

Fortnightly Prayer Diary

Monday 2nd - Sunday 15th February, 2026

The *Presentation of Christ in the Temple* is traditionally remembered on 2nd Feb, forty days after Christmas. This is when Mary and Joseph met Simeon, who had been waiting for a very long time for the One who would be 'the consolation of Israel'. (*We find this in Luke ch.2.*) May this story inspire us to pray earnestly for those who are close to the Kingdom – we pray that they will take the final step of faith.

Monday, 2nd

'On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise him, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he had been conceived.' (*Luke 2: 21*)

"We thank you today, O God, for the name of Jesus – the Name above every name – the Name of the Saviour of the World – the Name at which devils flee and before which every knee will bow."

- Pray today for the many people in our country who are thinking about the Lord Jesus and are close to the Kingdom.
- Please pray for our Little Fishes and their families/carers. Thank God that we continue to welcome in many little ones and their accompanying adults. Pray for good and helpful conversations.
- Please pray as preparations are under way for the Half Term Holiday Club. Pray for a good number of children to sign up and for just the right number of helpers. Pray for many regulars to return and for new families to be ready to join in.
- Please pray for the ongoing plans for the Church Hall, that the Lord will go before us and that everything will happen at the right time and in the right order. Pray especially as our Faculty Application is looked at by the DAC at their meeting this week.
- Please pray for Southcliff Park (Gerald Millman).

Tuesday, 3rd

‘When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord’ (**Luke 2: 22**)

“We thank you today, O God, for the obedience and devotion of both Joseph and Mary to the Law. We pray that we may learn from their example and be obedient and devoted to the Word of the Lord.”

- Please pray for the new Archbishop of Canterbury – pray that she will take every opportunity to proclaim Christ as Saviour.
- Pray for your neighbours and our town – for a Great Awakening. Pray that people would reflect deeply on the last few years and all that has happened and turn to God for answers.
- Pray, once again, for all who visited us over the Christmas season.
- Pray for God to maintain our good relationship with local schools.
- Please pray for Meriden Court (Phyllis Mitchell).

Wednesday, 4th

‘(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every first-born male is to be consecrated to the Lord”),’ (**Luke 2: 23**)

“We pray today, O Lord, as we enter another month, that we may all re-commit ourselves to a daily study of the Word and to a desire for a deeper and richer understanding.”

- Thank God for all peacemakers. Pray that they may be led by the Lord to establish just and lasting peace in the conflicts to which they are assigned.
- Please pray for our Wednesday Worshippers in St. Mark’s today for their 1st Wednesday Special, “Winter Warmer”. Pray for good numbers, good learning, and for visitors to be warmly welcomed.
- Mission Links: Pray for Catherine, currently in Bournemouth, as she helps out at her local church with street evangelism and youth work. Pray for all her preparations for visits to churches during Feb and for good learning as she does an eight-week course on ‘Physical Healing’. Pray for wisdom and strength and energy! **P.T.O.**

- Please pray for Ignite and for its leaders. Thank God for the very good number of young people who attend every week.
- Please pray for Carisbrooke Avenue (Jean Moore).

Thursday, 5th

‘...and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons”.’
(Luke 2: 24)

“We pray today, O Lord our God, that we may all live sacrificial and self-denying lives, which bring honour to the Name of Jesus.”

- Please pray that all the churches represented in The Alliance would work well together in proclaiming the Good News of Jesus afresh to the people in our land. Pray that each may play their part in re-vitalizing the Church of England.
- Please pray for “Bethany Again”. Thank God for this new group, as Bethany on a Monday became so popular. Pray that those that come will find comfort after the loss of a loved one.
- Please pray for the Thursday Group, meeting this evening. Pray that all who attend would learn from God’s Word.
- Persecuted Church: Laos – Give thanks for people like Pastor Vee. He writes “we keep going and trust God to provide everything for us”. Pastor Vee has been thrown out of his village, yet through his work 90 people have come to Christ. Give thanks for God’s power.
- Please pray for Hanwell Close (Mary Moss).

