

Ross and Archenfield Deanery

Praying Together

Prayer Diary

Sunday 5th May 2024 to

Sunday June 2nd 2024



## Revd Mark writes:

The Feast of Pentecost marks the birth of the Church and the conclusion of the Easter Season. We are still a redeemed people, saved by the death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ but we shift our focus from ourselves to the world.

The power of the Pentecostal message is that this good news that we hold is not just meant for those of who were fortunate enough to be brought up in a Christian home or who stumbled upon faith almost by accident. It is for the whole world—shown by the list of languages and tribes on the Day of Pentecost who understood something of the power of God's Spirit.

We take this hope with us, from our baptism, into the communities and people God has placed us amongst and we become his new evangelists, inheritors of the Apostles mission.

*Revd Mark*

*Please get in touch with suggestions for events. You can reach Mark at [revmark100@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:revmark100@yahoo.co.uk)*

Please continue to pray for Ukraine and Gaza/Israel and the ongoing conflict: for the rapidly changing situation.

We pray for the world that in this moment of crisis, we may reach out in solidarity to our brothers and sisters in need. May we walk in your ways so that peace and justice become a reality for all people across the world. Amen.

## Sunday 5th May Sixth Sunday of Easter

Scripture: John 15 verse 12-13

Jesus said <sup>1</sup>‘This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.’

Collect: God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.

For our Prayers: Remembering all who have shown us friendship over the years and have demonstrated the love in God in a loving deed and kind word.

Across our Deanery: St. Peter, Dixton. For the PCC and all working to restore the church.

## Monday 6th

Scripture: Psalm 81 verses 1—2

<sup>1</sup>Sing aloud to God our strength;  
shout for joy to the God of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup>Raise a song, sound the tambourine,  
the sweet lyre with the harp.

For our Prayers: All who make music in our churches, praying for organist, choirs, choir leaders and worship groups. May we find in the words we sing a greater appreciation of our God.

Across our Deanery: St. Mary, Foy. For the hamlet of Foy and for those who raft and canoe down the Wye past the church.

## Tuesday 7th

Scripture: Psalm 81 verses 3—5b

<sup>3</sup>Blow the trumpet at the new moon,  
at the full moon, on our festal day.

<sup>4</sup>For it is a statute for Israel,  
an ordinance of the God of Jacob.

<sup>5</sup>He made it a decree in Joseph,  
when he went out over the land of Egypt.

For our Prayers: Those who are celebrating today, birthdays and anniversaries. For the friends who gather round and support and help to make the day special.

Across our Deanery: The parishes of Ross, Walford and Brampton Abbots as they look for a new vicar. For those on the PCC putting together the job description and person specification.

## Wednesday 8th—Julian of Norwich, Spiritual Writer, d. c. 1417

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13 verses 12—13

<sup>12</sup>For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. <sup>13</sup> And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Collect: Most holy God, the ground of our beseeching, who through your servant Julian revealed the wonders of your love: grant that as we are created in your nature and restored by your grace, our wills may be so made one with yours that we may come to see you face to face and gaze on you for ever; 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.

For our Prayers: Mystics and those who are given visions of our God, for spiritual writers who help us to grow in our love and appreciation of our God.

Across our Deanery: St. Swithin, Ganarew. For the people of the village, the work going on in the church and the care home next to the church.

### Thursday 9—Ascension Day

Scripture: Acts 1 verses 9—11

<sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>They said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.’

Collect: Grant, we pray, almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens, so we in heart and mind may also ascend and with him continually dwell;

who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

For our Prayers: All who feel bereft, as the disciples did in seeing Jesus leave, as they await a new start. Those looking for the return of Jesus.

Across our Deanery: St. Michael and All Angels, Garway. For those who worship there, those who live in Garway and those looking to the future of the church building.

## Friday 10th

Scripture: Psalm 81 verse 5c—7

I hear a voice I had not known:

<sup>6</sup>I relieved your shoulder of the burden;  
your hands were freed from the basket.

<sup>7</sup>In distress you called, and I rescued you;  
I answered you in the secret place of thunder;  
I tested you at the waters of Meribah.*Selah*

For our Prayers: Those who are oppressed that the Christian community may work together to lift the bar of oppression from their shoulders and ensure a just world.

Across our Deanery: St. Giles, Goodrich and St. Margaret, Welsh Bicknor. For the people of the villages, for Goodrich C of E School and for visitors to Goodrich Castle.

