Bromsgrove Parish Prayer Diary for October

*God is our refuge and strength,
    an ever-present help in trouble. Psalm 46.*

**Friday 1st October-World Smile Day**

We pray that we can all share a smile with everyone we meet on this day, and hopefully all days

**Saturday 2nd October – Harvest**

This month all of our churches will be celebrating this annual event on different Sunday’s. W pray that all of those services will go well and that people will be generous in donating to deserving causes

**Sunday 3rd October – Bishop Martin’s visit**

We welcome Bishop Martin’s to our part of the deanery with, in particular, a service of celebration at Stoke Prior for the completion of their restoration and a confirmation service at St John’s and pray that he will feel welcome.

**Monday 4th October – Parish Meetings**

Today there are meetings of the Reach Out Bromsgrove sub-committee and also the Governance and Compliance sub-committee of the PCC we pray for all of those involved in these meetings

**Tuesday 5th October- Listening Service Monitoring Group**

We pray for the valuable work that is being done with the teenagers of the Parish.

**Wednesday 6th October – Schools Ministry**

David has harvest assemblies at Lickey End first school this morning and we give thanks for all clergy and lay ministers are back involved with schools around the town

**Thursday 7th October – Parish Administrator**

We give thanks for the appointment of Lauren as our new Parish Administrator and pray that she will feel welcomed and valued in her time with us

**Friday 8th October- Dodford**

In these trying times we give thanks for ways that the church family can find a way to meet safely in this cherished place of worship.

**Saturday 9th October – Finances**

Over the coming indefinite period money will continue to be an issue. On a personal level jobs will be lost incomes will be lost or at best reduced. Churches and the Diocese of Worcester will not be immune to this, and we pray that severe hardship in all areas can be avoided.

**Sunday 10th October- Safeguarding Sunday**

We pray and give thanks for all who work in this vital area making sure that the vulnerable are cared for and protected

**Monday 11th October – Café Church @ St.Godwalds**

We pray for the success of the meeting to look to launch a café church at St Godwald’s that vision will be realised.

**Tuesday 12th October - Weddings**

With the change to rules covering weddings, we pray for all couples preparing for their weddings over the coming few months.

**Wednesday 13th October – Deanery Synod**

We ask for guidance for all those individuals who are charged with a creating a vision for a way forward for our Deanery

**Thursday 14th October– Pharmacies/Doctor’s surgeries**

We thank you, Lord, for all the people working on the front line in pharmacies and surgeries.   We pray for their safety as they serve others and for their anxious families at home.  We pray that the people who visit these places seeking help will be responsible and avoid putting these dedicated people at risk.  May their religious faith sustain and inspire them?

**Friday 15th October– Baptisms**

As with weddings rules covering baptisms have now relaxed and we pray for all families who are preparing for baptisms in the coming weeks

**Saturday 16th October– Richard Sandiland**

Prayers for Richard Sandiland, our parish curate; today is one of his regular *Initial Ministerial Experience training* days

**Sunday 17th October- Bromsgrove**

We pray for a sense of peace and community within all areas of this town that we all love so much and have pride in.

**Monday 18th October – St. Luke’s Day**

On this day we pray for St Luke’s Church and in particular for the playgroup that meets there.

**Tuesday 19th October– Care Homes**

There are a few care homes throughout the parish for which we would ask you that you wrap your arms around. Enable the carers in those places to have sufficient protection to be able to provide the level of care that is needed to ensure the residents maintain a level of physical and emotional wellbeing. We give thanks that people living in these homes are now allowed to see one of their loved ones.

**Wednesday 20th October– Clergy**

Father we pray for our clergy at this trying time as they attempt to keep the parish working and worshipping. We give thanks for the work they continue manage meeting in church. We give thanks that they can meet every Wednesday online to discuss the way forward for the Parish.

**Thursday 21st October– High Street shops bars restaurants and cafes**

For so long we have taken for granted our ability to shop, eat and drink where we like at almost any time we want. These establishments have faced unprecedented strains on their ability to survive this storm. Perhaps we can take this time to appreciate what we have, cherish it, and invest our money in these businesses to help in their recovery. We give thanks for a loosening of the restrictions around these businesses, and we pray for their survival and growth

**Friday 22nd October Those who keep our community functioning.**

We ask God to bless all those who must work at this time for the good of the whole community.  Especially we remember those who deliver milk or post and those who collect our rubbish and our recycling materials.   We remember the lorry drivers and van drivers who keep our supermarkets and homes stocked with essential goods. May they realise how we value their work. Thank you for those who have continued to work to stock supermarket shelves, serve on deli counters, work on the tills, and generally help around the stores. Without their selfless attitude and commitment to turning up to work in conditions that see them exposed to the Corona Virus to a greater degree than any of us, except for the NHS, we would not have the ability to feed ourselves and our families.

**Saturday 23rd October - Christ Church Catshill**

In these trying times we give thanks for ways that the church family can find a way to meet safely in this cherished place of worship.

**Sunday 24th October – Local Hospitals**

For the sacrifice and work undertaken by Nursing staff, paramedics, porters, cleaners, catering staff. Keep them safe and make sure they have all the protective equipment they need and give thanks that they are working to keep us all safe. Now that the number of Covid related patients is decreasing we pray that you will be with them as they cope with the high number of procedures that have built up.

**Monday 25th October- Farmers**

We give thanks for those who continue to work tirelessly to produce food that makes its way onto our supermarket shelves. Once again this is a group of people who we have tended to take for granted because somehow the food we eat continues to arrive on our table. Once we are through this time of struggle lets ensure that we place buying from our own farmers ours, and this country’s priority. Please ensure that there are sufficient hands to pick all the produce that needs to be harvested.

**Tuesday 26th October- St Godwald’s**

In these trying times we give thanks for ways that the church family can find a way to meet safely in this cherished place of worship.

**Wednesday 27th October– St John’s and St Andrew’s**

In these trying times we give thanks for ways that the church family can find a way to meet safely in this cherished place of worship

**Thursday 28th October- Food banks**

An increasing number of people have come to rely on these establishments as we have had to come to terms with the period of austerity that the country has had to live through. Please ensure these priceless community assets continue to receive the support that is vital to the work they do. We also give thanks for those who have been moved by the plight of people struggling and have contributed financially or by providing items of food.

**Friday 29th October- Those living alone.**

Lord we think today and pray for those people who have had to self-isolate and who hunger for the touch of a hand or to see a friendly face in their homes. We pray that there will be people who will give some solace by making a phone call or some form of social media to let them know they have not been forgotten. Thank you for the kind generous souls who have volunteered to shop for essential food items. We give thanks for the loosening of restrictions which mean that more people can receive the reassurance that only a hug from a loved one can give

**Saturday 30th October – All Saints**

In these trying times we give thanks for ways that the church family can find a way to meet safely in this cherished place of worship.

**Sunday 31st October – All Saints Day**

They left their mark on the earth for you, for us, for our children to come. Thank you, God, for the tremendous sacrifices made by those who have gone before us. Bless the memories of your saints, God. May we learn how to walk wisely from their examples of faith, dedication, worship, and love.

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