

Fortnightly Prayer Diary

Monday 19th January - Sunday 1st February 2026

For the first few days of this Prayer Diary, we look back, reflecting on the Christmas message, using verses from Matthew's Gospel. We then look forward to the year ahead, with the help of Isaiah ch.35.

Monday, 19th

'This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.' **(Matthew 1: 18)**

"Thank you, Lord, for this faithful record of St. Matthew, as he records the birth of Jesus. As these verses were read once again in countless churches across our land, may many hearts be moved, as people, young and old, remember the wonderful Good News. May it cause many to approach your throne of grace with thanksgiving."

- Give thanks for all the visitors who joined us over Chirstmas.
- Please pray for Little Fishes this morning - for a good attendance, for good conversations, and for good listening and learning.
- Pray for the monthly Service at Havenvale, happening today.
- Please pray for St. Andrews Road (James Hooker).

Tuesday, 20th

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name JESUS, because he will save his people from their sins."
(Matthew 1: 21)

"Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin; grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen."

P.T.O.

- Thank God for the thousands of church Christmas Cards that were delivered to people's homes in the run-up to Christmas.
- Please pray for our Homegroups, meeting throughout the week
- Pray for your neighbours and our town – for a Great Awakening. Pray that people would reflect deeply on all that has happened over the last few years and turn to God for answers.
- Please pray for Kestrel Way (Sally Hornby).

Wednesday, 21st

“The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).’

(Matthew 1: 23)

“Thank you, O Lord our God, for the miraculous birth of your Son, which continues to this day to inspire our hearts. Thank you that, at the Name of Jesus, every knee will bow. As we seek to follow you, so may we continue to believe that you are working out your plan and will continue to do more than we can ask or think or imagine.”

- Please pray for all those who heard the Good News at Christmas services in our churches and across the country.
- Please pray for our Wednesday Worshippers meeting in St. Mark's today. Pray for good numbers, good learning, encouraging praise and loving fellowship.
- Thank God for those who sit on the PCC, which meets tonight. Please pray for continued unity throughout the year ahead.
- Please pray for Martinsdale (Glyn Horwood).

Thursday, 22nd

‘The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.’ **(Isaiah 35: 1)**

“Thank you, O Lord our God, for bringing us safely to the beginning of this new year. We commit ourselves anew to following you, our one true God, as loyal and obedient servants. And we pray that you will use us to draw many out of the wilderness and into the joy of your presence.”

P.T.O.

- Pray for God's provision for the ministry of the Church Society over the coming year. Pray that it might be a mighty force for good and for God in the C of E in this coming year. Pray for the Directors, other staff and volunteers to be refreshed and filled with enthusiasm for this year ahead.
- Pray for Together today - for good numbers and loving fellowship.
- Pray for the Thursday Evening Group - that it helps all who attend.
- Persecuted Church: Syria – population 24.3 million, with 579,000 Christians. Syria has a historic Christian community, which is afforded some degree of openness in their faith. But Christians from other denominations can face great danger. Large numbers of Christians left their place of origin to go to other majority Christian areas as internally displaced people. Some believers now have returned to rebuild their lives. Please pray:- for the people of Syria to heal after years of war, economic uncertainty and natural disasters; for peace for all people in Syria; for the church in Syria to remain a beacon of hope.
- Please pray for Queens Road (Julie Howard).

Friday, 23rd

'Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendour of our God.' (***Isaiah 35: 1, 2***)

"O Lord our God, today we pray that, in this year, the desert and the parched land may be glad. We pray that they may be anointed with the glory of Lebanon and the splendour of Carmel and Sharon. We pray that, in this coming year, you may do great and wonderful things to bring glory and honour to your Name."

- Thank God for all the work that goes on in our Church Office.
- Give thanks for Bishop Rob and how he serves us as a church.
- Mission Links: Please pray for Ruth Cuthbert in Betel Birmingham as she struggles with a bad back which affects her sleep. She is very tired. Pray for healing, strength and refreshing sleep.
- Please pray for Tree Close (Monica Jackson).

