

St Martin's Church WALSALL



July Prayer Diary



For those who can make it, Morning Prayer takes place throughout the week at various times (see weekly newsletter) and on a Saturday morning at 9.00am. For those who cannot make Morning Prayer, be encouraged to pray using this Morning Prayer outline on your own, remembering that sometime between 7.00am-9.30am you will not be praying alone but at the same time as other people at St Martin's. Therefore, in this way as a Church, we will be praying together. However, this Morning Prayer outline is only a guide, remember:

Pray as you can — not as you can't

Outline for Daily Prayer

A MOMENT'S QUIET	Remember, God is our Father, Jesus is Lord. The Holy Spirit is with us.
PRAISE & THANKSGIVING	Give thanks to God for Jesus and for those things we can so easily take for granted.
CONFESSION	Say sorry to God for those things that you've thought, said and done which are wrong.
BIBLE READING	Read the Bible slowly and prayerfully.
QUIET REFLECTION	Silence
PERSONAL PRAYER	Including the Prayer for today in the St Martin's Prayer Diary.
CLOSING PRAYER	Be present in all we do today, in each breath that we take, each word that we speak, each hour that we work, each hour that we rest. Lord be in all. In our dreams, hopes, successes, our disappointments, failures and fears be Lord of all. Amen.

God of Mission

**Who alone brings growth to your Church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give
Vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions,
And power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers,
In spiritual commitment to you,
And in service to our local community,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Sunday 1st July

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. Romans 12:3.

Today, from our church family, we pray for Jensen Proctor.

Collect for Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

“Loving Father God, loving creator,

We give you thanks for this day.

Help us now to worship you.

We thank you for the opportunity of this day.

Grant to us a spirit of openness and enquiry,

A willingness to learn and be taught,

A willingness to be open to new ideas and challenges.

We thank you that we are wonderfully made.

That you know us and you love us.

Help us to know that your love endures forever.

You are renewing and restoring us,

And also renewing and restoring the whole of your creation.

We give you thanks and praise. Amen.” (Tearfund)

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Monday 2nd July

The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? “I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward each person according to their conduct, according to what their deeds deserve.” Jeremiah 17:9-10.

Today, from our church family, we pray for Izabel Proctor.

Our charity for July is The Vine Trust and our representative at St. Martin's is Dorothy Doody: *‘The Vine Trust Group is best described as a Community Development Trust that is actively engaged in economic, environmental and social regeneration. The organisation*

*is structured to run an inclusive mix of services and facilities, which respond to the needs of the communities in which we serve, with the Christian **Ethos** as the cornerstone behind all activity.'* Loving Lord, we are delighted to be able to support this charity financially and pray that the money donated helps in some small way with the important work they do in Walsall. Please bless and guide all involved in this venture we pray.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Tuesday 3rd July

*Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people.
Proverbs 14:34.*

Today, from our church family, we pray for Kath Pymm.

Collect for St. Thomas the Apostle

Almighty and eternal God, who, for the firmer foundation of our faith, allowed the apostle Saint Thomas to doubt the resurrection of your Son 'till word and sight convinced him: grant to us, who have not seen, that we also may believe and so receive the fullness of Christ's blessing: who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Thank you, Loving Father, for Thomas whose humanity and vulnerability have been a source of great comfort to all who sometimes stumble and fall.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Wednesday 4th July

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people he chose for his inheritance. Psalm 33:12.

Today, from our church family, we pray for Mick Pymm.

Dearest Lord, we hear and see so much on the radio and television about the deteriorating state of the prisons in our country and the trouble caused by drugs such as Black Mamba. There is great concern about the safety of the under resourced Prison Officers who try to carry out their duties while fearing for their own safety as well as the safety of those in their care. We pray that the prison service will be properly financed and resourced in the future so that officers and prisoners alike will benefit from an improved situation.

