



Uxbridge Parish

Prayer Diary – September 2021



<p>1st SEASON OF CREATION BEGINS</p>	<p>During the 2021 Season of Creation, from 1st September through to 4th October, thousands of Christians on six continents get together for a time of restoration and hope. The Season of Creation is a time to acknowledge that tipping points are being reached, threatening the lives of the most vulnerable and putting the lives of future generations in jeopardy. As people of faith, we are being called to stand up against climate injustice.</p> <p>We are grateful that from your communion of love you created our planet to be a home for all. In this Season of Creation, we pray that the breath of your creative Word would move our hearts, as in the waters of our birth and baptism. Enlighten us with the grace to respond to your covenant and call to care for our common home.</p>
<p>2nd</p>	<p>Dear God, we thank you that many people continue to turn to the church for answers during these difficult times. Help the leaders of the Church of England find ways to serve as a beacon of light so that more people may come to know your love and be enabled to draw close to you.</p>

<p>3rd</p>	<p>Father God, as schools are returning this week for the new academic year, we give thanks for the dedication of teachers and support staff in schools. We pray for all students and staff returning to school. We pray especially for those who are fearful about returning, for whatever reason.</p>
<p>4th</p>	<p>We thank you for the opportunity to return to meeting in person today for the Men's Breakfast. Be with all those who gather for this opportunity to build and share support. (If you wish to come, please contact the Parish Office.)</p>
<p>5th Sunday</p>	<p>As Junior Church Families enjoy a BBQ at St Andrew's today, We pray for all those involved in the children and families ministry in our parish.</p>
<p>6th</p>	<p>We pray for political harmony across our country and internationally. Please help political parties and countries to work together harmoniously for the greater good and not use this time to score political points against each other.</p>
<p>7th</p>	<p>We pray today for all those who work to spread the message of anti-racism. Teach all your people to love one another unconditionally, as we are all your children.</p>
<p>8th Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary</p>	<p>Today the birth of Mary, mother of Jesus, is celebrated. "Let us celebrate with joyful hearts the birth of the Virgin Mary, of whom was born the sun of justice, Christ our Lord." Her life was a total 'Yes' to all God asked; let us pray that we also will respond and say 'Yes' to God in our lives.</p> <p>Father we pray today for those on St. A's and St. M's Standing Committees. Grant them wisdom and discernment in all their discussions and decisions.</p>

<p>9th</p>	<p>We pray for all those preparing to start college or university in the coming weeks. Whilst this is an exciting time, it can also be an anxious one for both the students and their parents as many are moving away from home for the first time and we ask that you are with them as they take these important steps.</p>
<p>10th</p>	<p>Dear God, on World Suicide Prevention Day, we pray for all those who live their lives in darkness and despair. Provide comfort to them and help them to see that their lives matter and that suicide is not the answer to their problems. Be also with those who work to provide support for those with poor mental health and grant them wisdom and guidance as they work in these difficult roles. And especially with Hillingdon Mind who are now meeting regularly in St Andrew's Hall.</p>
<p>11th</p>	<p>Church Mission Society Visit, Felipe and Sarah from CMS are visiting St Margaret's from Friday 10th to Monday 13th September. We remember their work and ministry and pray especially for them at this time. Today, Penny and Henry Guy are holding "Open House" from 2-4pm. All are welcome to this opportunity for chat with Sarah.</p> <p>We pray also today for the Ladies' Breakfast taking place at St Margaret's and the opportunity it provides to gather, share experiences and pray. (If you wish to come, please contact the Parish Office.)</p>

<p>12th Sunday</p>	<p>Sarah from CMS will be speaking in St Margaret's during the 10am service today. You are invited to bring food for a "picnic" in church and chat with Sarah afterwards.</p> <p>The World Watch List is Open Doors' annual ranking of the 50 countries where Christians face the most extreme persecution. Please pray for Christians throughout the world who are persecuted because of their faith in the Lord Jesus. Remember especially at this time believers in countries on the Open Doors World Watch list (currently 260 million Christians in over 50 countries).</p>
<p>13th</p>	<p>We pray today for all those who are lonely. Loneliness is an affliction of our modern world and this has been exacerbated by the pandemic as many people have lost their sources of support. Help us to take time to connect with others as we would wish them to connect with us in the same situation.</p>
<p>14th Holy Cross</p>	<p>The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, celebrated every year on September 14, recalls that God shows his love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Let us then show our love for him by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.</p>
<p>15th</p>	<p>As St Andrew's Church Council are meeting today and St Maraget's on 22nd September, Heavenly Father we lift to you those members of the Church Councils who discuss the hard decisions about worship, finance and use of the buildings affecting our lives, ministry and worship at St. Andrew's and St. Margaret's in Uxbridge. Please lead and guide them in their discussions and decisions that your will be done and your kingdom come here in Uxbridge, now and always.</p>
<p>16th</p>	<p>Today we ask your blessing on all those who work for charities, both to provide support to those in need and those who work to raise funds to pay for this charitable work in our own town, nationally and internationally.</p>

