

Thursday 1st

We pray for all those who are standing for election as County Councillors, especially those who will be elected in the Cannock Chase districts.. We pray that they will serve with wisdom and sincerity as they make decisions which affect the lives of all who live in our town.

Friday 2nd

Pray for the work of Refuge, committed to a world where domestic violence is not tolerated, where women and children can live in safety. Refuge helps women and children to rebuild their lives, free from violence and fear

Saturday 3rd

Today the church remembers the apostles Philip and James. We give thanks for the part they played in the rise of the early church. We pray for ourselves giving thanks for our calling to be *faithful soldiers and servants* for the Lord Jesus. We pray for God's blessing on our churches and for his guidance in the continuing search for our next vicar.

Sunday 4th

*Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
To receive the food of your holy word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfil in us
All Your purposes, for Your glory*

Monday 5th

Pray the Parish Prayer on the front cover.

Tuesday 6th

On World Asthma pray for the 300 million people who suffer from asthma worldwide. Asthma is the most common chronic disease among children pray for any children you know who are asthma sufferers. Pray for those doctors, scientists and nurses who specialise in the treatment of and research into the causes of Asthma.

Wednesday 7th

Pray for Deaf Awareness Week, which is a national week of celebrating deafness. This year's theme is Beyond Silence. The aim of this year's Deaf Awareness Week is to break down the barriers that are holding back full accessibility for those with hearing loss. Pray for anyone you know coping with deafness.

Thursday 8th Red Cross and Red Crescent Day

Pray today for the continuing work of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies supporting victims of natural disasters, refugees and displaced persons. Both charities also support National Societies helping local communities to plan and implement development projects for vulnerable people.

Friday 9th

Pray for all who live in our town. For all who travel in to work in the shops and factories, in the businesses large and small. Pray for all who will visit the town today. Pray for the life of the town and give thanks for the part the Church plays in that life. Pray for those who are facing economic challenges in their lives, whose income is barely sufficient to cover their costs.

Saturday 10th

Pray today for the members of all the Christian churches in the town, looking forward to worshipping tomorrow. Pray that those attending that worship will have a real encounter with God through the word, the sacrament, the music and the fellowship of fellow believers.

Sunday 11th Christian Aid Week

Pray for the work of Christian Aid this week. Pray for all the fundraising efforts of the volunteers who will be raising money to finance the many projects Christian Aid sponsors both in the UK and overseas. Pray for its management team and all who are employed within the organisation.

Monday 12th Florence Nightingale 1820-1910

Today is Florence Nightingale's birthday and is also the day that the International Council of Nurses organise International Nurses Day to celebrate the contribution that nurses make to societies around the world. We give thanks and pray for the nurses in our local hospitals and those working in doctor's surgeries. Pray for the NHS.

Tuesday 13th AGM

Pray for the AGM taking place this evening. Give thanks for those who have taken on the various offices and official positions which are needed for the church to function efficiently, to continue as a place of worship and to bear witness to the town. Pray for those who will be taking on those offices at tonight's meeting.

Some Christian Aid projects to pray for.

Wednesday 14th Burundi

Christian Aid is raising awareness about the high levels of poverty and hunger in Burundi and working to support the communities there. Christian Aid has strong partnerships with churches, faith-based organisations, and government institutions to promote the SAVE approach to HIV (Safer practices; Access to treatment and nutrition; Voluntary, routine and stigma-free counselling and testing; Empowerment).

Thursday 15th Malawi

The Kuwala Ultra Poor Graduation (UPG) project is targeting 2,750 ultra-poor households in Malawi, helping them improve their livelihood. With its partners, Christian Aid empowers poor and marginalised communities and individuals to find practical and sustainable ways out of poverty and to be actively involved in decisions and opportunities that affect them. Programmes include work in a range of areas including climate change, economic justice, inclusive markets, gender and inequality, health, humanitarian, tackling violence, and building peace.

Friday 16th Guatemala

Christian Aid works with others to address Guatemala's economic inequality. Half of all children under five are malnourished, which permanently affects physical and mental development. Also, the legal minimum wage does not even cover the basic food basket, and many do not even earn minimum wage. The project focuses on democratic governance and economic justice, helping communities prepare for natural disasters and promote non-violent alternatives to conflict.

