# Diocese of Bath and Wells Prayer Calendar July 2023

## Saturday, 1 July

Father of all, with Zambia-Bath & Wells Sunday tomorrow, we open our hearts to pray for the children and young people of Zambia. We give thanks for all who make church life so vibrant, and we pray for all who support them that they may know your love in their lives.

## Sunday, 2 July

Loving God, as we begin a Week of Prayer for Children and Young People across our diocese, we pray for children and young people where we live. Those known to us, in our families and our communities; as well as those we don’t know, often hidden behind the headlines and statistics.

## Monday, 3 July – Thomas the Apostle

Lord of life, we pray today for the well-being of children and young people as they grow, develop and reach their potential. We pray for young people struggling with identity, for those navigating change and those exploring calling and looking to the future.

## Tuesday, 4 July

God of infinite wisdom, we ask for a better understanding of what really matters to young people growing up in this generation and the complex issues they face. We pray for those suffering with anxiety and poor mental health, and for young voices to be heard in shaping our churches and communities.

## Wednesday, 5 July

Faithful One, we pray for young people living out their faith every day, at home, at school and amongst their friends. We pray those seeking hope and meaning may find it in Jesus. We pray for youth groups, Christian Unions and worship gatherings across our diocese where young people come together, and for the youth camps and festivals taking place this summer.

## Thursday, 6 July

Father God, today we pray for the homes of children and young people across our diocese. We pray for relationships between children and parents and other family members, for homes where the financial pressures are great and where disability and illness bring daily challenges.

## Friday, 7 July

Unchanging God, we pray for children and young people in our schools and colleges. We pray for all those who will be moving to new places of education this summer; those starting school for the first time, starting a new school, or moving to college or university. We pray too for school leaders and teachers, support staff, governors and chaplains.

## Saturday, 8 July

Jesus, who made time for children, we pray for the children and young people who are part of our churches and those who work with them. We ask you to raise up new leaders with a heart for young people and that our churches may be better equipped to welcome families and help them grow in faith.

## Sunday, 9 July

Heavenly Father, on this #SeaSunday, we thank you for the ocean, in its abundance, and for the people who toil on its surface. Guide their passage through storm, swell and darkness and may we always be mindful of our global family and be grateful for the sacrifices seafarers make each day.

## Monday, 10 July

Infinite beloved God, as the Audit and Risk Management Group meets today, we ask for your hand upon them so that they can balance risking all for your Kingdom with being mindful of our care of the resources you have given us. Bless their conversations and guide their decisions.

## Tuesday, 11 July

We pray for the NHS. We pray for all doctors, nurses, paramedics, managers, chaplains and staff. Thank God for their skill, dedication, care and service. We pray for God’s blessing on all who bring healing.

## Wednesday, 12 July

God of inspiration and love, as Diocesan Synod gathers today may your Holy Spirit bless this meeting. Bring your light and purpose to the discussions and decisions, as we work together for your Kingdom across our diocese.

## Thursday, 13 July

Loving God, we pray for the Readers' Quiet Day taking place in Crowcombe today. Bless the speaker, Revd Ann Gibbs, and all those who attend that they may meet with you in the beauty of the Quantock Hills.

## Friday, 14 July

God of integrity, we ask for your guidance for the Investments Committee meeting today. Grant them your wisdom and grace to work together for the good of all.

## Saturday, 15 July

Enabling God, we praise you for the ways in which you encourage and invite all of us to respond to your call. We give thanks for the varieties of different ministries and ask for your special blessing on the Diocesan Celebration of Lay Ministries taking place today.

## Sunday, 16 July

Jesus, Lord, we pray for all who will be helping others to draw closer to you in acts of worship across our diocese today, whether through preaching, leading worship, praying, music, or simply through a kind word that reflects your love.

## Monday, 17 July

God of justice, embed in us the will and the energy to seek for justice in our relationships and our business dealings with the poor and the less powerful among our global brothers and sisters.

## Tuesday, 18 July

God, we give thanks for the recently approved Frome Deanery Plan. We pray for the ongoing work of implementing this and that the new vision for mission and working together across the deanery will grow and flourish and attract new people to faith in Jesus.

## Wednesday, 19 July

Christ the Cornerstone, we pray for the Diocesan Advisory Committee as they meet today. We pray for your guidance in the deliberations and decisions they need to make so that our church buildings may be a continuing sign of your abundant love and grace.

## Thursday, 20 July

Generous God, we pray for the diocesan Finance Group as they meet today. Help them to listen to you and to each other as they consider how best to resource your mission for the benefit of everyone in our communities.

## Friday, 21 July

Jesus, who listened to children, on the final day of term for many schools we pray for all children and young people and for all staff. Thank you for all that has been learnt this academic year. We pray for the summer holidays ahead.

## Saturday, 22 July – Mary Magdalene

Loving God, we give thanks that you love us just as we are. Open our eyes to see the lost, lonely and marginalised as people also created and loved by you - and give us generous hearts to respond with love.

## Sunday, 23 July

Creator God, we pray for our fragile and beautiful world in all of its diversity. We pray that we may learn to care for it and be committed to achieving a net-zero way of life for ourselves, our communities, churches and our world.

## Monday, 24 July

We pray for all those who offer a compassionate ear to those suffering in mind, body or spirit. We especially give thanks for the Samaritans and for their generosity of spirit in supporting those in need.

## Tuesday, 25 July

As we remember your follower, James, Jesus we ask you to give us the courage to follow you as he did, to live out our faith in your saving grace.

## Wednesday, 26 July

As we remember Anne and Joachim, parents of Mary, mother of Jesus, Lord we pray for all who are as parents to us. We pray for all who offer love and care within our households and communities. We pray that we may be able to offer such love and care to others.

## Thursday, 27 July

Lord we thank you for the gift of friendship and for places of sanctuary where we can find rest and refreshment.

## Friday, 28 July

Father God, today we pray for the homes of children and young people across our diocese. We pray for relationships between children and parents and other family members, for homes where the financial pressures are great and where disability and illness bring daily challenges.

## Saturday, 29 July

Heavenly Father, we pray for churchwardens across our diocese, including those meeting for the Churchwardens’ Day today. We give thanks for their dedication and their witness to your love and ask you to bless them in all they are and do.

## Sunday, 30 July

God of healing, we pray for reconciliation between peoples where slavery has produced a legacy of loss, separation and division. Give us a deep understanding of our history and instil in us the will to build friendships across cultures.

## Monday, 31 July

Lord, as we remember Ignatius of Loyola today, we give thanks for the spiritual exercises which he created. We pray for all retreat houses who offer this practice and for those who accompany others in their spiritual journey.