*“Lord, when it’s time to go inside,
That Place of steel and stone.
I pray that you will keep me safe,
So I won’t walk alone.
Help me to do my duty,
Please watch me on my rounds.
Amongst those perilous places,
And slamming steel door sounds.
God, keep my fellow Officers
Well and free from harm.
Let them know I’ll be there too,
Whenever there’s alarm.
Above all when I walk my beat,
No matter where I roam.
Let me go back whence I came,
To family and home.” (Larry Peoples).*
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Thursday 5th July

*In that day you will say: “Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name;
make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim
that his name is exalted. Isaiah 12:4.*

Today, from our church family, we pray for Jane Quinn.

Loving and Compassionate God, we want to praise you today for all the initiatives which have grown out of the community café. The dementia support group, which take place on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at café, is now an established fixture. The volunteers organise creative, stimulating and interesting material suitable for those living with dementia. This is proving to be a hugely comforting and supportive resource for the sufferers and their families. The bereavement group, which meet on the first and third Thursday of the month, have provided and continue to provide enormous support to those newly bereaved and many who have been bereaved for some time. Tai Chi continues to thrive and has brought many new faces into the café recently. Thank you, Father, for such caring, compassionate and devoted volunteers who have done so much to comfort, support and bring joy into the lives of others.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Friday 6th July

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. Matthew 24:35.

Today, from our church family, we pray for Joan Richards.

Tomorrow night a faithful group of Street Pastors will be out once more helping to keep Walsall safe. This is what they do each Saturday and what they contribute in an average year: *“Walsall Street Pastors are made up of Christian volunteers from various churches and denominations across Walsall, who go out in teams into Walsall town centre on Saturday nights between the hours of 10pm until approximately 4am. We walk around the town centre streets, pub and club areas and back streets. We are there to provide help, to be a listening ear and to care for anyone who may need assistance or who may become vulnerable during their night out. We work alongside the pub and club door staff, the Police and CCTV operators who can contact us if they feel someone needs our help. In an average year we patrolled for approx. 200 hours, removed hundreds of bottles, cans and glasses from the streets. We gave out many pairs of flip-flops, bottles of water, cups of soup, and innumerable cups of coffee and cereal bars. We provided space blankets and vomit bags; dealt with first aid incidents and anti-social incidents. And had any number of deep and meaningful conversations! All of this work is backed up by our Prayer Pastors team who provide prayer support for the Street Pastors and the people they meet during the night.”* Loving Father, we pray for all involved who are doing such valuable service for our town. Their numbers are decreasing so we pray for more people to come forward and volunteer for this worthwhile and rewarding work.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Saturday 7th July

As for God, his way is perfect: The LORD's word is flawless; he shields all who take refuge in him. Psalm 18:30.

Today, from our church family, we pray for Peter Rigby.

Our prayers for our town of Walsall focus today on our police and emergency services. We give thanks for every individual who has chosen to dedicate their lives to one of these services. We pray for them and their families and for all the challenges they will face today:

“Great God in heaven, ruler of heaven and earth, we are praying not only for our local police officers but also for our fire-fighters and

emergency medical service too. We ask for your protection for them today and pray you will watch over them from above and guide them in their decision making as they do their duties. Please hold them firmly in your caring hands and keep them from danger so that they can protect us from those who would seek to harm us. Give them the strength to carry on when tragedy strikes, give them the courage needed to face the dangers that are so present in this world, and please watch over their own families too as they also need the comfort and prayers of the community. So for these things I pray and for the glory and honour of the name in which I pray, Jesus Christ, Amen.” (Jack Wellman adapted)

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Sunday 8th July

I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your name for your unfailing love and your faithfulness for you have so exalted your solemn decree that it surpasses your fame. Psalm 138:2.

Today, from our church family, we pray for Julie Roberts.

Collect for Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

“This morning, Lord, we want everything to be for your glory. We want our thoughts, our words, our songs, our church, our community, our resources, our time, our lives: all to be for you. Everything ours is yours, and we come together to declare this to be so, on this holy day of thanksgiving. Bless our time together with your holy presence, Amen. (Mennonite Voice.)”

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Monday 9th July

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be

glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21.

Today, from our church family, we pray for Dan Roberts.