Friday, 6th

‘Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.’ *(Luke 2: 25)*

“We thank you today, O Lord God, for all those whom we know who are waiting to meet Jesus. We pray for them, that when you knock, Lord Jesus, upon the door of their lives they may recognize you and invite you in, with joy and gladness.”

- Please pray for Bishop Rob and all that he does to serve. *P.T.O.*

- Give thanks for our Church Office and all who work there. Pray for all the hard work that goes on today and throughout the week.
- Pray that we will continue to be able to welcome new people.
- Please pray for all we know who are ill at this time.
- Pray for Valley Road (Mark, Caroline, Joshua and Daniel Mulryne).

Saturday, 7th

‘It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.’ (Luke 2: 26)

“Thank you, Lord, for your boundless love and mercy. Thank you, Lord, that you heard Simeon’s heart-felt prayer and answered it. Thank you, Lord, that you will hear our deepest prayers and answer them too.”

- Please continue faithfully in prayer for the poor in our communities. Pray that we may be very aware of them in our midst, sensitive to their needs and generous in our support.
- Take a moment to thank God for our loving church family.
- Local churches: Pray for the Summer Weekend that we plan to run again with other local churches – and for real fellowship with them.
- Pray for our Wardens and their teams, giving thanks for all they do.
- Please pray for Brentwood Court (Sheila and Mike Neale).

Sunday, 8th

‘Moved by the Spirit, (Simeon) went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms...’ (Luke 2: 27, 28a)

“Thank you, O Lord, for this gracious work of the Spirit, in drawing Simeon and our Lord Jesus together. We pray, O Lord, that in this year many whom we know may be drawn to the place where they too may meet the Lord Jesus for themselves.”

- Pray for all faithful General Synod members, as they prepare for the Synod this week - that the Lord may graciously anoint and bless them. And pray that many Gospel-led, Spirit-filled people may even now consider putting their names forward for the new General Synod, elected later in the year. **P.T.O.**

- Give thanks for all our church members, who come along regularly.
- 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.
- Please pray that families with children will join us at St Mark's, as currently there are no children in Sunday Funtime.
- Please pray for Cross Road (Gary and Anita Newbery).

Monday, 9th

‘...and praised God, saying: “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace...”’
(Luke 2: 28b, 29)

“We pray today, O Lord, that in these coming months, many of our older friends, who do not know Jesus, will come to meet him, to repent of their sins, and to be wonderfully saved.”

- Please pray for John Dunnett and others in the leadership of CEEC, that they would continue to contend faithfully for the future of the Church of England.
- Give thanks for each of our Little Fishes. Pray that as they grow and understand more they would take in what they hear from the Bible.
- Please pray for Mark as he takes the whole-school worship in Great Clacton Juniors this morning.
- Please pray for all those attending Bethany today and for those who are mourning the loss of a loved one. Pray that the team would have the right words at the right time.
- Please pray for Carisbrooke Avenue (Dawn O'Neill).

Tuesday, 10th

“...for my eyes have seen your salvation,...”’ *(Luke 2: 30)*

“We thank you, Lord God, for all those we know whose eyes have seen the salvation of the Lord. We pray that each one may be filled with the joy of the Lord and the passionate desire that many, many others may see Christ too.”

- Please pray that the “Quiet Revival” that many churches have seen over the last year will continue and grow. *P.T.O.*

- Please pray that our regular community activities, where we welcome people into our buildings, will both show God's love and give us opportunities to share the Good News.
- Please pray for our planning for next week, with our Half Term Holiday Club and our Pancake Party. (We usually hold this at St. Mark's, but this year it will be at a different time and in a different place.) Please pray for word to spread and for the right number of children and families to attend.
- Please continue to pray for our plans for a new Church Hall.
- Please pray for St. Margaret's Court (Mary Overton).

Wednesday, 11th

“...which you have prepared in the sight of all people,...”

(Luke 2: 31)

“We praise you, O Lord our God, that the truth, which is in Jesus, is not restricted to the chosen few, but has been prepared for all. We pray that the truth of God, in Jesus Christ, may go out to all nations.”

