

Fortnightly Prayer Diary

Monday 17th – Sunday 30th March 2025

As we, along with all God's faithful across the world, move through this penitential season of Lent, so we are reminded of our manifold sins and wickedness, and also of God's boundless grace and mercy. Our verses for this Prayer Diary are drawn from ***Psalm 51***.

Monday, 17th

'Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.' (***Psalm 51: 1***)

"O Lord, we pray today that you may have mercy on us. We pray that you, according to your unfailing love and according to your great compassion, may graciously blot out our transgressions."

- On this St Patrick's Day, please pray that many in Ireland will turn back to the Lord.
- Please pray for our Little Fishes and the adults who bring them along - both their family and their child minders.
- Pray for Hannah and Rachel and for the work that they do with our youth children's clubs and in our local schools.
- Pray for the monthly service at Havenvale, at 2pm today. (MM & CS)
- Please pray for Hanwell Close (Mary Moss).

Tuesday, 18th

'Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.'
(***Psalm 51: 2***)

"We pray today, O Lord, that you, our loving and compassionate God, may wash away all our iniquity and cleanse us from all our sin."

- Pray that many across our land who are burdened, may turn to the Lord to receive His free and full forgiveness and rejoice that He has set them free.

P.T.O.

- Thank God that he has provided financially for us as a church over recent years – so that we can reach out in so many ways.
- 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.
- At this time of Lent, pray that many of us will read, and be blessed by, our devotional books: *Easter Uncut* and *From Glory into Glory*.
- Pray for Valley Road (Mark, Caroline, Joshua and Daniel Mulryne).

Wednesday, 19th

‘For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.’ (*Psalms 51: 3*)

“We pray today, loving God, that you would help us to know our transgressions and the depth of our sin – so that we might realise more fully the wonder of your forgiveness.”

- Pray for the work of CEEC and The Alliance as they campaign on our behalf for adequate structural provision to be made in the C of E for all those who cannot, in conscience, use the proposed prayers coming from the LLF process.
- Thank God for our links with local schools, and especially for Cann Hall, who are visiting us at St John’s today.
- Please pray for our Wednesday Worshippers in St. Mark’s today. Pray for good numbers, good learning and loving fellowship.
- Mission Links: This year Betel celebrates 40 years of *Betel International*. Give thanks for all God has done over those years – from the first man living in a missionary’s home, to 100 centres around the world. Pray for Mark and Ruth as they serve in Birmingham helping people transform their lives from addiction.
- Please pray for Old Road (Bessie Muskett).

Thursday, 20th

‘Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.’ (*Psalms 51: 4*)

P.T.O.

"Today, we come humbly before you, our God, deeply aware of our shortcomings and dependent completely upon your forgiving grace."

- Pray for all those who are working towards a just and lasting peace between Ukraine and Russia.
- Please pray for Community Cuppa. Pray that this year we might be able to welcome many new people on Thursdays.
- Please pray for our second Lent Meeting this evening – for a good attendance and for good fellowship. Pray for Mark Holdaway, from Kirby and Great Holland, who is speaking this evening. And thank God for our growing fellowship with other local churches.
- Persecuted Church: Niger – Last year's military coup has added to the growing hostility felt by many Christians. Please pray:- for stability following the military coup, and for the influence of extremist groups to halt; for the protection of Christians living under the threat of violence; that believers from Muslim backgrounds will know that they are not alone.
- Please pray for Epping Close (Sheila and Mike Neale).

Friday, 21st

'Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.' (**Psalm 51: 5**)

"Father God, this verse reminds us of our descent from Adam, our original sin, suffered by all of humanity. We pray that, whenever we hear of the fall of other people, we may remember our own sin and our own need for God's forgiveness."

- Pray that many in our country who are seeking answers, may find the truth which is in Christ Jesus our Lord, and that the truth might set them free.
- Give thanks for our church buildings and that they are a sign of God's faithfulness towards our local community.
- Please pray that the repairs on St John's stonework will be able to start on time next week. Pray for safety for the workmen.
- Pray for all that goes on in the office today, another busy Friday.
- Please pray for Cross Road (Gary and Anita Newbery).