## Saturday 11th

Scripture: Psalm 81 verses 8—10

<sup>8</sup>Hear, O my people, while I admonish you;  
O Israel, if you would but listen to me!

<sup>9</sup>There shall be no strange god among you;  
you shall not bow down to a foreign god.

<sup>10</sup>I am the LORD your God,  
who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.  
Open your mouth wide and I will fill it.

For our Prayers: That we may continue to be faithful to our God who will rescue us from the pit, set our feet upon the rock and shelter us with his mighty wing.

Across our Deanery: St. Dubricius, Hentland and St. Catharine,

Hoarwithy. For the two villages and those who live there, for the project at St. Catharine's to improve access, the local pub and shop in Hoarwithy.

### Sunday 12th—Seventh Sunday of Easter

Scripture: John 17 verses 11 –12

Jesus prayed '1<sup>1</sup>And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. 12<sup>2</sup>While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled.

Collect: O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

For our Prayers: All Christians working for and with Churches Together in England. That we may know all that joins us together as God's people.

Across our Deanery: St. Michael and All Angels, Hope Mansell. For the people who live and work in the village.

### Monday 13th

Scripture: Psalm 81 verses 11—12

11<sup>1</sup> 'But my people did not listen to my voice;  
Israel would not submit to me.

12<sup>2</sup> So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts,  
to follow their own counsels.

For our Prayers: Those who have lost their way and fear finding it again because they may face ridicule or anger. That we may welcome those who have gone astray back to the fold.

Across our Deanery: St. Andrew with St. Mary, How Caple. For those who live in the village and surrounding farms. For How Caple Court and those who are getting married there this year.

## Tuesday 14th—Matthias the Apostle

Scripture: Acts 1 verse 24—26

<sup>24</sup>Then the Apostles prayed and said, ‘Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen <sup>25</sup>to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.’ <sup>26</sup>And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Collect: Almighty God, who in the place of the traitor Judas chose your faithful servant Matthias to be of the number of the Twelve: preserve your Church from false apostles and, by the ministry of faithful pastors and teachers, keep us steadfast in your truth; 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.

For our Prayers: Churches and congregations dedicated to St. Matthias. For those who find themselves chosen by God to fill a role, that they may have confidence and skill to tackle the tasks God has given them.

Across our Deanery: For the Stow Caple Group as they shape their life without a vicar and prepare for the appointment of a new one.



## Wednesday 15th

Scripture: Psalm 81 verses 13—14

<sup>13</sup> O that my people would listen to me,  
that Israel would walk in my ways!

<sup>14</sup> Then I would quickly subdue their enemies,  
and turn my hand against their foes.

For our Prayers: That we may have open hearts and minds to hear the prompting of God's Holy Spirit, to lead us into all truth.

Across our Deanery: St. John the Baptist, Kings Cople and for those who live in the village. For Kings Cople Primary School and the staff and pupils.

## Thursday 16th

Scripture: Psalm 81 verses 15—16

<sup>15</sup> Those who hate the LORD would cringe before him,  
and their doom would last for ever.

<sup>16</sup> I would feed you with the finest of the wheat,  
and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you.'

For our Prayers: All who are struggling to feed their families this day that they may lean on the generosity of others through Food Banks and community kitchens.

Across our Deanery: St. Mary, Linton, and those who live and work in the village.

## Friday 17th

Scripture: Psalm 82 verses 1– 2

<sup>1</sup> God has taken his place in the divine council;  
in the midst of the gods he holds judgement:

<sup>2</sup> 'How long will you judge unjustly  
and show partiality to the wicked?     *Selah*

For our Prayers: Remembering that God will judge us at the end of time but will do so with grace and with forgiveness.

Across our Deanery: St. Mary, Little Birch and for those who live in the village. For the Village Hall and all working to improve it.

### Saturday 18th

Scripture: Psalm 82 verses 3—4

<sup>3</sup>Give justice to the weak and the orphan;  
maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute.

<sup>4</sup>Rescue the weak and the needy;  
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.’

For our Prayers: All who are orphaned and the families and care homes that look after them, that the widow be supported and not put aside and discarded.

Across our Deanery: South Wye Rural Benefice of St. David Little Dewchurch with St Dubricius Ballingham (closed), St John of Jerusalem (closed) Bolstone, Aconbury, St Andrew Dinedor and St. Cuthbert Holme Lacy (in the care of the Council for the Care of Churches Trust).

### Sunday 19th—Pentecost

Scripture: Acts 2 verses 2—3

<sup>2</sup>And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

<sup>3</sup>Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.