<p>17th Hildegard, abbess</p>	<p>Today we remember Hildegard, perhaps the most influential woman of the Middle Ages. Hildegard did not shy away from confrontation. Her era was rife with corruption and misconduct. While many men held back from protesting, fearing the repercussions, Hildegard decided that she would take on the mantle of reformer. She is said to have said "I am a feather on the breath of God". We remember that and seek to take her as an example.</p>
<p>18th PCC Away Day</p>	<p>Dear God, thank you for the clergy and staff away day today and for the chance this gives for staff to spend time in your presence and with each other. Dear Father, today we give thanks for the opportunity for the staff and clergy away day. We are grateful for this opportunity for them to spend time with Jesus and each other.</p>
<p>19th Sunday</p>	<p>Pray today for those who live in your road that they will have the opportunity in their lifetime to hear the good news of Jesus Christ and the chance to ask him to be part of their lives.</p>
<p>20th</p>	<p>We pray for tomorrow's International Day of Peace. We give thanks for the United Nations and all who strive for world peace.</p>
<p>21st Matthew Apostle and Evangelist</p>	<p>The Apostle Matthew was one of the twelve disciples of Jesus Christ. When Jesus called Matthew to follow him, he was a tax collector - one of the most reviled professions in ancient Judaism. Jesus said, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.' By calling Matthew, Jesus was proclaiming that no one would be excluded from his movement—not even those society considered irredeemable. Let us pray that we should always try to remember and act accordingly.</p>

	<p>On World Alzheimer's Day, we pray for all those suffering dementia, confusion or mental illness. We pray too for their families and all who care for those suffering with this dreadful condition.</p>
<p>22nd Ember Day</p>	<p>Ember Days are quarterly periods of prayer and fasting in the liturgical calendar. One of these fasts traditionally takes place on the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday following Holy Cross Day. The purpose of their introduction was to thank God for the gifts of nature, to teach men to make use of them in moderation, and to assist the needy.</p> <p>On this first day of Autumn we give thanks for our beautiful world, particularly as we see plants and trees begin to prepare for the colder weather. Help us to be fit custodians of all this wonderful world and not destroy it through our wastefulness and constant striving for more material things.</p> <p>We pray for St Margaret's Church Council meeting today.</p>
<p>23rd</p>	<p>Today we lift to you all those who are blind or whose sight is failing.</p>
<p>24th Ember Day</p>	<p>Father we thank you for the work of Hillingdon Foodbank reaching out with your love to those in need, particularly at this time of increased need. We thank you for new volunteers coming forward to help and we ask that you continue to bless the work they are doing. Please prompt people continue to make donations.</p>

<p>25th Ember Day</p>	<p>Hillingdon Street Angels aim to provide Christ's love in a needy world through engaging with people on the streets during the night-time entertainment scene within the Borough. They care, listen and offer practical help to those who are out at night. They are hoping that soon they will be able to return to their work in Uxbridge. Street Angels are all volunteers from local churches. They ask that you pray for their ministry and for more volunteers to come forward so that they can resume their work. (If you feel you could help, please contact Street Angels directly or via the Parish Office. hillingdonstreetangels.org.uk)</p> <p>"Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing, some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."</p>
<p>26th Sunday</p>	<p>This Sunday, On the European Day of Languages today, we ask prayers for all people who use their language skills to work for continued harmony across nations.</p>
<p>27th</p>	<p>We pray today for all those suffering from Cancer. We pray for those who have cancer, those who are undergoing treatment and those who are receiving palliative care. We pray for those seeking a cure for cancer, those who tend to the sick and those who provide support to cancer sufferers and their families. We also pray for those who raise funds and those who work for cancer charities.</p>
<p>28th</p>	<p>We pray today for all those who are struggling in their relationships with others, particularly with their partners or family members. May Christ who came to reconcile us with God also bring reconciliation to our relationships with others.</p>

29th Michaelmas Michael and all Angels	On this day we remember St Michael and all Angels and pray for all those who have acted as God's messengers for us and that we might in turn do so for others.
30th	Father God, you encourage us to pray for all people. I especially pray for <i>(please take some time for those who have asked for our prayers and are listed on the bulletin sheet).</i>

During September we ask for prayers for:

David Goslett, Rev Wyn Jones, Madeleine Wheeler, Shiva, William Bulbeck, Mark Skinner and his family, Margaret Stokes, Joy Shiner, Ada Parker, Anne Lambell, David Reynolds, Vera Gorman, Penny Papapetrou and David Bedford.

Those who have lost loved ones – The family of Gerard O'Sullivan, Steve Willis, Annette, Tracy and the family of Maureen Dobson, Mary Brown and the family of Laurence Chinn-Brown.

The prayer list is renewed each month.

If you would like to remain on the prayer list for October, or would like to add someone (after obtaining their permission), please contact the parish office before 14 September (tel. 01895 258766 or email: office@uxbridgeparish.org).

We remember in faith and love those who have died recently including Gerard O'Sullivan, Marilyn Willis, Maureen Dobson and Laurence Chinn-Brown, and those whose anniversaries occur this month, including: Doris Elliott, Charles Sansom, Frank Woodruff, Margaret Allen, Len Bowd, Kathleen Badhams, Ernest Coleshill, Grace Carroll, Vera Thomas, Artie Tasker, Norman Marshall, Chris Wright, Barry Holland, Ellen Bird, Howard Stone, Monica Croly, Edith Hawkins, David Smith, Margaret Davies, Eileen Bradley, Jack Bridge, Mary Grainger, Florrie Keogh, Nigel Marshall, Richard Simmonds, Sylvia Tasker, Winifred Montague, Ivy Rolfe, Liza Parker, Jean Rance and Jan Stanton.