Saturday, 24th

‘Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way;
(*Isaiah 35: 3*)

“O Lord our God, we pray that you may, indeed, strengthen the feeble hands and steady the trembling knees. We pray that you may strengthen and steady us, especially when we have to face up to very difficult and challenging situations.”

- Pray for peaceful and just solutions to the on-going conflicts in war-torn areas of the world – Gaza and Israel, Ukraine, Yemen and the DRC. Pray for the displaced and the suffering, and for believers to be strengthened and sustained and to be lights to others in these situations – and to the nations.
- Thank God for our church family. Please pray for continued unity.
- Please pray that the people we have welcomed into church as visitors recently come back again soon.
- Local churches: Pray for our partnership with St Paul’s, St Bart’s, Kirby and Gt Holland. Pray that we’ll be able to support each other.
- Please pray for Pinewood Close (Doreen Jordan).

Sunday, 25th

‘say to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you.”’ (*Isaiah 35: 4*)

“Today, O Lord, we pray – Even so, come Lord Jesus. Come amongst us to save us, to rescue us, to redeem us. Come amongst us to drive out all that is false, all that is dark, all that is untrue. Come amongst us and bring glory to your Holy Name.”

- Give thanks for Maisie Needs today, as we celebrate her birth in a Thanksgiving, during our Morning Service at St. Mark’s.
- Please pray for our various services today. Pray that many will learn of God’s goodness, want to praise him, be encouraged in their faith and strengthened to live for him day by day.
- Pray for all those joining in with our online Sunday Services. Pray that some of them will be able to join us in person before too long.
- Please pray for Chilburn Road (Sharon Juniper).

Monday, 26th

‘Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped.’ (*Isaiah 35: 5*)

“In this New Year we pray, O Lord, that you will open many blind eyes across our land and unstopp many deaf ears. We pray that you will revive your church, driving out all that is false and replacing it with your truth. May many who have been deceived by false teaching repent, receive forgiveness and return to you with joy.”

➤ Please pray for all the work John Dunnett does for the CEEC.

- Give thanks for our Little Fishes, especially that some families come along every week. Pray for a growing interest in Christian things.
- Pray for all those attending Bethany today and for those who are mourning the loss of a loved one.
- Please pray for all we know who are unwell or who are recovering or who are waiting for treatment at this time.
- Please pray for Hudson Close (Josie Kennard).

Tuesday, 27th

‘Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.’ (*Isaiah 35: 6*)

“We pray that, in this year to come, many precious souls in our parishes, may journey out of the desert and into the Promised Land, leaping like deer and shouting for joy.”

➤ Please pray for the Crossway Magazine, edited by Kirsten Birkett for the Church Society. Pray that all Kirsten’s work may be prayerful and biblical and a great help to all who read it.

- Please pray for the Stewsdays team today as they cook, set up and welcome the guests. Pray for good conversations round the tables.
- Please pray for Hannah as she continues to develop our links with local schools. Pray for wisdom for her in what to focus on.
- Thank God that progress is being made in the plans for a new Church Hall. Pray as we work towards applying for a Faculty.
- Please pray for the Corner House Care Home (Pam King).

Wednesday, 28th

‘The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.’ (*Isaiah 35: 7*)

“O Lord, all of us are surrounded by burning sand and parched ground. Send your Spirit, O Lord we pray, to water the desert, which is all about us, causing new shoots, new life, new growth to emerge. May we see your hand at work and bring glory to your Name.”

- Please pray that this may be a season of new shoots, new life and new growth here and at churches across this land.
- Please pray for our Wednesday Worshippers, as they meet today. Pray for godly fellowship and for loving kindness to continue to be shown within the group, as they care for one another.
- Pray for Pam today as she welcomes the Craft Group back after the Christmas break, and pray that they enjoy their “Craftea”.
- Please pray for the young people meeting this evening at Ignite.
- Please pray for Sherwood Drive (Thomas Linnane).