Collect: God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit:  
grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things

and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort;  
through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and  
reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for  
ever. Amen.

For our Prayers: As we come to the end of Thy Kingdom Come—for  
prayer groups and worshipping communities that they may know  
and feel the power of the Holy Spirit working within them to pro-  
claim the God News.

Across our Deanery: St. Junabius, Llandinabo and all who work in  
the area, especially in the orchards and soft fruit businesses.

Monday 20th—Alcuin of York, Deacon, Abbot of Tour, Liturgical Re-  
former, d. 804

Scripture: Colossians 3 verses 14—15

<sup>14</sup>Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything to-  
gether in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your  
hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be  
thankful.

Collect: God of wisdom, eternal light, who shone in the heart of your  
servant Alcuin, revealing to him your power and pity:  
scatter the darkness of our ignorance that, with all our heart and  
mind and strength, we may seek your face and be brought with all  
your saints to your holy presence;  
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.

For our Prayers: All who compose liturgy for our regular and special  
services, bringing words and music to help us worship our God.

Across our Deanery: St. Deinst, Llangarron and for all who live in the  
village.

Tuesday 21st—Helena, Protector of Holy Places, d 330

Scripture: Genesis 28 verses 16—19a

<sup>16</sup> Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, ‘Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!’ <sup>17</sup> And he was afraid, and said, ‘How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.’

<sup>18</sup> So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. <sup>19</sup> He called that place Bethel;

Collect: God, who called Helena to visit the Holy Land and so deepen her faith through pilgrimage, bless all your pilgrim people and especially those visiting holy places this day. Amen.

For our Prayers: The churches on walking routes around our Deanery, that they may welcome the walkers and visitors and give them a glimpse of the glory of God.

Across our Deanery: Christ Church, Llangrove, the Llangrove Academy School and the village with its hall and pub.

Wednesday 22nd

Scripture: Psalm 82 verse 5

<sup>5</sup> They have neither knowledge nor understanding,  
they walk around in darkness;  
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

For our Prayers: Schools and 6th forms in our Deanery. For all who are taking GCSE and A level exams, that the light of education may help them to a brighter future.

Across our Deanery: Christ Church, Llanwarne and St. John the Baptist (ruin), Llanwarne, for its future as a Festival Church and for those working to restore the old church.

## Thursday 23rd

Scripture: Psalm 82 verse 6—8

<sup>6</sup>I say, 'You are gods,  
children of the Most High, all of you;  
<sup>7</sup>nevertheless, you shall die like mortals,  
and fall like any prince.

<sup>8</sup>Rise up, O God, judge the earth;  
for all the nations belong to you!

For our Prayers: All who hold political office, that they may work for the benefit of all whom they represent and not just for personal gain.

Across our Deanery: St. Matthew, Marstow and for those who live in the village.

Friday 24th—John and Charles Wesley, Evangelists and Hymn Writers, d. 1791 & 1788

Scripture: Ephesians 5 verses 18b– 20

<sup>18b</sup> but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup>as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, <sup>20</sup>giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Collect: God of mercy, who inspired John and Charles Wesley with zeal for your gospel:  
grant to all people boldness to proclaim your word and a heart ever to rejoice in singing your praises;  
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.

For our Prayers: Our sisters and brothers in the Methodist Church and the Hereford (South and East) Circuit and Revd Phil Warrey and Deacon Angie Allport.

Across our Deanery: St. Mary and St. Thomas a Becket, Much Birch, for all who live in the village, Much Birch Primary School and those who work at the surgery.

### Saturday 25th

Scripture: Psalm 83 verses 1—2

- <sup>1</sup> O God, do not keep silence;  
do not hold your peace or be still, O God!  
<sup>2</sup> Even now your enemies are in tumult;  
those who hate you have raised their heads.

For our Prayers: Those who are living in areas of war and conflict, that they may be kept safe and have the chance to build a lasting peace and restore their communities.

Across our Deanery: St. David, Much Dewchurch and for those who live in the village. For Charnwood Nursing Home and the residents and staff, for the Steiner Academy and the staff and pupils.

### Sunday 26th—Trinity Sunday

Scripture: Romans 8 verses 14—16

<sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

Collect: Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity:

keep us steadfast in this faith, that we may evermore be defended from all adversities;

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.

For our Prayers: That we may live with the mystery that is the Trinity and the Holy Spirit draw us into the relationship of Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier.

Across our Deanery: St. John the Baptist, Orcop and all who live in the village. For the village hall and the events that take place there.

