

"What the Lord requires of us is this: to do what is just, to show constant love, and to live in humble fellowship with our God." (Micah 6:8)

Cults Parish Church

Prayer Diary October 2019

"Don't let me be distracted, Lord. Keep my eyes and my heart wide open."



The Worship and 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 18th 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.

Tuesday October 1 Lord, You have made us for companionship, and our Church gives us the maximum opportunity to enjoy that. May it be also with the Guild as they begin their new annual session. May the support and encouragement, empathy and cooperation that they give each other be witness to their theme: "Companions on the Road."

Wednesday October 2 *Let us pray for women and the disabled in Zambia who will be enabled to become smallholder farmers with the help of Christian Aid. This project is the recipient of much of our recent fundraising, including last Sunday's retiral offering.*

Thursday October 3 We pray for all the plans that our Church groups will be making this month: the Property Committee being diligent about repairs and careful with our funds; the Youth Core Group looking at how to keep our young-people's church vibrant; the Outreach Committee planning events for all, and the Communications Group making them known. The plans are all put together later in the month by the core-group spokespeople and the Board and Session.

We pray also for the numerous groups that meet for fellowship and to share interests, and particularly for the poetry group on this National Poetry Day.

Friday October 4 *We welcome You, Lord Jesus, to our Friday café! As You know, it's informal, but it's Your enjoyment of young people's company that inspired our Church to reach out to our young Academy friends. May that same joy bring grace and enthusiasm to our current and future youth leaders, and to Clay, now away from Cults.*

Saturday October 5 As the draft Presbytery Plan is published we pray for all those affected by any changes suggested. We give thanks for the work of the Presbytery Deployment Committee who have put the plan together and pray that people will be gentle in their response.

Sunday October 6 *We give special thanks today for our sustaining food and for those who provide it. God's world provides plenty for everyone, so may we work tirelessly to see that it is distributed fairly, and that we don't harm fertile nature. And may these goals be well served by our harvest lunch and afternoon concert, raising funds to train and support organic smallholder farmers in India.*

Through "I am the bread of life" Lord Jesus, You give us the key to survival, which we acknowledge in our evening service. May we always pay attention when You say "I am..." These reminders of Your authority and power are essential to our faith journey.

Monday October 7 What have the Bahamians left? Not their loved ones, their homes, livelihoods, or the normal systems that support their ways of life. They now rely on the human spirit of cooperation, eager helpers, their strong faith, and the prayers of all the world. May these help them, and victims of other recent climatic freaks, to keep going.

Tuesday October 8 *(A children's prayer.) I pray that grown-ups will do all they can to save the wonderful world of nature that You have made. I want it all to be here when I'm grown up, so that I will see the beautiful plants and creatures, and praise You for them.*

Wednesday October 9 Baby Loss Awareness Week begins today. Lord, when I want to help but don't know what to say, then put "Sorry" on my lips and make my heart big enough to mean it. And if they want to talk, let me listen. Bless their dear little angels.

Thursday October 10 *Lord, we ask You to bless the noble causes behind World Mental Health Day and World Porridge Day. What they have in common is the resolve of our fellow humans to make things better for others. We may not be in a position to provide meals for the hungry or counsel the troubled, but we owe it to them to know their difficulties, to give what we can, and to pray for them and those who bring relief.*

Friday October 11 It won't be their most comfortable night, but the whole point for those in tonight's Cyrenians' sleep-out in Union Square is the discomfort that homelessness brings to all of us. Lord, keep us discomfited until the problem is solved.

Saturday October 12 *As our Care Group hosts a coffee morning, we pray that the Group can continue graciously to tackle that obvious need in society, where isolation is a detriment to us all.*

Our film this evening reminds us of former sides of religion and colonialism that we might hope are less in evidence today, but, Lord Jesus, we ask for Your loving guidance in making Your Church as pure and innocent as You intended it. Then we can serve You without blemish, and take on the evils of the world in righteousness.

Sunday October 13 In Your name, Jesus, we pray for God's blessing on our neighbours in Deeside Care Home, Florence Court, Dunmail Manor and Tornadee, who welcome our minister and other Kirk members bearing them His word. We are glad to bring our kirk to them in their frailty. Lord, if any other elderly people are missing a chance to worship, may we or another Church get to hear about it.

