps You were taking were unavoidable. For me, they are essential pointers to what faith and dedication to God ultimately means. May I make the effort during Lent to think and act for Him, so that my life can be freed from selfishness and corruption.*

Thursday March 7 We are glad, Lord Jesus, that we are becoming more imaginative in our ways of using Lent as an opportunity to approach God. Help all who embark on such ways, including our poetry group, beginning its meetings today.

Friday March 8 *Why do we have that fatal weakness in our brains, Creator God, that makes us vulnerable to addiction? Surely it was not part of Your purpose? The brutal murder of little Alesha MacPhail highlights the utter devastation of lives it brings about, and not just the addict's. We pray for those who work tirelessly and often in great anguish to rescue victims or to defeat the amoral system that feeds addiction.*

Saturday March 9 (A children's prayer.) Lord Jesus, the devil came and tempted You in the wilderness. If I'm tempted by things that don't seem right, I will call on You to help me say "No!"

Sunday March 10 *Lord, how shocking that more children than combatants die as a result of war. We are ashamed. Please guide our world into better ways.*

Monday March 11 Justice, peace, and harmony seem to elude our world, O God. We pledge ourselves to counter the trend towards disagreement and strife, and away from respect and courtesy. But we feel powerless and confused. We need strength from You.

Tuesday March 12 *(The prayer of the Boys' Brigade and Girls' Associations:) "Bless, O God, the Brigade, and give to it greater power to advance Thy Kingdom throughout the world. Grant in Thy mercy that every member, past and present, may prove steadfast in their fight against evil, and true in their allegiance to Thee."*

As our Guild hears about the Boys' Brigade this evening, and pursues its fundraising support for the Brigade, we pray that this support will help more young people to follow a life of Christian service and witness.

Wednesday March 13 The environmental destruction sweeping the world could be just as deadly as war. Father, in our lives as individuals and as a Church, let us honour Your Creation by trying to be part of the solution, not the problem.

Thursday March 14 *We pray that Messy Church is on a roll! Thank You Lord for bringing new families to us. We pray that young and old will enjoy today's gathering.*

Friday March 15 We celebrate the continuing, amazing, advances in medical diagnosis and treatment. But Lord, there are those who yet suffer. We pray for their healing. Never let us underestimate their difficulties. Let us resolve to give more of our time to help, and give kindness and joy. Make us imaginative to do whatever we can.

Saturday March 16 *Racial disharmony within nations was already entrenched in Your time, Jesus, and something You spoke and acted against. Yet still it diminishes us. We are grateful for the champions of integration and equality that You have inspired, and for films such as "Remember the Titans", being shown at our Centre this evening, warning us of the bitter consequences of racism.*

Sunday March 17 Yes Lord, You can even teach us about communication! Your radical Good News spread around the world, and is still a best seller. Our Church must spread that Good News as well, in all its forms; and so we pray for Your blessing and inspiration on Fiona, Abbie, Rae and Graeme as they take on this task in our multi-media age.

Monday March 18 *We pray for Scottish Christian worker Gary Brough and his family, who are moving from Scotland to Northern Malawi to work for the Presbyterian Church there on behalf of the Church of Scotland. Lord, give him the courage and foresight to help prevent children and young people from being trafficked or coerced into slavery of various kinds. Keep his family safe and happy in their strange new surroundings.*

Tuesday March 19 We pray for judges and all who hold judicial roles in courts, tribunals and other hearings. Do we appreciate enough their immense task of weighing and balancing evidence to reach a wise and fair decision? Let us thank God for our impartial judicial system, and for the influence of His Son on its principles.

Wednesday March 20 *As spring approaches, we are more aware of God's handiwork in nature around us. May we cherish the increasing light and warmth, the flowers, the buds on trees and the gathering insects and birds. Lord, You often speak in wonders, and most wondrous of all is Your love for us.*

Thursday March 21 We pray that a leader and pianists will come forward to help our choir in their mission to reinforce our singing. Holy Spirit, prompt all in the congregation who have musical gifts to find ways of using them in God's service. We pray also for Emily and her fostering of the praise group.

Friday March 22 *Knowing that individuals and societies are incomplete without worship, we pray for all people whose freedom to worship is threatened or denied. God of all, we pray on behalf of Christians in Egypt, Nigeria, and China, and the Uighur Muslims, also in China. Lord, with our gratitude that we are free to follow our faith, we pray that misguided governments and state religions that constrain worship will mature or change, so that all people can freely give thanks for their blessings.*

Saturday March 23 Who knows how much good our coffee mornings do, bringing people together for a chance to chat, enjoy refreshment, and learn about our Church's work and fellowship. We trust our Guild for all of that, Lord Jesus, but we pray that there will be an even greater effect from the funds raised for their projects.

Sunday March 24 *Let us pray for our local churches and all those who worship in them. Lord, lend Your grace to make them attractive to all newcomers to our community. May Your Spirit abound at their conference next Saturday to plan their beneficial presence for the new Countesswells development.*

Monday March 25 We pray for peace for our world: that out of warring nations we shall find peace-makers. Help everyone to become channels of Your peace. (Rev. Margaret Shuttleworth, Sauchie and Coalsnaughton Parish Church.)

Tuesday March 26 *Where family life and relationships have broken down, Lord, we ask for Your gracious healing. Sow the seeds of forgiveness, and nurture those thoughts that may already be in people's minds so that they become stronger than anger and resentment. And one warm day, after the hard and delicate work of cultivation, may the harvest of reconciliation be enjoyed.*

Wednesday March 27 Lord Jesus, if I'm honest, I'm never quite sure how to say that prayer I really want to say. Perhaps if You helped me turn it into action, that would be better than poor words.

Thursday March 28 *What depths of love You have let us feel, Lord God – so much that when any of us lose the love of a lifetime, we feel their bereavement. Thus our Friendship Group lets us help each other through the darkness, coaxing them towards a light they can return to when they are ready.*

Give heart to the Session and Board's meeting this evening, Lord Jesus. There is much business with fabric and finance, and core-group ambitions, and plans for the development of our mission in Your name. Some surprises too may not be a bad thing.

Friday March 29 Let us pray for the economic wellbeing of the country, for the businesses that fairly create our wealth, and those who distribute it; for workers, and those who would like to work, and those who cannot. We pray for the security of those who have come here from Europe and elsewhere to live, work, bring up their families, and contribute to our community life. Lord of our inclusive Church, we pray that everyone can journey into the future with respect for friends who had hoped so dearly that things would turn out differently, and for neighbours in Europe and across the world.

Saturday March 30 *Lord God, help us remember that the earth is yours, and everything in it. We pray for friend and stranger, and all life's interconnectedness. Grant us greater awareness of all life, and hearts willing to make changes to enable a better life for all.*

Sunday March 31 Mothering Sunday is intended to remind us of the community we grew up in, perhaps with a church at its heart. But let us thank God also for that strong feminine heart of families and community – the women. As cultures around the world learn to respect women properly, let us lead that righting of wrongs.