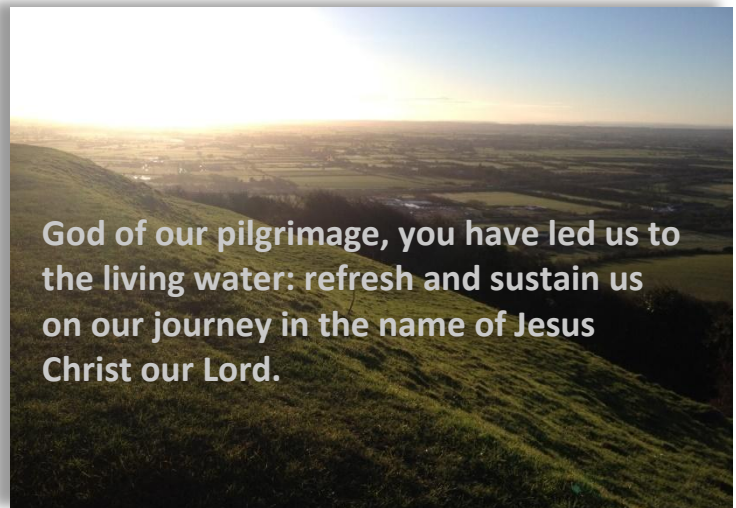


Axbridge Deanery

A monthly prayer diary for 2019

View from Brent Knoll, an image used as part of the deanery pilgrimage July 2015



A prayer at the start of the day

As we step out into a new day help us to remember that whoever we meet this day we meet in the name of Christ.

At noon

In the midst of the business bring stillness.
In the clamour of the day bring calm.
Take a moment to acknowledge God,
and to place our hand in His.

In the evening

Our day may not yet have ended
there may be much to do,
give us the courage Lord to lay aside
the tasks not rooted in You.

It's not always about the doing - but also our being

At the end of the day (from compline)

Keep watch, dear Lord,
with those who wake, or watch, or weep this night,
and give your angels charge over those who sleep.
Tend the sick, give rest to the weary,
sustain the dying, calm the suffering,
and pity the distressed;
all for your love's sake, O Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

1 st	As a tourist area let us give thanks for our many visitors. We pray for the work of BARB and RNLI keeping our coastline and inshore waters safe and coming to the aid of those in trouble. Pray too as we seek to discern a way forward in setting up a seasonal street pastors scheme.
2 nd	Pray especially for our Lay Ministry Coordinator, Rev Jonathan Philpott alongside his ministry in the parishes of Berrow and Brean. Pray too for their new curate arriving in June.
3 rd	For all church wardens. Lord bless and guide all our churchwardens in their wisdom and support of our church communities, and when the time comes inspire new people to hear the call to follow in their footsteps.
4 th	Pause today and think about your wider community. Are there groups of people you need to be more mindful of who may need a little encouragement to know they too are welcome in the Kingdom of God.
5 th	We pray for those facing tensions at home and for couples facing or going through divorce. We think of those facing the possibility of losing their home and for those already living in a hostel or for some seeking shelter somewhere on the streets. We especially pray for Wade House in Highbridge
6 th	For the ministry of St Andrews, Burnham on Sea. For Preb Graham Witts, the vicar, and in his role as Archdeaconry warden of readers. For Rev Sharon Eldergill, associate priest, and her role as chapter clerk.
7 th	We pray for the schools across our deanery. For our Head Teachers and Governing Bodies. Pray for our ongoing partnerships between church and school, that our schools might be places where the children know they are valued and cared for. We especially pray for Rev Kevin Wright as he takes on the role of Schools Champion, alongside his new role as vicar of The Parish of Three Saints
8 th	Pray for parishes in our deanery engaging with the “Partners for Mission Scheme” For the Isle of Wedmore and the parishes of Berrow & Brean
9 th	For areas of our deanery in significant deprivation. Those on very low incomes. Those who battle with addictions. Those living in poor housing and those who often rely on our foodbanks.
10 th	Let us give thanks for those places of gathering in our Deanery. For the pubs, the supermarkets and village shops. We pray for those chance conversations when we are out and about, that opportunities to stop and pause are not missed.
11 th	We pray for those in our community with whom we have the opportunity to work in partnership. We think of our neighbouring church communities of all denominations and local community groups. We pray for our local funeral directors and staff at our crematoriums, and the groundsmen in local cemeteries, for members of our local parish and town councils. Creator God ignite our imagination for collaborative working both within and outside the church.

