

## Fortnightly Prayer Diary

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026

The writer to the Hebrews encourages us and all who follow Christ to 'fix our eyes upon Jesus'. Our verses in this Prayer Diary are drawn from *Hebrews chapter 12*.

### Monday, 16<sup>th</sup>

'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.' (*Heb. 12: 1*)

*"O Lord our God, may we be continually inspired by the faith of all those who have gone before us. May we be inspired by their example to throw off all that hinders and let us run with perseverance the race that is set out before us."*

- Continue to pray for Bishop Rob in his demanding role.
- Please pray for our Little Fishes and their families. Pray for the upfront team, Mark, Hannah and Rachel, as they prepare and tell a Bible story each Monday. Pray for open ears and open hearts.
- Pray for the monthly Service at Havenvale, this afternoon (2pm).
- Please continue to pray for the new church hall and all that that entails. Pray as our proposals go through the planning process.
- Please pray for Berkeley Road (Robert Arr).

### Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup>

'Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith who, for the joy set before him, endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.' (*Heb. 12: 2*)

*"Help us all, O Lord we pray, to fix our eyes upon Jesus, and upon Him alone - that we may look to him for what only he can give." P.T.O.*

- Continue to pray for John Dunnett and the work of CEEC.
- Thank God for our church family and those who sit around us Sunday by Sunday.
- Please pray for yourself – ask God to show you any gifts that you have which could help with the many varied aspects of church life.
- 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.
- Please pray for Tanner Close (Andrew Baalham).

### **Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup>**

‘Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.’ **(Heb. 12: 3)**

*“Help us all, O Lord, to consider Jesus, who endured such very great opposition. May we resist every temptation to grow weary and to lose heart. May we press on, running with perseverance, inspired by the example of all those who have gone before.”*

- Pray that the Lord’s restraining hand may be upon all, across the world, who intend harm and who promote violence. Pray for peace, with justice, in the conflicts between Russia and Ukraine, and in Gaza and Israel.
- Thank God for the good number of youngsters attending Ignite each week. Pray that each one would be encouraged in their faith.
- Please pray for our Wednesday Worshippers in St. Mark’s today. Pray for good numbers, good learning, encouraging praise and loving fellowship amongst all who attend.
- Mission Links: Please pray for Mark and Ruth in Birmingham with Betel. Give thanks that Ruth’s back is slowly recovering and she is able to do more. Please pray for her continued healing, and for wisdom and energy as they serve those recovering from addiction.
- Please pray for Abinger Close (Stuart and Pauline Baker).

### **Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup>**

‘In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.’ **(Heb. 12: 4)**

**P.T.O.**

*“As we continue to struggle against sin, O Lord, so we pray especially today for all those, across the world, who are suffering for their faith in you. We pray that you may strengthen, encourage and inspire each one to press on faithfully in the race of faith.”*

- Please pray that God would bring peace to the Middle East and relief and freedom to the people of Iran.
- Please pray for Bethany Again, which meets today. And pray for all those who are mourning the loss of a loved one at this time.
- Pray for our Lent Meeting this evening and for Howard from Open Doors, as he comes to speak about the persecuted church. Pray that we may be encouraged and challenged by his message.
- Persecuted Church: Uzbekistan – population 35.7 million with only 406,000 Christians. Uzbekistan is a former Soviet state, and it is still ruled by an authoritarian government that heavily monitors the population – especially religious groups. Converts from Islam face the most persecution – from both the state and their own families. Please pray:- for Uzbek Christians to persevere and be witnesses to Christ’s love; that unregistered churches won’t be targeted or harassed by authorities; for believers facing opposition from their families to know God’s love and strength.
- Please pray for Sandown Close (Sue Barrett).

### **Friday, 20<sup>th</sup>**

‘And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons:

“My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,...” **(Heb. 12: 5)**

*“Help us, O Lord, to remember this word of encouragement from the Book of Proverbs. Help us never to make light of your discipline – which is for our good – and help us never to lose heart when we are rebuked by you.”*

- Please pray for the staff and students and all who work at Oak Hill Theological College. Pray that this year may be fruitful, encouraging and enriching for all who teach, work and study there.

**P.T.O.**

- Please pray for all that will go on in the Church Office today on another busy Friday.
- Please pray that each of the food bags distributed from the hall this week will be received as a sign of God's love.
- Please pray as we plan for our services and activities over Easter.
- Please pray for Ferndale Close (Keith and Monica Beaman).

### **Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup>**

“because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.” **(Heb. 12: 6)**

*“Today, Lord, we thank you and praise you that your discipline is a sign of your love and your punishment shows that you accept us as sons.”*

- Thank God for the work of The Christian Institute and for the many encouragements from the last year. Pray for all their current work with parliamentarians at Westminster and Holyrood to resist plans for assisted suicide.
- Thank God for the church buildings that God has given us. Pray that God would continue to give us the resources to look after them.
- Pray that the visitors at the Harp Concert would return again.
- Local churches: pray as we plan for our Churches Summer Weekend with St Paul's, St Bart's, Kirby and Great Holland. Pray that it would be a great time of mutual encouragement and fellowship.
- Please pray for Coppins Road (Mary Bond).

### **Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup>**

‘Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?’ **(Heb. 12: 7)**

*“Today, O Lord, as we worship and praise you in churches and chapels across our land, we thank you that all that comes from you, all that streams forth from your throne of grace, is for our good. We praise you that you treat us as sons and daughters. May we respond in loving obedience.”*

- Pray that Christians and churches across the country will seek to be generous and to alleviate the stresses and strains experienced by the poor in local communities.

