

The water lily, *nymphaea alba*, is cousin to the sacred blue lotus which inspired the decoration of the pillars of Solomon's temple. (*1 King's 7. v.22*)

Water lilies bloom in still waters, reflecting the calmness and beauty of a God-centred life. For Buddhists, "Nirvana" literally means "no wind".

Lilies symbolise hope, faith, purity and remembrance.

The fleur de Louis was named after King Louis vii of France.

"Lilies of all kinds, the fleur de luce being one."  
(*Shakespeare, The Winter's Tale.*)

O Lord, help me to find the stillness and calm which leads me to see your presence in the world and to live my life centred on you. In Jesus' name. Amen

We lift to you, Lord, all those who need your love today; all those who cannot see your light in their darkness. Sustain them in their sorrow and suffering and come close to them. In the name of Jesus who suffered for us. Amen

Father, from the time I wake in the morning until I turn to sleep again, open my eyes to your Blessings around me. May I be sincerely grateful for all that you give me this day. Amen

### **Week four, 22nd to 28th May** **Ascension! The Spirit lives to set us free** **Pray for Peace**

Gracious Father, we pray for peace in the world; For all nations and their leaders, that they may have the wisdom to know and courage to do what is right;

For all men and women, that their hearts may be turned to the search for righteousness and truth; For those who work to improve international relationships,  
that they may find true ways of reconciliation; for those who suffer as a result of war, terrorism and rebellion;  
The injured and disabled,  
The mentally distressed,  
The homeless and refugees, the hungry,  
Those who mourn their dead, and those who are without hope or friend to sustain them in their grief and loss. Amen  
(*Baptist Peace Fellowship.*)

Lord, we pray that peace may come to all your world. Peace in the Middle East; Peace between Arab and Jew; Peace between Russia and Ukraine; Peace between India and Pakistan  
Peace in Africa; O Lord, convert the world to your ways, and that right soon. Amen

Peace is not a matter of thinking how bad we are, but of realising how much God loves us. Peace is not sorting others out, but letting God sort us out.

Peace is not bullying others into submission but allowing God to tell the truth.

Peace is a sigh of relief when we stop hiding from God.

Peace is the realisation that when God gave us one mouth and two ears, He probably intended us to use them in that proportion.

Lord make me an instrument of your Peace.

The Risen Christ came and stood among His disciples and said, "Peace be with you" and they were glad when they saw the Lord.

# Quantock Villages

## Prayer Diary May 2025



### **New Life in the Risen Christ**

#### **Week one, 1st-7th May**

Let us offer prayers for the Church in the world:

Christ has no body now on earth but ours, no hands but ours, no feet but ours; ours are the eyes through which to look at Christ's compassion to the world, ours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good, and ours are the hands with which He is to bless us now.  
*St Teresa of Avila (slightly adapted)*

*(On the other hand...)*

Lord, keep me from the dangerous habit of thinking that I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but you know, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end. Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point.

*A 17th Century Nun's prayer*

From a Gospel of wildflowers:

The Dog Rose, *rosa canina*, is England's emblem and is connected with our Patron Saint, St. George. Jesus fought and won the ultimate battle with sin and death restoring light to the world. The rose is also the flower of our Lady, the Blessed Virgin Mary.

“So sweet a kiss the golden sun gives not to those fresh morning drops upon the rose.”  
*(Shakespeare, Love's Labours Lost.)*

Heavenly Father, may the beauty of the rose and all wildflowers fill us with the certainty of your loving presence and your care for your Creation. Amen.

Father in Heaven, we pray that you will be with all who will discern your call to the person to be your Archbishop of Canterbury and the person to be your next Pope.

May every Christian be strong to witness to the power and presence of the Risen Christ in the world and may your protection be with all who are persecuted and who suffer for their faith.

Let us pray for all who seek to follow Christ in our Diocese, our Deanery, our Benefice and in each of our villages. Lord, may we abide in your love, draw strength from the deep wells of Christian hope and dedicate ourselves afresh each day to your Kingdom of justice and peace.

## **Week two, 8th to 14th May**

### **Pray for family and community**

O God our Heavenly Father, from whom every family in Heaven and on earth is named; we entrust to your loving care the members of our families, both near and far. Supply their needs;

guide their footsteps; keep them safe in body and soul; and may your Peace rest upon our homes and our family everywhere, in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen

Heavenly Father, increase the sense of community that binds us to one another. Bless the work of our Benefice so that our Churches may shine out as places of belonging where people know that they are welcomed, remembered, and valued as individuals.

May we celebrate a faith which announces in the Word that we are forgiven and accepted, and in the Sacrament gathers us into the life of the Risen Christ. We pray for your name's sake. Amen

Lord, I call to mind each village and hamlet within our Benefice of the Quantock Villages. In each village I think of one person or family, and I pray that you will each day guard them, lead them and let them know your love for them. I pray for Aisholt, Enmore, Goathurst, Holford with Dodington, Kilve with Kilton and Lilstock, Nether Stowey, Over Stowey, Spaxton with Charlynch, and Stringston.

The Harebell, *campanula rotundiflora*, is the counterpart of the ninth commandment. It does not bear false witness but tells out Good News. Its flowers witness to the glory of God. It is the bluebell of Scotland. Campanulas are living symbols of the art of bellringing. Harebells proclaim God's call to mission. In a noisy world, harebells play silent music.

“There with fantastic bell garlands did she come.” *(Shakespeare, Hamlet.)*

“We Have a Gospel to proclaim; Good News for all throughout the earth.” *(Hymns O & N 716)*

Dear Lord, let us start our work in faith, continue in obedience and finish with love.

*(Prayer discovered in a Church in the Quantocks)*

## **Week three, 15th to 21st May**

### **Prayers for the day**

Do not say “It is morning” and dismiss it with the name of yesterday. See it for the first time as a new-born child that has no name. *(Rabindranath Tagore)*

Lord, I offer you myself this day for the work you want accomplished; for the people you want me to meet; or the word you want to be uttered; for the silence you want to be kept; for the places you want me to enter, or the new ways you want me to pioneer.

Go with me along the way, Lord, and help me to realise your presence at all times and in all places, O loving Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen

The secret of living is learning to pray;  
It's asking you, Father, for strength for the day;  
It's trusting completely that Your boundless grace  
Will overcome care and each problem I face.  
It's walking by faith every mile that I plod  
And knowing my prayers bring me closer to God.

Dear Lord, a joyful manner of living is a tune for the day to start;  
The pleasure of doing and giving brings peace to the happy heart.  
With courage for daily duty and patience when problems arise;  
Thankful for bounty and beauty, living in ways that are wise.