12 th	For the benefice of The Huntspills and Mark as they embark on a period of transition following the departure of Rev Tonya Nixon. Pray for the team who will assist in the vacancy and for a shared sense of vision as the parishes write their profile. Continue to pray for Tonya in her new ministry in Bristol Diocese.
13 th	Remember today anyone you know who is ill, anxious, or perhaps frustrated by disability. Pray for those who face long-term illness and treatment. Pray for those alongside them and especially for those who live alone. May they know God's peace and may we be aware when we may bring a glimmer of love and hope.
14 th	Give thanks for the life and ministry of Crook Peak Parish, for Rev Judith Jeffery, and all those who minister in the six small village communities. Pray for the variety of outreach and worship that contribute to this thriving community.
15 th	We pray for the remote places in our deanery. For small hamlets and isolated farm houses. We pray for the work of the Farming Community Network and for Village Agents.
16 th	For the life and ministry of the Isle of Wedmore, Allerton, Blackford and Theale. For the vicar Reverend Richard Neill and his role as assistant area dean.
17 th	We pray for the life and vision of our Deanery Synod. and for members of the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Group. For Mr Tim Hind, Lay Dean, for Emily and Matt sharing the role of secretary and for Maxine in her role as treasurer.
18 th	Give thanks for the ministry of our Readers and retired clergy. We pray too for those called as pastoral assistants and worship assistants, those called as school governors and a whole variety of gifts of ministry across our deanery. We pray for those who may have a sense of call into these roles
19 th	For Preb Sharon Crossman, vicar of Highbridge and area dean. For Rev Dan Crouch training curate. Pray for the parish as they embark on a new period of vision as they seek to formulate a new Mission Action Plan.
20 th	For the Benefice of Cheddar, Draycott and Rodney Stoke and the initiatives for reaching the "unchurched" especially the breakfast initiative. For the Vicar Rev Stuart Burns, and for all who make up the wider ministry team.
21 st	We pray today for all carers. Those still at school and juggling homework alongside work at home. Those in their own latter years facing their own health problems and yet still putting the needs of their loved ones above their own. Others juggling their own family and work life and yet still finding time to care for others. As you pray, be open to an occasion when you may become part of the answer to that prayer.
22 nd	For the parishes of Priddy, Easton and Westbury-sub-Mendip. For the Vicar, Prebendary Paula Hollingsworth. Pray too for Paula's work as Diocesan Dean of Women and her role as Sub-Dean in Wells Cathedral.

23 rd	Pray for many new people coming to live in new housing across our deanery. For vision and inspiration as we seek to discover our role in building and encouraging community.
24 th	For our work with children & young people. Especially for “Open the book” initiatives in schools and for the “Movement” youth project based in Wedmore. We pray for the raising up of those called to this important ministry. Pray for the new Youth Bus, situated in Highbridge and for closer working together across denominations. Pray for Churchfield School and the new daily breakfast club ensuring all children start the school day well fed and ready to learn.
25 th	Pray for those who care for us: for our emergency services, for hospital workers, and those who work in our medical centres. We pray for all chaplains and pastoral assistants serving in hospitals, hospices and care homes.
26 th	For those discerning a call to ordained ministry. We pray for our role in finding ways to encourage vocation, in the seeking out of those whom God may be calling and in the encouragement of those to take their first steps on that journey.
27 th	Pray for all administrators in our deanery. Both paid and unpaid. For our treasurers and those who handle the fees, those who help out with smaller tasks, all of which are vital to enable the broader mission of our churches.
28 th	Give thanks for the creativity of our dedicated flowers arrangers. For the dedication of our bell-ringers, for the talents of our organists, musicians and choristers, those who lead our Sunday Schools and those who welcome. Lord guide and inspire us as we also seek to discover those moments when we can join as a deanery to worship you.
29 th	For Axbridge, Shipham and Rowberrow. For vicar Rev Tim Hawkings. Pray especially for the community café at Shipham and its missional role.
30 th	We pray for God’s light to shine in the darkest places and especially where children are scared to speak out, or where adults are trapped in modern slavery.
31 st	Let us encourage each other in prayer as we seek to be God’s people living and telling the story of Christ in our lives. Knowing that we are sometimes that answer to prayer.