

"May the joy of the Lord be our strength." (Nehemiah 8:10)

# Cults Parish Church

## *Prayer Diary June 2019*



"The arms of God be around my shoulders  
The touch of the Holy Spirit upon my head,  
The sign of Christ's cross upon my forehead,  
The sound of the Holy Spirit in my ears,  
The fragrance of the Holy Spirit in my nostrils,  
The vision of heaven's company in my eyes,  
The conversation of heaven's company on my lips,  
The work of God's church in my hands,  
The service of God and the neighbour in my feet,  
A home for God in my heart,  
And to God, the Father of all, my entire being."

**(A Lorica, or breastplate prayer, attributed to St. Fursey, 7<sup>th</sup> century.)**

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 July diary by June 21<sup>st</sup> to Andrew Fairhead. [andrew.fairhead@btinternet.com](mailto: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 June 1** Thank you for the small oasis of peace we sometimes find.

Thank you for the small patches of beauty that sometimes confront us.

Thank you for small snatches of music that we did not seek out.

Thank you for that and so much more. (Margaret Robertson)

**Sunday June 2** *Our Church's support for good causes is highlighted today by Stella and Bill's sponsored walk for The Leprosy Mission Scotland. Boost their steps Father, as they strive so hard for the underprivileged.*

*O God, though dementia may take our loved ones from the world they knew, they are still living in Your sight and love. We pray for all the dedicated carers, all who support them, and all who look for preventions. May this afternoon's choir concert raise valuable funds for Alzheimer's Scotland, as well as giving pleasure to all who come.*

**Monday June 3** It is such great news, Father, that You have called our brother Conor to train for the ministry. We pledge to make him always welcome here, and to lend him not just our ears but our hearts.

**Tuesday June 4** *In how many ways can we thank You, Lord? You have given us so many ways, with our resources, time and talents. We pray that the Church of Scotland's stewardship season, and particularly its road show that visits us this evening, will help us consider how much we owe You, and how much more we could do.*

**Wednesday June 5** Though it wasn't enjoyed in Your time, Jesus, and so many don't benefit from it even today, we've lived in a democracy and believe You would have approved of its egalitarian principles. So the realisation that democracy is fragile and in danger comes as a shock. May we come to better understand what it means and how to protect it from subversion.

**Thursday June 6** *With Bible-study meeting as usual this morning, and a new group discovering poems inspired by Creation, we realise with thanks how much there is to learn, celebrate, and heed.*

*Father, we marvel at how Jesus's Church helps us in (these) times of uncertainty, enabling us to meet in so many different ways in the fellowship and compassion of a powerful transformative religion. It gives us a reassuring sense of security and hope.*

**Friday June 7** Let us be quick to welcome people that have no value – in the way our competitive world defines value. Then our competitiveness disintegrates into delight and cooperation, because each person is gifted and unique and beyond compare. (Using words of L'Arche founder Jean Vanier, who died last month.)

**Saturday June 8** *Lord, how thankful we are that so much good is being done in the world by charity activists and their appreciative supporters. We are glad that our Centre is used by charities for coffee mornings this summer. May today's, for Home Start, bring better chances for children in families that are struggling to cope.*

*We thank God for those who remind us that pursuing worldly glory is less important than honouring God. May Olympic athlete Eric Liddell's example in the film "Chariots of Fire" this evening make us reflect on our own priorities.*

**Sunday June 9** Holy Spirit, help us to affirm at our public festival in Hazlehead Park this afternoon that Jesus is the revelation of God's love for all. And in Deeside Care Home too, where we worship with the elderly.

**Monday June 10** *Where a child has never known the embrace of a mother or father, someone must be there in prayer. Please remember orphaned children across the world and ask God to provide for and bless them.*

**Tuesday June 11** In so many parts of the Middle East, peace is either fragile or hardly even in sight. We pray that all the factions will notice the human suffering they are causing, and start thinking more imaginatively about what they want to achieve.

