

**Ottery St Mary Parish Church**

**Prayer Diary, end July 2021**

Thurs 29th Lord, we give you thanks for our town and pray for the mayor, councillors, and all those who contribute to its well-being. We give thanks for those who built and placed our beautiful church high on a hill, seen by all. As the bells ring out on Sundays, may more people feel the need to ask themselves what it represents.

Fri 30th Lord, we give thanks for your great gift of prayer. Help us never to take it for granted but to put time aside each day to come before you. We thank you that Jesus prays with us and that we have your Holy Spirit to guide us.

Sat 31st Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

Spirit of God, teach us your ways, that we may walk in the paths of peace.

**Prayer Diary for August 2021**

Sun 1st Today the church plans to celebrate Holy Communion. We give thanks for all those who plan, organize and take part in our regular Sunday services both in church and on line.

Mon 2nd It has been 2 weeks since the planned relaxation of Covid related restrictions on July 19th. We pray for all those affected by this pandemic whether by serious illness, long Covid, death of a loved one, having to self-isolate, or by a loss of income, job and/or livelihood.

Tues 3rd Coffee and Chat takes place this morning. Pray for continued friendship, conversation, and exchange of ideas. Give thanks and pray for the Sidmouth Folk Festival taking place this week with many open air events.

Weds 4th We lift to you, Lord, those attending Morning Prayer and the staff meeting this morning. Today is Playday (UK). Let us celebrate the importance of play especially for young children and school children on holiday this summer. Pray for all children worldwide, especially those who have little opportunity to play or very little to eat. Pray for the “Superhero Academy” (Holiday Club) taking place this week Monday to Thursday, behind the URC.

Thurs 5th “Rock of ages cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee” Augustus Toplady.

Fri 6th The Tokyo Olympics are due to end on August 8th. We pray for the competitors, officials and safety for all. We pray for all sports people whether competitive or not, for healthy competition and fitness for all, at all levels.

Sat 7th A wedding is due to take place today. We pray for all couples getting married this summer and especially for those who have had to postpone their special day once or more.

Sun 8th This afternoon a baptism is scheduled, and another two take place on August 29th. We give thanks for parents who lovingly care for their young children and pray for the continuing welfare of babies and toddlers in these difficult times.

Mon 9th National Allotments Week starts today. Pray for abundant vegetables from allotments and gardens; for gardeners and for growing awareness for all of our beautiful natural environment of trees, flowers, and plants; rivers, ponds and the sea.

Tues 10th GCSE results come out on the 12th and A Level results on the 10th this year by teacher assessment. We pray for all students whatever their results, and wise decisions for their futures in further study or employment.

Wed 11th “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you.” based on John 13 v34-35.

Thurs 12th On the second Thursday of each month the Healing Group in the church pray for people they know who are ill and/or are in need of prayer. The names of these people are shared online and in these times the group pray individually in their homes at 2-45pm on this second Thursday of the month. Join in. You will know of people that need your prayers.

Fri 13th Lord help us to see, hear and feel the holiness, the significance and the special qualities in ordinary things and in ordinary people.

Sat 14th Pray for the unemployed, the homeless, those in prison, and people struggling with debt and financial problems. Pray for love, compassion, grace and forgiveness.

Sun 15th VJ Day observed in Europe. Help us, Lord, to remember past wars as a reminder to seek for world peace now and in the future.

Mon 16th Pray for those in troubled relationships, seeking divorce or separation; where parents, siblings and/or children are falling out. Pray for mended relationships.

Tues 17th We give a warm welcome and thanks to all visitors to our part of the world here in East Devon and particularly to Ottery St. Mary. We pray for their safety and hope they appreciate the town and surrounding countryside.

Weds 18th A Jubilate Concert is planned for this evening. An uplifting concert of thanks and praise. We give thanks and pray for all involved in this concert.

Thurs 19th We give thanks for all our leaders, local, national, and international; political and non political. We pray for their sound judgements, discernment and decision making.

Fri 20th Lord, inspire us, encourage and direct us to follow and imitate your humanity and teaching, even though we are aware of falling short of example. “Lead me, Lord, Lead me in your righteousness, make your way plain before my face.” Samuel Wesley.

Sat 21st World Honey Bee Day. We pray for the preservation of species of insects, plants and animals and our continued care of the environment. We earnestly pray for solutions to reduce carbon emissions and solve the climate change crisis.

Sun 22nd The Parish Picnic is scheduled for today. We pray for warm sunshine – well, at least a dry day - fun, friendship, laughter and conversations.

Mon 23rd This is the International Day of the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition. Let us pray for the abolition of illegal modern slavery and abuse.

Tues 24th We give thanks for the online Musings and Services; thanks to those people who have presented these for us to listen to and view. Also thanks go to those with the technical knowledge to produce these online offerings as well as screen based services in church. Pray for those who are viewing online, and, maybe don’t wish to attend church in person, but are finding such services and musings helpful and thought provoking.

Weds 25th Pray for our town of Ottery St. Mary for its businesses, services and shops especially those that are locally owned and run.

Thurs 26th “Breathe through the heats of our desire, Thy coolness and thy balm; Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire; Speak through the earthquake, wind and fire, O still small voice of calm. O still small voice of calm.” John Whittier

Fri 27th Pray for people in Care and Nursing Homes; for residents, their families and all staff. May those suffering from Dementia live contented lives as much as their illness will allow. Give strength, understanding, courage and kindness to their loved ones and the staff and carers caring for them.

Sat 28th We pray for those who are experiencing difficulties in their lives; those who are ill or facing tough times. Pray for the depressed and mentally ill.

Sun 29th We give thanks and pray for those people involved in our 10am service this morning and all other Sundays; the leader, the musicians, organist, choir singers, reader, leader of the prayers, bell ringers, welcomers and sound person. We also thank the PCC, Standing Committee and the Wardens for their thoughtful considerations in deciding the form of services and other activities in Covid times and for organizing them.

Mon 30th Pray that we follow Jesus’s example and never belittle, punish or shame others.

Tues 31st “God is where you are...when you’re at the end of yourself. God is who you are with…when you are with no one at all. God is the feeling you have...when you’re not sure your feelings can be trusted. God is underneath everything, above, not beyond, and sometimes just side by side, leaning across, waiting for an invite.” Martin Wroe