

**Benefice Prayer Diary**  
**Marshfield with Cold Ashton and Tormarton with West Littleton**  
**May 2020**

**A Benefice Prayer:** Lord, let us not labour for you in vain. Teach us to pray, deepen our fellowship, enable our ministry, strengthen our benefice, and nurture our children. That, united in Christ, we might indeed become a holy temple in which you dwell by your Spirit. Amen.

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May:**

Today, the Church remembers the apostles Philip & James. Pray that “we may follow (their) steps, and walk steadfastly in the way that leads to (God’s) glory” (from the Collect for the day).

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May:**

Pray for other Christians who live in our community but are not part of our parish churches. Remember particularly the congregation at Marshfield Chapel

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

*Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and 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.*

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May:**

In our link Diocese of Mukono, Uganda, pray for the clergy and people of NDWADDEMUTWE Parish.

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May:**

Pray today for the parish of Marshfield, for its PCC, and their churchwardens Eric Pullin and Paul White.

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May:**

Pray for all in local and national government who are working to support community well-being during the current coronavirus pandemic.

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May:**

Today, give thanks for those you have known who have radiated Christ in their lives. Pray that the Holy Spirit may work in you to become one whose life points others to God.

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May:**

Give thanks and pray for all those individuals, organisations and businesses that maintain and support the life of our local communities at this difficult time.

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May:**

“I came that they may have and enjoy life and have it in abundance” (*John 10:10*). Give thanks for the new life Jesus offers us and pray for those who have yet to experience it for themselves.

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

*Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.*

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May:**

In our link Diocese of Mukono, Uganda, pray for Bishop James and all committed to his charge.

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May:**

Pray today for the parish of Tormarton, for its PCC, and their churchwarden Bruce Finnermore.

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May:**

In Christian Aid Week, pray for Christian Aid, Tearfund and other organisations that aim to show God’s love in action in a needy world.

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May:**

“Your difficulties do not define you. They simply strengthen your ability to overcome troubles” (*Maya Angelou, 1928-2014, civil rights activist*). Thank God that our identity is in Him, and that we can overcome all things through Christ who gives us strength.

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May:**

Pray for the people of countries whose health services are most at risk of being overwhelmed by the coronavirus pandemic.

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May:**

Pray for our linked CMS mission partners Jimmy and Katia Rocks and their family Joanna and Davi as they continue to develop their ministry of outreach in one of the areas of Brazil that is most in need.

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

*Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and ever.*

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May:**

In our link Diocese of Mukono, Uganda, pray for the clergy and people of KATENTE Parish.

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May:**

Pray today for the parish of West Littleton, for its PCC and for their churchwarden David Adams.

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May:**

Pray for all those involved in the care of the victims of the current pandemic, and for those finding it difficult to grieve for loved ones who have died.

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May: Ascension Day**

*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.*

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May:**

Give thanks for the presence of Chaplains in the hospitals that serve our communities, particularly at this present time, and pray for them and their ministry.

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May:**

Tomorrow the Church remembers the evangelists and hymn writers John and Charles Wesley. Pray for all those who seek to share the Gospels "Good News" and for those who do so through the songs and hymns they are inspired to write.

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May: Sunday after Ascension**

*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.*

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May:**

Today, pray for the Republic of Uganda, its President and government.

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May:**

Pray today for the parish of Cold Ashton, its PCC, and their churchwarden Monica Green.

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May:**

Pray for those facing long-term or life-threatening illness other than the coronavirus, and those who care for them in a hospital, hospice or at home.

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May:**

Pray for the Benefice Ministry Team members - Rev Sally Wheeler, Rev Lynne Godfrey, Andrew Gammie, Aurea Hart, Charles Keen and Mike Strathdee - and their ministry to us. Pray also for the other clergy and lay people who help maintain this ministry.

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May:**

Give thanks that, using modern technology, we can still "come together in the presence of God", despite the closure of our churches and chapels.

**Sat 30<sup>th</sup> May:**

"Risen, ascended Lord, we thank you that you did not leave us comfortless but assured us of the gift of your Holy Spirit. May that Spirit guide us in serving you as channels of your peace" (A prayer from "Families Worldwide", the Mothers'Union prayer diary)

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May: Pentecost (Whit Sunday)**

*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.*

**A Prayer during the Pandemic**

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy.

Sustain and support the anxious,  
be with those who care for the sick,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may find comfort

knowing that nothing can separate us  
from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Please Note:** If you would like a prayer to be included this Prayer Diary, please contact Paul Sawyer, 16, Fairfield Close, Marshfield (891436)