- Please pray for all those, across the world, who are being persecuted for their faith in, and love for, the Lord Jesus. Pray that each one may know His comforting, consoling and strengthening presence with them. Pray that they may shine out as lights in the darkness.
- Please pray for the Deanery Chapter (the ministers from the local C of E churches) meeting today. Pray for helpful discussions.
- Please pray for our Wednesday Worshippers, as they meet today. Pray for godly fellowship and mutual encouragement.
- Mission Links: Please pray for Mark & Ruth at Betel. Ruth has just spent three days in hospital due to severe back pain. Please continue to pray for healing and patience as she recovers at home and for Mark as he takes on extra family and work duties.
- Please pray for Dorking Crescent (Robert and Christine Pearce).

Thursday, 12th

“...a light of revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”” **(Luke 2: 32)**

P.T.O.

“We thank you, O God, that our Lord Jesus is a light for the Gentiles and glory to your people. We pray that each one of us may shine out with the light of Christ into the spiritual darkness which surround us.”

- Pray that many, many Christians may have the joy, in this coming year, of seeing members of their family, friends or neighbours realize their need for the Lord’s forgiving grace.
- Thank God for our Food Bag Ministry. Pray that many would be helped by everything that is sorted and packed this morning.
- Pray for the Together Service today in the Church Hall. Pray for good numbers, encouraging praise and a loving atmosphere.
- Persecuted Church: Burkina Faso - In recent years there has been a rapid rise in violence against Christians and hundreds of churches have been forced to close. Please pray:- for the many believers forced to leave home by Islamic militants; for Christians who have endured violence (ask God to bind up their wounds); for church leaders trying to minister to their flock while forced to flee (ask for God’s encouragement and strength).
- Please pray for Martinsdale (Barry Peters).

Friday, 13th

‘The child’s father and mother marvelled at what was said about him.’ (Luke 2: 33)

“Thank you, Lord God, that Joseph and Mary heard what was said about Jesus and marvelled. We pray that many this Sunday, as they come to church, may hear what is said about the Lord and marvel.”

- Pray that the Lord may anoint and bless the work of all in the Church Society, including its Publications Ministry. Pray that all that is produced, including the Crossway Magazine, may be clear and faithful in equipping the wider church.
- Pray for our church buildings – that we will look after them well.
- Please pray for your family, your neighbours, your community - pray for vital and effective outreach into our parish.
- Please pray for all who work so hard in our Church Office.
- Please pray for London Road (Michael Pretty).

Saturday, 14th

‘Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed,...”’

(Luke 2: 34, 35a)

“Thank you, Lord God, that we all have so much still to learn about the Lord Jesus. Help us to grasp, Lord, that He was destined at birth to cause not only the rising of many, but also the falling of many others, and that He was destined to be a sign that would be spoken for, but also a sign that would be spoken against.”

➤ Please continue to pray for the new Archbishop.

- Pray for those who will be preparing things our Sunday services tomorrow. Thank God for all who serve behind the scenes.
- Please pray for all in our church family who are ill at this time.
- Other local churches: Please pray for the smaller churches in our area, that they will have the resources they need to keep going.
- Please pray for Melbourne Road (Melanie Price).

Sunday, 15th

“...and a sword will pierce your own soul, too.” **(Luke 2: 35b)**

“We thank you, O God for this day to meet with others in your name. Thank you, O Lord, that Christians across our nation will have the opportunity to talk about Jesus – about his birth, his life and his death. We pray that many may hear the Word and trust in Him.”

➤ Thank God for the faithful and continuing work of The Christian Institute. Pray that the Lord may work through all their efforts to defeat the Assisted Dying Bill.

- Thank God for the visitors we have seen recently at church services. Pray that many would return again and again.
- Pray that all our services today would be a blessing to many.
- Please pray for Lego Church – that families will attend and that numbers will increase. Pray that it would introduce many to Jesus.
- Please pray for Meadowsweet Road (Steve and Kim Ratty).