Father God, we want to say thank you to all those people at St. Martin's who have donated items to the local food bank based at Central Hall which we support. Each small item donated adds up to a huge resource of food, cleaning products, toiletries etc. which can be given out to families who desperately need them. Also we want to thank you for all the volunteers who give up their free time to help staff the food bank.

*“Generous Lord, Giver of abundant life,
From little you fed many
Yet in our world of excess many go hungry.
Teach us all to take no more than we need
And share with all who are left without.
Bless the food we donate
And bless those who need it and eat it.
In Your name we pray, Amen.” (Faith in Foodbanks)*
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Tuesday 10th July

*Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.
Philippians 1:6.*

Today, from our church family, we pray for William Roberts.

Compassionate Lord, we bring before you today the Rohingya Refugees living in Bangladesh. The monsoon season is upon us and many of the Refugees are living in flimsy tents that are no protection from such violent weather. We pray that the richer nations of the world would support the Bangladesh government in providing money for better accommodation. Bangladesh is itself a very poor country but it has shown enormous generosity to the Rohingyas fleeing from persecution in Burma. We pray for protection from the rains for all the people living in Bangladesh.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Wednesday 11th July

Ah Lord GOD! It is you who made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you. Jeremiah 32:17

Today, from our church family, we pray for Chris Rowe

Today we pray for all those who are suffering from physical illness or limitation. We ask that your presence may be felt as a comfort and strength for those who suffer. Where solutions to illness or improvements to care plans are possible, please guide the decisions of those with authority and knowledge. When comfort and patience is the only possible response to suffering, may this be communicated with respect and all opportunities for gentle understanding and supportive care be taken. We pray for those we love who are in pain or distress, in the hope of recovery to full health. For any in our fellowship and extended community who suffer, we pray that they will become known to us, and that we may know how to offer and provide support. Finally we pray for your guidance in the prioritisation and undertaking of scientific and medical enquiry, that what causes such pain, suffering or concern now, may find understanding and treatment in the near future.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Thursday 12th July

But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Matthew 4:4

Today, from our church family, we pray for Muriel Rowley

We thank you for those who work to protect and enhance church buildings and Christian meeting spaces in our cluster, diocese, country and for all fellowship groups around the world. In our Church, we thank you for the work of the fabric committee, and the successful work they have undertaken in the last few months fixing the roof and the Church door as well as improving the security lighting of our carpark. We pray for your hand to be over the organisation, funding and work of new project in the fixing of the water damage to the ceiling, planning the replacement of church lighting and the protection of the ongoing hospitality at Church through fixing the kitchen boiler. We thank you for those who willingly and often unseen undertake such tasks and ask that this work be towards you glory and the development of your Kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Friday 13th July

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee

should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:9-11

Today, from our church family, we pray for Diane Sainsbury

Thank you for families, in all the contexts and structures that a family can be made. We praise you for families celebrating new life through the miracle of birth, for the joy and protective love felt for the newborn. We ask for your clarity and comfort for times where medical or emotional complications cause unexpected pain or anxiety during birth and in the building of new relationships in the following months. We pray for all couples who seek but have not been given the blessing of a child, and ask for your comfort for all who suffer the emptiness of miscarriage or who have experienced the unthinkable loss of a child. We pray for all emerging families who are framing new relationships through fostering and adoption and that these be built on explicit love and patience. In praying against loneliness we thank you for families which are built on the love of friendship and shared experience. We ask that each individual in our fellowship and wider community will recognise their identity as a child of God.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Saturday 14th July

If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

John 15:10

Today, from our church family, we pray for Alan Sansome

Creator God, who made light on the first day of your creation, we ask that the light of your revelation in the life and sacrificial love of Jesus be known and shared across our community. As we pray for people of other faiths and those of none, we ask that we remain open in discussion to the ideas and beliefs of others, respectful of our differences and not threatened by them. As a Christian fellowship, may we take opportunities to build our understanding of the Gospel so that we may share it with integrity through our words and actions, and our responses be demonstrations of Jesus' love. We ask that as a community, but also as individuals, we may be used by you Lord to bring understanding, acting in strength and kindness rather than fear. We can think about the roads we live on

and the people we meet on a regular basis, that our actions be marked with love and the desire to understand. We ask for opportunities to find and celebrate common ground and shared purposes which do not compromise the light of the revealed God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Sunday 15th July

Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. James 1:21

Today, from our church family, we pray for Barbara Sansome

Collect for the Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Lord, we thank you for the power of your forgiveness. For the symbolism of the washing away of our sinful nature at Baptism, and the relationship of forgiveness which comes from that. We thank you for the invitation to repent and meet Jesus in the act of Communion. As we come to you in prayer today, help us to understand the undeserved and unchanging love and welcome with which you respond to us as your children.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Monday 16th July

For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. Colossians 2:9-10

Today, from our church family, we pray for Susan Sargent

Lord of Grace, thank you for your patient love. Please help each one of us to move beyond the hurdles that trip us up, and give us the strength and wisdom to look up and see the hope we run toward in Christ. Together with all the prayers we offer today, we ask this in Jesus' Name.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Tuesday 17th July

The Power of the Gospel: For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. Romans 1:16

Today, from our church family, we pray for Jack Sargent

Father we pray for those who are discerning the gift of a vocation from you. In thanks that each created individual is blessed with gifts and a vocation through which to use these talents, we ask for the clarity of this revelation. We ask that messages be revealed, reinforced with repetition, and affirmed by those we love and any who know us. As Christians we know that there are many callings and ways to serve God, and we ask that each one of us spend time and invest prayer and energy in finding the work or role which we have been blessed with. We pray in thankfulness for those who have a calling to enter the clergy, and for those who are currently training to be able to act on this vocation. We pray for all who are serving in full time Christian ministry, including those who have given their lives to God and are based in monasteries and convents. We pray your blessing on those who are undertaking a secular vocation, whether this be through or in addition to their current work. We ask that all of our thoughts and actions reflect the desire to strengthen our relationship with God and follow his guidance in our lives.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Wednesday 18th July

I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous ordinances. Psalm 119:7

Today, from our church family, we pray for Jeremy Sargent

We pray against worry and anxiety. We ask for the power to relinquish the control of holding on to what we feel as pressures or difficulties in our anxiety, asking for the strength to take these concerns to God and leave the resolution of these situations with him. We can remember in thanks that we have a God, who through his incarnation understands the demands and pressures of human relationships and desires. We pray against the temptation to worry, and reflect on the power of responding to such worry with prayer. We recognise that we cannot fix problems we see in our lives, in

our community or our world through our own work or strength, but that when blessed by God our Father all things are possible.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Thursday 19 July

Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand. Isaiah 41:10

Today, from our church family, we pray for Susan Saunders

We pray for the armed services. In the centenary year of the Royal Air Force, we thank you for the bravery and sacrifice of those who have worked in this arm of the forces since its inception in 1918. We thank you for those who have designed, engineered and crewed across this century of service. We also lift before you the work of Army and Navy, remembering those who plan, prepare and carry out the full range of work which these three organisations undertake. We pray for the families of the men and women in the armed services. For those who await the return of their sons and daughters, brothers, sisters, husbands and wives, and for the children who wait for the return of their mum or dad. We ask for the safe return for all who serve, and the understanding of the long term impact of this service on the individual and the potential impact on their relationships with loved ones. We ask for your hand to be over areas of conflict, and remember Jesus as our Prince of Peace.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Friday 20th July

But if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 1 John 1:7

Today, from our church family, we pray for Alice Saunders

In our prayers today, we ask for confidence in our relationship with God and our God-given abilities to serve him in our thoughts, words and actions. We ask that our fear of failure be limited, and not become a tool which holds us back from living in the freedom of faith. When we fear the impact of our actions or compare ourselves to others and as a result do not speak or act, please forgive us and help us move into confidence in our own potential. Today we can

spend time thinking about what we may be able to do, or be asked to do, when we are not afraid of being seen as incapable or that someone else may be better at it. May we keep our eyes on you, our creating, loving and protecting Father.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Saturday 21st July

I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I set your ordinances before me. Psalm 119:30