Monday October 14 *Lord, even while claiming to value democracy, we are divided about what it actually means; and it may be that our present version is flawed. Bring forward visionaries who can point out where we are going wrong.*

Tuesday October 15 Lord Jesus, give me kindness for those who are ill. Help me to carry their burden with them. And keep my faith strong and clear, so that I can bolster theirs, who need it ready to hand.

Wednesday October 16 *Thank You God for peacemakers. Equip me with some of their real desire, so that peace can be championed by us all, rather than left to the few. Give the new Nobel peace laureate even more influence and success in their chosen cause.*

Thursday October 17 Let us pray for young Afghanis, wanting a free, democratic society. We ask that a genuine peace process can get under way there. And let us pray for other countries wanting for democracy.

Friday October 18 *(A prisoner's prayer for this Prisons Week.) "Take me prisoner, Lord, And truly set me free; Help me lay down my sword, Then victorious I shall be."*

Saturday October 19 Thank you Lord for clever technology that enables families to keep in touch even if they are on the other side of the world. No longer do we have to rely on flimsy blue airmail letters – we can instantly hear and see each other. Thank you that we can watch youngsters as they grow up, and laugh together at silly jokes! What a blessing this is.

Sunday October 20 *So many ways of serving! We thank our loyal members who serve our Kirk on Sundays by bringing members to services, or give warm welcomes; who read the Bible to us, who arrange flowers and pass them on in loving*

outreach, or count the offering. We thank Julie and her team for providing tea and coffee. We pray particularly that people will come forward to lead the transport and flower ministries.

Monday October 21 This is One World Week, with the message this year that "Climate changes everything. Now is the time to act." Heavenly Father, help us to be more careful of your beautiful world. Our greed and lack of consideration have caused terrible damage, destroying environments and species without thinking of the consequences. Help our leaders to consider how we can repair what we have destroyed, and save what is left for those who come after us. In the name of Jesus, may we all work together to repair our planet. Amen.

Tuesday October 22 *Let us give thanks with the Guild as they pack shoeboxes this evening: thanks for all the volunteers in Cults and all over Scotland who donate, pack and distribute the shoeboxes; thanks to Carol and the Guild for their loving effort, and to our congregation for their support. We pray that the boxes will reach out to the particularly vulnerable, who will feel God's love through our practical help.*

Wednesday October 23 After resolutions at the General Assembly, we are faced with radical changes in the Church. But let us remember, Lord Jesus, how dramatically You moved Your ministry on in just three years. We pray for our Cults Kirk development group, and for all Christians and their Churches confronting similar changes.

Thursday October 24 *We dedicate today's Messy Church to You, Lord Jesus, since it was You who showed us so many times that "untidy" is the way of God's Kingdom!*

Friday October 25 (A Hindu prayer for Diwali.) May the light of harmony shine in your home. May the light of kindness shine from your hands. May the light of understanding shine in your mind. May the light of love and peace shine from your heart.

Saturday October 26 *We pray that this morning's Christmas-card sale will be a useful fundraiser for all the charities involved, and that their cards will enrich the bond between sender and recipient.*

We pray with the Youth Core Group and Outreach Group that tonight's Hallowe'en event will attract many into the light and warmth, counteracting the nastier side of Hallowe'en. Our Father, You have no tricks – just treats.

Sunday October 27 A prayer for Bible Sunday. Heavenly Father, we worship You because You are wonderful. May the light of your word help us to understand your glory, making us wise for the salvation that we all desire.

Monday October 28 *Summer time has ended, but our Monday Squad works on to glorify God through our beautiful buildings and gardens. And many of us who plant bulbs at this ideal time are looking forward with hope to the show of spring flowers. It's a form of praying that brings beautiful results.*

Tuesday October 29 As many birds embark on their long, dangerous journeys to Africa and beyond, we pray that bird and animal charities will continue to campaign for the safety of migrating birds and stress the importance of these to our world and its survival.

Wednesday October 30 *We pray Lord that You will bless all the people moving into new homes in this area. May they find Your Spirit here in the community, bringing happiness and new friends.*

Thursday October 31 "In Christ there is no leaver or remainder." Lord, let us not be distracted or distraught by the fact that we are not all the same. Help us to appreciate and glorify the much deeper dependencies we have on each other. Amen.