



# The Priory Church of St Mary



We hope you enjoyed a summer break and looking forward to the autumn. This month we remember children and the younger generation as they will soon be returning to school or starting at a new one, or university and hoping for an undisturbed year of study. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

## A Prayer for Children and Young People

By Betty Lewis (Inspired by the hymn "One More Step Along the World I Go" by Sidney Carter)

Faithful and Caring God, we thank you for the beauty and wonder of creation, and for being with us at all times.

Today, we pray for the well-being, happiness and growth of all children and young people.



One more step along the world I go

From the old things to the new

Keep me travelling along with you

And it's from the old I travel to the new

Keep me travelling along with you

Heavenly Father, be with all in their daily lives, in their excitements during happy times with family and friends, in their education and learning, in their new experiences, studying for exams, achievements, sports, friendships, travels and changes that they face

Round the corners of the world I turn

More and more about the world I learn

And the new things that I see

You'll be looking at along with me

Caring God, help them to know the good of life and to be comforted by the knowledge of your presence with them every step of their lives. Let them see the beauty of the world and to know the love and care for the world and one another which exists. Help them to be the people you would have them be. May they enjoy life and learning as they grow to be a blessing to you and to those in their lives.

Give me courage when the world is rough

Keep me loving though the world is tough

Leap and sing in all I do

Keep me travelling along with you



Gracious God, be with all who are experiencing difficult times for any reason – perhaps for health issues, poor living conditions, feeling sad or lonely, or the effects of living through the uncertainty and many changes during the Coronavirus Pandemic. Please surround them with your love and care and meet them in their individual needs.



As I travel through the bad and good

Keep me travelling the way I should

Where I see no way to go

You'll be telling me the way, I know

Generous God, please guide the steps of all children and young people with your great wisdom as they grow in body, mind and spirit.

You are older than the world can be

You are younger than the life in me

Ever old and ever new

Keep me travelling along with you

Heavenly Father, we pray that all children and young people will always remember that throughout their lives you will remain with them and with all of us.

All thanks and praise to you Everlasting God.

Amen.

**Open the Book**

Open the Book (OtB) offers primary school children an opportunity to hear key Bible stories told by a team of Christians from local churches, who present the stories during assemblies or acts of collective worship.

A group of volunteers from across the Usk MA recently attended a training session to support the initiative with local schools. The group thoroughly enjoyed the experience with creative dressing up and acting bringing the bible stories to life. Although a number of the team are very experienced, for some of us we had to start from the beginning to re-learn the art of storytelling for children.

Everyone is sure the children will enjoy the stories and have as much fun as the team had exploring the bible from a very different angle.

Please take time to pray for the team and everyone at Usk Primary with the new term nearly upon us, to keep everyone safe, build strong relationships and for God to be speaking through the stories told.



**Open for you**

St Mary's is open each day for private prayer and reflection.



**Prayer for Education Sunday - 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

God of love and life,  
 We pray for every member of our community, both close to home and globally, who is returning to school.  
 We pray for their places of education to be overflowing with creativity, inspiration and opportunity.  
 We pray for your peace to fill the classrooms and dining halls, the playgrounds and school buses, and the hearts and minds of those who are worried about returning to school.  
 We pray that you will equip the teachers and teaching assistants with the tools they need to help the children and young people in their care to fulfil their potential.  
 We commend our children and young people into your care.  
 In Jesus' name,  
 Amen.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." — Matthew 19:14 (NIV)

**1950/1960 School Memories**

We all have strong memories of our first few days at primary school, although nowadays most children tend to go to pre-school, so it is not such a shock to the system for them as it was for the children of the 50's and 60s!

At this time was very much 'talk and chalk' education, with the teacher at the front of the class and the children sitting at desks facing the board. Reading, writing and arithmetic (the Three 'R's) were very important, as was learning by rote.

Visits from the school nurse would break up the daily routine. The nit nurse used to make regular visits to check for head lice and all the children in each class would line up to be examined in turn, their hair being combed carefully with a nit comb to see if there was any infestation. There were also routine eye and hearing tests, and visits from the school dentist.

There was also the polio vaccine, given at school to every child on a sugar lump. Measles, German Measles and Mumps were not vaccinated against; most children contracted these diseases in childhood. German Measles, or Rubella, can affect unborn babies in the womb if contracted in pregnancy, and so if a girl in the class caught German Measles, it was not uncommon for her mother to throw a tea party for the rest of the girls so they could also catch the disease.

Class sizes in the 1950s and early 1960s were large, often over 30 children to a class, as these were the 'baby boomers', children born after the Second World War. There were no classroom assistants, just the class teacher and so discipline was strict. It was quite common for a disruptive child to be rapped over the knuckles, on the buttocks or on the palm of the hand with a ruler.

We tend to remember our teachers if they were very good or very bad and of course we all remember school dinners,, the 11+ and our friends. If you are lucky like me you still have a few!

Dee Seabourne



**Youth Group**

We are hoping to restart the Youth group again soon and looking for someone relatively young with lots of enthusiasm to lead the group. There are plenty of willing helpers.

If you are interested please contact Reverend Sally.

**Family Church**

The family church will meet again in person, next session on 19th September at 4pm in church.

All families with young children are welcome for an afternoon of fun whilst learning about the bible.

Contact Carol Southwell for details.