

Axe Valley Mission Community

September - A Month of Prayer – Week 3

During the month of August, we considered in our church services what it means to be church with the themes, a worshipping church, a listening church, a welcoming church, a serving church and finally a church of hope. It has been especially good as a Mission Community to do something across all our churches as we seek to find our common ground together, for we have more that unites us than separates us.

Another way to unite us is to pray together, and as a church of hope we should have confidence in God to show us the way forward. I am sure at times it won't be easy, but we do need to, 'rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation and be constant in prayer. Therefore, we are committing the month of September to praying specifically for our Mission Community.

Each day there will be something specific to pray for and all that we ask is that you take five minutes to commit it to God. The weeks' prayers will be in the Pews News each week and you will also be able to find them on the Axe Valley Mission Community Facebook Page and web sites.

If you have longer, approx. 30 mins. every weekday morning during September, at 8.30am on Zoom, the Ministry Team will be gathering for Morning Prayer. Please do join in if you can.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88409970704?pwd=SnRkM3ZyQWJPU3dnZ2JMMjV3a3czZz09>

Meeting ID: 884 0997 0704

Passcode: 149718

Throughout September we ask that in our home groups, our churches, our prayer gatherings, our meetings and as individuals, we turn in prayer as a community, to seek God's continued blessing and guidance upon our eight churches and the communities and people of the Axe Valley.

September 13th

We pray for Tracey, to be ordained as Deacon today. May God fill her with his Holy Spirit and enable her to continue to use her many skills in his service. May this be a very special day for her and her family. We remember all those who are to be ordained into the diaconate and priesthood this Michaelmas, asking God to bless their ministries. Amen

September 14th

We lift high the cross on this Holy Cross Day, and pray for the church in Woodbury, Holy Cross Church. We ask that all who work to maintain this church as a centre of prayer and worship may be showered with blessings; may each one uphold the cross as a symbol to the wider community of redemption, hope and love.

September 15th

Heavenly Father, we are all called to be your servants and to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel. We give thank for all our Lay Worship Leaders, for all who read your word and for all who lead us in our prayers. We ask your blessing on them, strengthen them in their calling to serve you and give us ears to hear your word with them. May your word be a light to lighten our path and may we all seek to proclaim and build your Kingdom. Amen

September 16th

(Based on Nehemiah 8:9-10 and Faith in Foodbanks)

Father, you give us so much and pour out your blessings upon us. And yet, faced with all that is broken and unjust, we struggle to find ways to help our neighbours.

Yet you are the source of all that is good, and all that comes from you is good. You remind us to embrace the good to find joy in it. You remind us to go and enjoy the food you provide.

And yet in your holiness you remind us also to share with those who have little. Through the work of foodbanks we share our food. We take joy in God's creation, not despite other, but alongside others.

And so Father, we ask your blessing on all who organise and donate to foodbanks within our Mission Community and pray that you will give us generous hearts to share with those in need. Amen

September 17th

We pray for all those who live, work and worship in Chardstock, especially those feeling overwhelmed by the changes to their lives as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak. We give thanks for members of the parish council and members of St Andrew's Church in their work to care for local people. Particularly for Churchwarden Tim Purrett and PCC Secretary Roger Damon. Amen.

September 18th

Our children, young people and families are such an important part of the future of the church and Mission Community. We thank God for those who have the contacts, skills and calling to youth work. We pray for the continued well-being and work of Brenda and Simon and all who fulfil this vital call to grow the Kingdom among the young and youth of our area. May young people hear the word and respond to God's call and may we all continue to support those who sow the seed, trusting in the Holy Spirit to feed, water and bring it to harvest in the lives of those who hear. Amen.

September 19th

God of love. We thank you for your interest and help in our daily lives. Today we bring before you especially our new team administrator Louise as she begins to learn her new role. We pray for your guidance and joy for her. We thank you for Linda and Rita who have served you and us in the months and years past. We thank you for gifts of administration and enthusiasm to be used to help build your kingdom, Amen

September 20th

Today we remember Bishop John Patteson, who was brought up at Feniton Court, ordained in Exeter Cathedral and became the first Bishop of Melanesia, a diocese with which Exeter has strong links. He worked tirelessly against the slave trade but was martyred on this day in 1871. We pray for the people of Melanesia and for all missionaries who work to further God's kingdom across the world. Amen.