**Wednesday June 12** *"You hypocrites!" Ouch, Jesus, You meant me, and also when You said "It'll be hard for the rich to enter Heaven." You were so anxious for us to stay close to God, to know His Kingdom, and work for it; and to heed His Word. Just as well then that a major study has been launched into the growing inequality in the UK. May it persuade us to redirect wealth towards those who honestly need or earn it.*

**Thursday June 13** We ask for God's blessing on Sikhs, who this weekend commemorate the martyrdom of Guru Arjan, founder of the Golden Temple in Amritsar, not by showing anger or bitterness, but by serving sweetened cold drinks to all who pass by Sikh homes or gurdwaras.

**Friday June 14** *Our own weekend of invitation begins. May many come to find out how we worship, and the many different ways we work together to care for Jesus's flock – that is everyone – near and far.*

**Saturday June 15** We thank You Lord for the delightful surprises that always come when our Church and our friends get together. And so we look forward to this family fun day and barbecue. Bless the organisers Clay and Abbie, and make them pleased that they did it.

**Sunday June 16** *On this Back-to-Church Sunday, may it be our enthusiasm that visitors notice, and after further contact, our love.*

**Monday June 17** Lord, make me curious to know more about how You have shaped and guided people in the past, and still do; and how You might do it for me.

**Tuesday June 18** *We pray for the sufferers of a desperate illness we don't hear much about – severe sickness during pregnancy. It has awful consequences for some who should be enjoying a special time in their lives. We pray that better treatments can be found soon, and that meanwhile these ladies will be given as much encouragement and compassion as possible.*

**Wednesday June 19** From the scouting movement comes good news that its numbers are increasing, especially in deprived areas of the UK. Let us pray that this will improve youngsters' skills and give them opportunities they might otherwise miss.

**Thursday June 20** *As Scotland's Refugee Festival gets underway, we pray that our newcomers can feel safe and valued. We pray also for the safety of migrants who are risking their lives in the Mediterranean Sea and English Channel; and for those going to their aid, and those who try to deal with their plight fairly and compassionately.*

**Friday June 21** It's well known that carers may not be looking after themselves. Let us all try to lend a hand, or just friendship, to keep life as it should be for them.

**Saturday June 22** *We pray that Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance can raise sufficient funds to buy, crew and maintain a life-saving helicopter for the North of Scotland, and we thank the O50 Group for the pleasure of a strawberry coffee-morning to help this cause.*

**Sunday June 23** Our summer breakfast services start with the Green Group reminding us of our obligations to Your Creation, Father. Afterwards, by removing litter from our surrounding area, we have a chance to practise respecting Your handiwork.

**Monday June 24** *(A children's prayer.) Lord Jesus, You said lots of things to help grown-ups, but to children You simply said "God loves you." If God loves me, I must be very important to Him. So if I'm ever upset, remembering God loves me will help me to be calm and put things right, or to ask for help. Thank You God and Jesus. Amen.*

**Tuesday June 25** (On another day of Music to Remember for dementia sufferers.)

*"I see trees of green ... skies of blue, ... and I can still think to myself, what a wonderful world!"*

**Wednesday June 26** *Lord Jesus, on the day our prayer group meets, and I would be welcome to join them, I realise that I could pray with more conviction. But I'm just not sure how to do it. You've warned me not to say lots of words that don't mean anything, and not to pray just to show off, but to pray often. Oh, I'll need things to pray about. Well, I can think of a few!*

**Thursday June 27** If there are desperate souls weeping through loss, may they find friendship. Lord, in Your good time, open to us joy for our sorrow.

**Friday June 28** *Lord Jesus, it's good news that Grampian's child and adolescent mental health service has a brand new centre in Aberdeen. We pray that this vital service will be able to help more of those in difficulty, more effectively, more compassionately, and more quickly. May it help also our understanding and prevention of their problems.*

**Saturday June 29** The Aurora Dance Group is giving this morning's strawberry tea. How good it is to have groups like this that help us to socialize and keep precious traditions alive; and provide great entertainment.

**Sunday June 30** *As JAM's year finishes, we pray with gratitude for the wonderful help we've had from our Duke of Edinburgh volunteers, Yasmin and Rob; and there's also Lewis, who operates the sound desk in Church. For Rob, who is going to college, and for all of them Father, we pray that You will be with them as they develop in mind and body, and in spirit.*

*We pray also for the leaders of JAM – Carol, Andrew, Abbie and Clay – that they will continue to feel the joy of helping the children come to Jesus.*