Saturday 17th

Pray for all who are involved in the organisation and presentation of the worship services tomorrow. The ministry Team leading the worship, those who read and lead the prayers. The wardens welcoming people in, the office staff who produce the service booklets and hymn sheets and those who serve coffee after the service.

Sunday 18th

Pray the Parish Prayer on the front page.

Monday 19th St. Dunstan 909-988

As we remember Dunstan former Archbishop of Canterbury, pray for the preparations being made to elect a new Archbishop. Pray for Archbishop Stephen taking on some of the roles and responsibilities of Canterbury. Pray for our own bishop, Bishop Michael and all who support him in the task of leading the diocese in its mission and ministry.

Tuesday 20th

Pray for Barnado's Children's charity working with **240,000** children, young people and families every year, running over 960 vital services across the UK, including counselling for children who have been abused, fostering and adoption services, vocational training and disability inclusion groups.

Wednesday 21st

Pray for the many nursing and care homes in and around Cannock, providing a variety of care for elderly and sick people. For those suffering from dementia, for those needing end of life care, and for those in need of respite care. Pray for the nurses and care workers in these homes. Pray for anyone you know who is in a nursing or care home.

Thursday 22nd

Foster Care Fortnight is The Fostering Network's annual campaign to raise the profile of fostering and to show how foster care transforms lives. It is also the UK's biggest foster carer recruitment campaign. Pray for those who commit to fostering children and for the children being fostered.

Friday 23rd

As the holiday season gathers pace, pray for the RNLI who will be called into action more providing a 24-hour lifeboat search and rescue service around the UK and Ireland, and a seasonal lifeguard service. Give thanks for all those whom the lifeboats have rescued in the past year.

Saturday 24th Pray for the bell ringers and Malcolm Quimby the bell captain. Give thanks for their faithful in ringing the bells on Sundays calling people to worship, and on other occasions drawing the attention of the town to services and events taking place at St. Luke's.

Sunday 25th

"The Lord is my strength and my defence; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him" (Exodus 15:2)

*Light of light, Lord of Lords,
God of this world and the next,
We give you thanks for the promise of this day,
We give you thanks for the challenge of this day,
We give you thanks for the blessings of this day.
Light of light, Lord of Lords,
God of this world and the next,
We give you thanks*

Monday 26th

Pray for the Diocese of Jerusalem running Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza. Pray for the staff of the hospital working tirelessly against the odds to provide life saving medical treatment. Pray for USPG giving medical, financial and prayer support to the hospital and its staff which is crucial to it remaining open.

Tuesday 27th

Pray for Christians in Sudan. Christians make up a tiny minority in Sudan – just 4% of the population. Neither the SAF nor the RSF, the warring factions in Sudan welcome Christians. Since the start of the war, more than 100 church buildings have been damaged, and Christians have been abducted and killed. Christians experience exceptional hardship in the hunger crisis as local communities discriminate against them because of their faith and won't give them support.

Wednesday 28th

Pray for the work of the Trussell Trust supporting more than 1,200 food bank centres in the UK which provide three days' nutritionally-balanced emergency food to people who have been referred in crisis, as well as support to help people resolve the crises they face.

Thursday 29th Prayer for Ascension Day

God our Father, make us joyful in the Ascension of your Son Jesus Christ. May we follow him into the new creation, for his ascension is our glory and our hope. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Friday 30th

Look back on the month that has gone by. Reflect on all the services and events connected to the Easter festival. What has brought you joy and thanksgiving during that time?

Pray the Easter acclamation

Christ is Risen

He is risen indeed . Alleluia!

Saturday 31st

Pray the Parish Prayer on the front cover

**Parish of
St. Luke Cannock and
St. Thomas Huntington**

MAY PRAYER DIARY 2025



Parish Prayer

Heavenly Father, We thank you for your loving presence within our churches and for your constant love for the communities of Cannock, Huntington and Hatherton. We thank you Father for all those people, past and present, who have been part of the witnessing life of St. Luke's, St. Thomas' and St. Saviour's. Now as we look to the future, we pray for someone to come and serve as vicar of the two parishes.

Father, scripture reminds us that you have always called people into your service and we pray that you will call someone to be our new vicar. We pray that at the right time, prompted by your Spirit, the person you have called will respond to the advertisement and being drawn to our parishes will come to share with us the challenges outlined in our Parish Profile.

Father, we put our trust in you to send the right person to be our vicar and to lead us on to where you would have us be. This we pray in the name of Jesus our Lord and Saviour. **Amen**