Saturday, 22nd

‘Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.’ *(Psalm 51: 6)*

“We pray today, O Lord, that we may indeed desire truth in the inner parts and that you, Lord, might reveal to us your deepest wisdom.”

- Pray for the work of Affinity, which connects evangelicals across denominations in the UK. Pray for Anglican evangelicals to have good relationships with non-Anglicans.
- Thank God for our Safeguarding team and for all that they do. Pray for the Safeguarding Training taking place this morning at St Mark’s.
- Pray for all who are preparing to lead, preach, read, play, pray and welcome here tomorrow – pray for God’s empowering.
- Local churches: pray that the congregations at Little Clacton and Weeley would grow, now that their new vicar has arrived.
- Please pray for Carisbrooke Avenue (Dawn O’Neill).

Sunday, 23rd

‘Cleanse me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.’ *(Psalm 51: 7)*

“We thank and praise you, our loving God, on this day, that you have power to cleanse us, to renew us and to set us free from the burdens of the past which would otherwise oppress us.”

- Pray that many more parishes across our land might be inspired to join the Church Society, to take a stand against all that is false, and to be encouraged to boldly share the Gospel.
- Give thanks for our Sunday Funtime leaders and helpers. Pray for them as they help, teach and guide our children week by week.
- 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.
- Give thanks for the Chase family and all that they have brought to us over the last 5 years. Pray for today’s Afternoon Tea, as we celebrate all they have done. Please pray for their next chapter.
- Please pray for Coppins Road (Mary Overton).

Monday, 24th

‘Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.’ *(Psalm 51: 8)*

“Today, O Lord, we pray with David that we may again hear songs of joy and gladness and that whatever has been crushed in us might be restored.”

- Please pray for Kirsten Birkett’s work as Editor of the Crossway Magazine – that it will always be prayerful and biblical.
- Please pray for the stonework repairs at St John’s, due to start this week. Pray for all the setting up to go smoothly.
- Give thanks for our Little Fishes. Pray that we will be able to look after them properly with the building work going on.
- Pray for all those attending Bethany today and for those who are mourning the loss of a loved one.
- Please pray for Dorking Crescent (Robert and Christine Pearce).

Tuesday, 25th

‘Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.’
(Psalm 51: 9)

“Today, O Lord, we pray that you may, indeed, hide your face from our sins and blot out our iniquities.”

- Pray that many, many in our land might come to rejoice in knowing the free and full forgiveness of our Saviour.
- Pray for a just and lasting peace to be established between Israel and the people of Gaza. Pray for a sufficient flow of humanitarian aid to get into Gaza.
- Please pray for Pam, Kathy and the Stewdsdays team as they meet, greet and feed their guests. Pray for good conversations to be had. Pray that God’s love would be experienced by all who attend.
- Pray for all who will come to work on the stonework at St John’s. Pray for safety and for a knowledge of God’s presence.
- *New regular prayer point* - for our diocese: Please pray for Ruth, our Archdeacon, as she returns to work after a period of sick leave.
- Please pray for Martinsdale (Barry Peters).

Wednesday, 26th

‘Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.’ (*Psalms 51: 10*)

“O Lord, we pray that today you might create in us all pure hearts and steadfast spirits. As your forgiven people, set us on fire by the power of your Spirit. Fill us with your love and joy and peace, and use us to spread your message of forgiveness, through the blood of Jesus, to all whom we may meet.”

- Please remember in your prayers all those who are afflicted by poverty in our land. Pray that Christians and churches may be generous whenever they encounter cases of need.
- Please pray for our Wednesday Worshippers, as they meet today. Pray that, as we look at the book of Hebrews together, we may learn to fix our eyes upon Jesus day by day.
- Pray for the Craft Group being held today in St. Mark’s. Pray that all who attend would enjoy the friendship of others and sense that it is God’s love that lies behind it all.
- Please pray for our young people gathering at St Paul’s for Ignite this evening. Pray that, in their daily lives, they would know God’s presence and protection. Pray that they would follow Him closely.
- Please pray for London Road (Michael Pretty).