Today, from our church family, we pray for Lisa Scotney

We pray your protection for the homeless of our community. We pray against the unrest, danger and fear which can lead to homelessness. We pray in hope for either restored relationships or support and provision for those in need. We pray for those who are living with the risk of losing their home, where wages do not reflect living expenses and choices are made between food and shelter. We ask for a just world where those unable to work are protected and those who do work are in return given a fair and respectful wage. In times of need, we ask for the provision of shelter and supplies from different organisations around the city. We pray for the work of the ongoing work of the Glebe centre, for their efforts to strategically support those who are homeless and unemployment, but also for those in need due to poor physical or mental health, and the potentially contributing or resulting drug or alcohol dependency.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Sunday 22nd July

“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Matthew 16:15-16.

Today, from our church family, we pray for June Scotney

Collect for Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

Mary Magdalene - Collect

Almighty God, whose Son restored Mary Magdalene to health of mind and body and called her to be a witness to his resurrection: forgive our sins and heal us by your grace, that we may serve you in the power of his risen life; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Loving Lord Jesus, who spent your time on earth not with the rich and powerful but with ordinary people like Simon Peter and Mary Magdalene, people who sometimes made mistakes but nevertheless bore witness to their belief in you, give us the courage and inspiration to reach out and to share the message of your love and redemption.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

Monday 23rd July

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."
Matthew 19:14.

Today, from our church family, we pray for Sky Scotney

As we celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the founding of the NHS this month (5th July 1948), we give thanks for those whose endeavours gave free health care for all and for those whose lives have been enhanced and saved as a result. We now pray for the future of the NHS with the increase in new, often expensive treatment, an aging population and a shortage of doctors and other medical personnel and for the support and development of the NHS to continue to serve us effectively. We hope and pray, that the difficult time experienced by hospitals last winter, will not be repeated now that additional funding has been promised.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

Tuesday 24th July

Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely, who conduct their affairs with justice. Psalm 112:5

Today, from our church family, we pray for Jade Scotney

The International Red Cross Organisation, of which the British Red Cross is one member, was founded this month in 1864. We pray for this largest humanitarian network in the world, and its mission to

alleviate human suffering, protect life and health, and uphold human dignity and its work during armed conflicts and emergencies. We give thanks for the work of Red Cross and Red Crescent members volunteers who are helping care for refugees and pray for funding for this charity so that their work in this country and worldwide can continue to be effective.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

Wednesday 25th July

I will hasten and not delay to obey your commands. Psalm 119:60.

Today, from our church family, we pray for David Sharpe

James the Apostle – Collect

Merciful God, whose holy apostle Saint James, leaving his father and all that he had, was obedient to the calling of your Son Jesus Christ and followed him even to death: help us, forsaking the false attractions of the world, to be ready at all times to answer your call without delay; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen

Lord Jesus, at the end of another academic year, we pray for all the children and young people who live in and around our town and for their teachers and school helpers. We pray that they will now have a period of rest and relaxation after their efforts. We pray especially for those leaving school, college and university who are now looking for work and we ask for your blessing on all those who are anxious about their future. Help them to find appropriate work where they can use their skills and flourish as individuals. This is also the end of “term” for Messy church, Sunday children’s and Parents and Toddlers groups. We pray for them and their helpers and give thanks for the contributions our young people have made to our church and worship this year.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

Thursday 26th July

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1

Today, from our church family, we pray for Carol Smith

We pray for children and young men caught up in an environment where the carrying of knives is accepted, where petty arguments that might have even started online are resolved by violence and

children as young as 13 are being stabbed. Drug dealing and social media are blamed as well as cuts in the number of police officers and youth services. We pray for ways to reduce the rising high levels in knife crime, that young people can be dissuaded from carrying knives, that the beginning of the school summer holidays does not make the situation worsen and for services to provide teenagers with positive activities, help them develop, meet new friends and socialise.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

Friday 27th July

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, Hebrews 12:1.