Thursday, 29th

‘And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness. The unclean will not journey on it; it will be for those who walk in that Way; wicked fools will not go about on it.’ (*Isaiah 35: 8*)

“Thank you, O Lord, for this promise of the Way of Holiness, to be trodden only by those who walk in the Way. As we, by your divine grace alone, walk on that Way, may we have a desire and passion to re-direct the steps of those who have left the Way and who now tread upon a different path.”

- Please pray for all members of General Synod. Pray that the Lord may be at the heart of their preparations for the Synod in Feb. Pray that many will base what they say on God’s Word. Pray that His Name may be raised up high in that Synod.
- Please pray for your family, your neighbours, your community - pray for vital and effective outreach into our parish.

P.T.O.

- Please pray for the Food Bag Team as they sort the food donations and pack them into bags for families and others in need. Pray that this would be a real help and a sign of God's love.
- Persecuted Church: Algeria – population 46.3 million with 144,000 Christians. There has been another sharp increase in government pressure against the Algerian Protestant church. In 2023, almost all of Algeria's protestant churches were ordered to close. The remaining churches were forced to stop meeting in 2024, isolating many Christians. Please pray:- that God will allow a few of the remaining Protestant churches to remain open; for wisdom and boldness for Algerians daring to share their faith; that every believer in Algeria would be able to find a Christian community to be part of and to enjoy fellowship.
- Please pray for St. John's Gardens (Reg and Daphne McLeod).

Friday, 30th

'No lion will be there, nor will any ferocious beast get up on it; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there,' (Isaiah 35: 9)

"May we, O Lord, rejoice to be counted worthy, by your sovereign grace, to walk upon the Way. May we rejoice to be in the company of the redeemed. May our joy overflow into our families and communities and cause many to desire to join us."

- Pray that the Lord would raise up workers for the harvest field. Pray particularly that many more good candidates may come forward for ordination and for other roles in the C of E.
- Thank God for all those here at St John's and St Mark's who have been redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus. Pray that they may shine with his light.
- Please pray for all who work in the Church Office and all they do.
- Mission Links: Give thanks for the amazing amount of money raised over Christmas for Kathryn Asiku's literacy ministry in Uganda. Pray that it will be wisely used and will be a great blessing to them all.
- Please pray for Coppins Road (Peter and Catherine Mann).

Saturday, 31st

‘and the ransomed of the LORD will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads.’
(Isaiah 35: 10a)

“Dear Lord, thank you so much for this promise of joy which you have given to those who have been redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus. Help us to live joyfully in the light of this promise.”

- Thank God for all the work of Gafcon, supporting Anglican churches in many countries – particularly as they help pastors and people in lands where there is real persecution.
- Pray that many in this parish might seek the Lord.
- Please pray for the Coffee Morning today, for Steph and all those on the team. Pray for good numbers and for good conversations.
- Other local churches: please pray for Phil, our Area Dean, as he tries to co-ordinate what the local CofE churches can do together.
- Please pray for Woodlands Close (Vic Miller).

Sunday, 1st February

‘Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.’ **(Isaiah 35: 10b)**

“O Lord, today we pray that gladness and joy may flow out of our mouths, our hearts and our lives, as we worship you in spirit and in truth. May our joy in you, and in all that you have done for us, flow out into our communities and draw many in to seek the Kingdom.”

- Pray that gladness and joy may fill the hearts, minds, souls and spirits of faithful people across the country.
- Please pray for each of our services today – that they will build up the church family and be a place of welcome for newcomers.
- Pray for the Needs family as they bring their new baby, Maisie, for baptism today. Pray that they will know and feel God’s love.
- Thank God for Tea Time Church and the regulars who come along month by month. Please pray that it would be a real help to many who are seeking to discover more about the Lord Jesus.
- Please pray for Walton Road (Joan Millie).