### Monday 27th

Scripture: Psalm 83 verses 3—4

<sup>3</sup>They lay crafty plans against your people;  
they consult together against those you protect.

<sup>4</sup>They say, 'Come, let us wipe them out as a nation;  
let the name of Israel be remembered no more.'

For our Prayers: That the plans of those who wish evil be thwarted and those under threat of genocide can find places of safety and peace.

Across our Deanery: St. Denys, Pencoyd, St. Mary, Tretire and St. Michael and All Angels, Michaelchurch (under the care of CCT). For all who live and farm in the area.

### Tuesday 28th

Scripture: Psalm 83 verses 5- 8

<sup>5</sup>They conspire with one accord;  
against you they make a covenant—

<sup>6</sup>the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites,  
Moab and the Hagrites,

<sup>7</sup>Gebal and Ammon and Amalek,  
Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre;

<sup>8</sup>Assyria also has joined them;  
they are the strong arm of the children of Lot.   *Selah*

For our Prayers: All who feel that the world is against them and there is no sign of rescue in such a situation.

Across our Deanery: St. Peter, Peterstow, for those who rely on the local shop and those who live in the village, for the church and its role as a village hub.

### Wednesday 29th

Scripture: Psalm 83 verse 9—10

<sup>9</sup>Do to them as you did to Midian,  
as to Sisera and Jabin at the Wadi Kishon,  
<sup>10</sup>who were destroyed at En-dor,  
who became dung for the ground.

For our Prayers: All who are held captive and being used as hostages, that rescue and relief will come to them soon.

Across our Deanery: St. Mary, Ross-on-Wye, for all who live in the town and those moving into the new housing. For the work of the Messy Church and the search for a new Rector.

### Thursday 30th—Day of Thanksgiving for Holy Communion (Corpus Christi)

Scripture: John 6 verses 54—56

Jesus said ‘<sup>54</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; <sup>55</sup>for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. <sup>56</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them.’

Collect: Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you that in this wonderful sacrament you have given us the memorial of your passion: grant us so to reverence the sacred mysteries of your body and blood that we may know within ourselves and show forth in our lives



the fruits of your redemption;  
for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

For our Prayers: Giving thanks for the strengthening of our faith every time we receive communion. For all who prepare altars and churches for services of holy communion.

Across our Deanery: For the Life-Link Chaplain's appointment and links with John Kyrle Academy and community organisations across the Ross.

### Friday 31st—Visit of Mary to Elizabeth

Scripture: Luke 1 verses 39—41a

<sup>39</sup>Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Collect: Mighty God, by whose grace Elizabeth rejoiced with Mary and greeted her as the mother of the Lord:  
look with favour on your lowly servants that, with Mary, we may magnify your holy name and rejoice to acclaim her Son our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

For our Prayers: All who are pregnant, especially those who need to find support and care as family are far away.

Across our Deanery: St. Tysilio, Sellack and for all who live in the village and farm the local area.

## Saturday 1st June—Justin, Martyr at Rome c. 165

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1 verses 18—20

<sup>18</sup>The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written,

‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.’

<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

Collect: God our redeemer, who through the folly of the cross taught your martyr Justin the surpassing knowledge of Jesus Christ: remove from us every kind of error that we, like him, may be firmly grounded in the faith, and make your name known to all peoples; 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.

For our Prayers: Our sisters and brothers in communities where Christianity is persecuted. Especially we pray for Palestinian Christians and those in the Middle East.

Across our Deanery: St. Michael, Sollers Hope and for those who live and work in the area.

## Sunday 2nd June—First Sunday after Trinity

Scripture: Mark 2 verses 3—5

<sup>3</sup>And he said to the man who had the withered hand, ‘Come forward.’

<sup>4</sup>Then he said to them, ‘Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?’ But they were silent. <sup>5</sup>He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, ‘Stretch out your hand.’ He stretched it out, and his hand was restored.

Collect: O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; 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.

For our Prayers: All who work in the Health Service and our local surgeries bringing healing and health to so many.

Across our Deanery: St. Weonards, St. Weonards church, the village hall, the new housing being built in the village, the local shop, and St. Weonards Primary School.

## Our Deanery Prayer:

Living God, who breathed into your disciples the power of  
the Holy Spirit,  
and so equipped them for the work of mission  
through love and service;  
Renew in our churches a vision of your kingdom  
where all things are made new, and justice and peace will  
reign;  
and grant us grace and strength to proclaim this good  
news,  
won for us through the love of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

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