Today, from our church family, we pray for Stuart Smith

Heavenly Father, only you know us truly as we are with all our faults and weaknesses, yet you still love us. You know that we are too quick to acknowledge the mistakes of others while ignoring our own. Help us to try to face up to our own failings, and to be worthy of your love. Support us when we worry and are anxious about things we have said and done. Give us the determination to follow your example and show compassion towards those we encounter in our lives. Help us to be kind, thoughtful and considerate of the needs of others and when we are confident and they are not, to support and encourage them for your sake.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

Saturday 28th July

I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:14.

Today, from our church family, we pray for Keith Steele

This week's prayer for our town focuses on child protection. Loving Lord Jesus, we pray for the safety of every child in our area and for vigilance to prevent neglect and abuse in the home and grooming by sexual predators. We pray for social workers, that their case loads are not too heavy and that they are given sufficient stability to get to know families well, and deal with problems before they develop. We also pray for those in our police as well as teachers

and medical professionals who are all expected to look for signs of abuse. We pray that they will have sufficient information to be able to discern problems and to pass them on. We pray for support for those who have been abused in the past and still struggle to deal with the trauma in adulthood.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

Sunday 29th July

I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have preserved my life. Psalm 119:93.

Today, from our church family, we pray for Pam Thorley

Collect for the Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church: open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.

We give thanks for the unsung heroes and heroines in our church who do all the jobs that make our church environment and activities so successful: For the gardeners and handymen, those who organise beautiful flower arrangements, those who keep the building clean and tidy, those who supply tea and coffee after church every Sunday, refreshments for our special events and those who do all the washing up. For those who produce service sheets, newsletters and prayer diaries, for everyone who helps at Thursday's coffee bar and everyone else whose efforts go unnoticed but without which St Martin's would be a poorer place. We pray that we will continually find ways to support our church and one another.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

Monday 30th July

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5: 14 & 16.

Today, from our church family, we pray for Lilian Turner

As our farmers bring in their harvests we pray for them and for their families and employees. For the decisions they need to make to keep farms running and profitable and for the means to set aside funds to pay bills, to make ends meet and protect for lean years.

Give them strength and good health to be able to work the long hours needed at this time of year and to cope with the strains on relationships and families.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

Tuesday 31st July

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. John 1:12-13.

Today, from our church family, we pray for Roger Turner

As the negotiations for the UK to leave the EU continue, we pray for wisdom and foresight for all those involved in the complexities of unravelling links politically, legally and financially as well as for political stability while this takes place. Where changes in law and other decisions have to be decided in parliament we pray that they will be considered carefully on their merits and that the result will save us from complex bureaucracy, retain laws which serve the common good and leave us in a good financial position which will enable us to help areas in most need. We pray for a good solution regarding trade over the border between Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic and that all the businesses, who may face problems in the short term, will be able to continue to trade effectively with the EU and others. Especially we pray for amicable negotiations in Brussels, not hostility or a punitive approach and that Europe will still continue to see us as a friend, ally and support. Finally we pray for patience for those who expected Brexit to be completed more quickly and easily.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

Prayer diary writers are taking a month's holiday from this work and therefore there will be no prayer diary for August. Please spend this time using your own favourite prayers and to pray for those in need in your family, our church and faith, our community, country and the world.

July Services

Sunday	1st July	Trinity 5
10.00am	Holy Communion	Liz Askey
6.30pm	Prayer and Praise	Chris Rowe
Thursday	5th July	
9.30am	Holy Communion	Penny Wheble
Sunday	8th July	Trinity 6
10.00am	All age service	Jenny Mayo-Lythall
		Penny Wheble
3.30pm	BCP Holy Communion	Jenny Mayo-Lythall
Thursday	12th July	
9.30am	Holy Communion	Chris Rowe
Sunday	15th July	Trinity 7
10.30am	Holy Communion	Jenny Mayo-Lythall
4:30pm	Messy Church	
Thursday	19th July	
9.30am	Holy Communion	Jenny Mayo-Lythall
Sunday	22nd July	Trinity 8
10:00am	Holy Communion	Margaret Carter
Thursday	26th July	
9.30am	Holy Communion	TBA
Sunday	29th July	Trinity 9
10:00am	Holy Communion	Penny Wheble