Thursday, 27th

‘Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.’ (*Psalms 51: 11*)

“Help us, O Lord, to learn from our sins and our mistakes and to resolve to turn away from them. As we journey through this Lenten season, so we pray that we may daily draw closer to you. May you abide in us and may we abide in you.”

- Pray for all staff and students at Oak Hill Theological College. Thank God for the new on-line courses that are also available. Pray that many across the country may sign up for them.
- Please pray for the Together service this morning. Pray that all who attend would find it encouraging and challenging. **P.T.O.**

- Please pray for our 3rd Lent Meeting this evening, and for John Parker as he comes across from Colchester to speak at it.
- Persecuted Church: Central African Republic (CAR) – this country has been in constant conflict since 2013 – and persecution has continued throughout this period. Please pray:- that God would miraculously bring about a peaceful resolution to conflict; for believers to be protected, particularly in areas where they are targets of extremists; that God would provide for the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of His people in that land.
- Please pray for Melbourne Road (Melanie Price).

Friday, 28th

‘Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.’ **(Psalm 51: 12)**

“Restore in us, O Lord, the honour of your Name and the joy of your salvation. And give us willing spirits, to strengthen and sustain us.”

- Thank God for all that is being done in faithful parishes across the country to advance the Kingdom of God. Pray that even now the Lord might be raising up men and women to serve Him in His Church.
- Pray that the Spirit of the Lord might descend in power, opening eyes and inspiring hearts and minds of many in Great Clacton.
- Thank God for the continual work of our Church Office.
- Mission Links: Please pray for Gift and Kathryn in Uganda, back at work with Wycliffe, after their trip to the UK and their holiday afterwards. Pray for good health, God’s provision, His guidance and strength. Pray that His work flourishes there.
- Please pray for Meadowsweet Road (Steve and Kim Ratty).

Saturday, 29th

‘Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you.’ **(Psalm 51: 13)**

“Dear Lord our God, please use us, your forgiven people, to teach transgressors your ways and may we have the joy of seeing many sinners turning back to you.”

P.T.O.

- Please pray that the Lord might build up and encourage Churchwardens in churches across the country.
- Please pray for our Easter Coffee Morning - pray for a good attendance, for good conversations and for a loving atmosphere.
- Please pray for all in our church family who are ill at this time.
- Local churches: pray for Phil Ritchie as he takes over from Laurie as our Area Dean (standing in to do this role for the next 2 years).
- Please pray for Puffinsdale (Marion Reynolds).

Sunday, 30th

MOTHERING SUNDAY

‘Save me from blood-guilt, O God, the God who saves me,
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.’ **(Psalm 51: 14)**

“Thank you, O Lord, for the joy of this day, your Day, the Day of the Lord. Thank you that, on this day, we will again be reminded of our salvation through the shed blood of Christ. May our tongues, and the tongues of all around us, sing of your righteousness.”

- Please pray for mothers across the country, on this special day. Pray that their hard work and care would be recognised and appreciated. Pray that they would look to God for the strength that they need day by day.
- Pray for the King and for the Royal Family. Pray that King Charles, Princess Catherine and Princess Ann may all make complete recoveries following their recent spells of ill health.
- Thank God for our own mums and those ladies that have been in our lives and helped to shape the people that we are today. Pray for all those within our church family who play these roles today.
- Please pray for each of our special services today and for all who attend, especially visitors. Pray for those leading and speaking.
- Please pray for Chester and his family, as he comes for his baptism in the service at St John’s this morning.
- Please pray for Castle Hill Park (Iris Riley and Jackie Brooks).

Thank you for using our prayer diary.

***If you think of anything that has been missing from our prayer requests,
please let Ann-Marie or Mark know.***