**P.T.O.**

- 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 some who can't come to the services today in our churches will be able to join the online service and be helped by it.
- Pray that new people will join us on Sunday mornings in these coming weeks. Pray that they will feel warmly welcomed.
- Please pray for Upper Branston Road (Kathy Box).

### **Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup>**

'If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons.'

**(Heb. 12: 8)**

*"Help us to receive, even to welcome, your discipline, O Lord, as proceeding from your heart of fatherly love. Help us to rejoice at all times that we are children of God, and to know that nothing can separate us from your love."*

- Please pray today for Lee Gatiss (Director of Church Society) and especially his writing ministry – that his books and articles might be useful and edifying to the wider church.
- Give thanks for the good number of Little Fishes at the moment. Please pray that each adult and child will feel at home in St John's.
- Pray for all those attending Bethany today and for those who are mourning the loss of a loved one.
- Please pray for those moving into Clacton at this time, especially to the new estates around the edge of our parish.
- Please pray for St John's Road (Albertha Braithwaite).

### **Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup>**

'Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live!' **(Heb. 12: 9)**

*"Help us, O Lord, to be a submissive and obedient people. Help us to know that all that streams forth from your Word is for our good. Help us all to rejoice in you."*

**P.T.O.**

- Pray that many in this parish might seek the Lord. Pray that God would be at work in the hearts of many of our neighbours.
- Thank God for Hannah's work in local schools – especially with special Easter services and assemblies coming up.
- Please pray for Mark as he visits some church members, who can't get out to church, for Easter home communions.
- Please pray for Weeley Road (Andy, Helen, Martha, Gwen, Connie and Rayner Brown).

### **Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup>**

'Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness.' **(Heb. 12: 10)**

*"Thank you, O Lord our God, that you discipline us for our good. May we rejoice to share in your holiness."*

- Pray for the Network of Revitalisation Ministries (NoRM), run by Church Society. Pray that it may encourage ministers in revitalisation work to have perseverance, faithfulness, patience and grace. Pray for fellow-workers to join them and for many hearts to be re-kindled in love for the Lord.
- Pray for Hannah today as Cann Hall School attends St John's for its Easter service, together with the children's parents.
- Please pray for our Wednesday Worshippers, as they meet today. Pray for a growing godly fellowship between all who attend.
- Mission Links: Please pray for the Lunyole OT translation team. Pray that God will speak powerfully to people through his word, that pastors will be inspired as they preach in church using scripture in their heart language, and lives will be transformed by truth that everyone can understand.
- Please pray for Martinsdale (Joan Bruce).

### **Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup>**

'No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.' **(Heb. 12: 11)**

*"Today, O Lord, we pray for all those, especially those we know and love, who are being disciplined by you. May they be encouraged in knowing that it will produce a harvest of peace and righteousness."*

➤ Pray for Archbishop Sarah in her new role – for wisdom.

- Please pray for Together today – and for numbers to swell.
- Please pray for Hannah as Great Clacton Junior School attend St John's for their Easter Service.
- Persecuted Church: Cuba - population 11.2 million, and 6.8 million Christians. Cuba's Communist Party reacts harshly to opponents and tries to control the church. As a humanitarian crisis continues, Christian activists who criticise the regime face interrogation, smear campaigns, travel restrictions, prison sentences or harassment. The government often refuses to register new churches. Please pray:- that all churches would be allowed to remain open; that those sent by the authorities to monitor churches would be touched by the message they hear; for Cuban Church leaders targeted by state authorities.
- Please pray for Woodrows Lane (Veronica Byde).

### **Friday, 27<sup>th</sup>**

*'Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees!'  
(Heb. 12: 12)*

*"O Lord, we pray that you will strengthen those parts of us which are feeble, and those parts which are weak. Whatever our circumstances may be today, we pray that we may fix our eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face, always believing that the things of earth may grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace."*

➤ Pray for the work of Tearfund, in bringing help, and showing God's love, to some of the poorest communities in the world.

- Please pray for a great awakening in Great Clacton... and beyond!
- Pray for the Church Office today - for all the equipment to work and for those who answer the phone, as the office is often the first point of contact with the church.
- Pray that some new families will join us on Sundays at St Mark's.
- Please pray for Nightingale Close (Eileen Capener).

## **Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup>**

‘Make level paths for your feet, so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.’ **(Heb. 12: 13)**

*“Help us, O Lord, we pray, to make level paths for our feet, through a steady and convinced obedience to your Word. And we pray that those who are lame, and find walking in your Way difficult, may be gloriously healed.”*

- Thank God for the international ministry of Gafcon, which unites faithful Anglicans from many countries. Pray that they may work together harmoniously to the glory of God.
- Thank God that the Church Hall is still functioning and is able to house the Coffee Mornings. Give thanks for all those that attend and support these – and pray for a good crowd to be there today.
- Please pray for all in our church family who are ill at this time.
- Other local churches: please pray for smaller churches, like Great Holland – that there might be real encouragement and growth.
- Please pray for Jameson Road (Ann-Marie Chappell).

## **Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> - PALM SUNDAY**

‘Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no-one will see the Lord.’ **(Heb. 12: 14)**

*“Today, O Lord, we pray that your wonderful peace and holiness may flow through all that is said and sung and done in churches and chapels across the land. May your Spirit move in power amongst all your people, enabling us to shine with the light of Christ and to bring glory to your Name.”*

- Pray that the Lord’s joy and peace may rest upon all who worship Him – whether near or far away – this Palm Sunday.
- Thank God for our chance to praise the Lord Jesus today, as did his followers that first Palm Sunday. Pray that we would also worship him as our King in our lives this coming week.
- Pray that visitors will join us today and for other Easter services.
- Please pray for the Tea Time Church Easter Special this afternoon.
- Please pray for Peregrine Close (Derek and Jean Cheek).