

## A Favourite Prayer Book

from Mike Holloway

Tides and Seasons by David Adam, published by SPCK

This little paperback is one of my most treasured possessions and always goes with me when I go on retreat and often when I'm just away. It doesn't have a place on my bookshelves as it sits just by my chair where I can reach it when I need to. Let me explain why. This is not a book about prayer but a book of prayers – modern prayers in the Celtic tradition. They were composed by David Adam who used to be Vicar of Holy Island, a place that moves me profoundly and the base for St Aidan's mission.

David's roots are Scottish as are some of mine if you go back a couple of generations. My middle name isn't Sinclair for no reason! Maybe that's why I have always loved the Celtic style of prayer and, in a modern way, David is a master of this. The prayers are imbued with a powerful sense of God's presence and encourage even me to shut up and just rest on God. I find I can just hold one of these prayers and meditate on it for a whole morning – what a gift! Here's an example.

*It is the Lord, in the dawning, in the renewal,  
in the arrival, in the new day.*

*It is the Lord, in the crowd, in the church,  
in the conversation, in the crisis.*

*It is the Lord, in the stable, in the humble,  
in the stranger, in the poor.*

*It is the Lord, risen and returned, alive for evermore,  
giving me new life, saving me in strife. It is the Lord.*

### Weekly Prayer Themes

29 <sup>th</sup> Aug – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sep	Teachers and children returning to school
5 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> September	Those persecuted for their faith
12 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> September	Relations between different faiths
19 <sup>th</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> September	Relations between Christian Churches
26 <sup>th</sup> Sep – 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct	People with no religious faith

## The Beacon Benefice

# Prayer Diary

## September 2016

Happy New Year!

Yes, I know it's not January but for those of us who have ever had children, the new year always starts in September when they go back to school. Spare a thought and a prayer for those starting or changing school – always a bit of a traumatic time.

Thinking of school leads us to teaching and that, in turn, leads to our forthcoming teaching weekend on prayer. The date's in the next column! This will be a chance to hear from a real expert in John Pritchard and a chance just to pray or to ask questions too. And it's not just for our six Churches. It's open to anybody so make sure you tell your friends who attend other Churches too. And please pray for the weekend and all involved.

Rev Mike

### Beacon Prayer

Please join me, if you can, as we pray our way around the Churches of our benefice.

2<sup>nd</sup> Sep Painswick  
9<sup>th</sup> Sep Pitchcombe  
16<sup>th</sup> Sep Edge  
23<sup>rd</sup> Sep Harescombe  
30<sup>th</sup> Sep Brookthorpe

7<sup>th</sup> Oct Cranham  
14<sup>th</sup> Oct Sheepscombe  
21<sup>st</sup> Oct Painswick  
28<sup>th</sup> Oct Pitchcombe

### Reminder

Don't forget that Bishop John Pritchard will be visiting us on the  
**22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> October**  
to encourage, help and talk to us about prayer. Please, please put these dates in your diary.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>People who live in ...</b>
1	Acts 15.1–21	Sidespeople	Parish Councils	Beacon Close PA
2	Acts 15.22–35	St James, Cranham	Pitchcombe Village	Beacon Lane PI
3	Acts 15.36–16.5	St John the Baptist, Edge	Pitchcombe Village Hall	Beech Lane SH
5	Acts 16.6–24	St John the Baptist, Harescombe	Start of a new school year	Berry Close PA
6	Acts 16.25–end	St John the Baptist, Pitchcombe	Resthaven Nursing Home	Bisley Street PA
7	Acts 17.1–15	St John, Sheepscombe	Richmond Care Village	Blakewell Mead PA
8	Acts 17.16–end	St Mary's, Painswick	All involved in the Tour of Britain	Brookthorpe Road BR
9	Acts 18.1–21	St Mary's, Kabanga, Tanzania	Sheepscombe Primary School	Buckholt Road CR
10	Acts 18.22–19.7	Stroud Foodbank and Furniturebank	Sheepscombe Village	Butt Green PA
12	Acts 19.8–20	Sue Hartley	Sheepscombe Village Hall	Canton Acre PA
13	Acts 19.21–end	The work of PSALMS	The emergency services	Castle Close PA
14	Gen. 3.1-15	Wedding and baptism co-ordinators	The retired	Cheltenham Road PA
15	Acts 20.17–end	Andrew Leach	The unemployed	Cheltenham Road PI
16	Acts 21.1–16	Archdeacon Jackie Searle	Those away at university or college	Church Close CR
17	Acts 21.17–36	Area Dean Malcolm King	Those who look after children	Churchill Way PA
19	Acts 21.37–22.21	Bell ringers	Those who travel to work	Cotswold Mead PA
20	Acts 22.22–23.11	Bishop Rachel	Those who work from home	Court Orchard PA
21	1 Kings 19.15-end	Choir members	Those who work in service industries	Cranham Corner
22	Acts 24.1–23	Open Deanery meeting this evening	Utility companies	Cranham Village
23	Acts 24.24–25.12	Church cleaners	Visitors to the benefice	Cud Lane ED
24	Acts 25.13–end	Preparations for Painswick Feast	Young people	Edge Lane ED
26	Acts 26.1–23	Church refreshment servers/providers	Ashwell House	Edge Road PA
27	Acts 26.24–end	Churchwardens	Brookthorpe Hall Care Centre	Edge Road PI
28	Acts 27.1–26	The Clergy Conference in Swanwick	Brookthorpe Village	Far End SH
29	Dan. 12.1-4	Churchyard maintainers/mowers	Carers	Folly Lane PI
30	Acts 28.1–16	Deanery Synod reps	Children	Friday Street PA