

Fortnightly Prayer Diary

Monday 30th March - Sunday 12th April 2026

This Prayer Diary takes us towards and through Easter. We will use it to look back on the events we have remembered in our church services – Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Day. All the verses are taken from **St. Matthew's Gospel**, which is the gospel we have chosen to focus on this Easter in church.

Monday, 30th HOLY WEEK BEGINS - we'll look back on Palm Sunday

'As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me".' (**Matt. 21: 1, 2**)

"We praise you today, Lord God, that our Lord Jesus was so clearly in control of all the events leading up to His arrest, trial and crucifixion. And we pray that He may be in charge of all the preparations which we are making for this Easter."

- Pray for a mighty moving of the Spirit in our land this Easter.
- Please pray for all those planning our Easter events and services.
- Pray for our *Easter Hymns* event at Havenvale today. Pray that many residents will join us as the Easter story is retold.
- Pray for pupils and staff from local schools starting their holidays.
- Please pray for The Avenue (Bev Burden).

Tuesday, 31st

"If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away." (**Matt. 21: 3**)

"We praise you, Lord, for the obedience of the disciples and of the donkey's owner. We pray that we may be obedient servants as we prepare to honour you and to give you all the glory this Easter." **PTO**

➤ Pray that God may richly bless His people across the country this Easter.

- Thank God for our church family and all who serve in it.
- Please pray for the Stewsdays team today, especially as they are without Pam and Kathy and their guidance. Pray that everything will go smoothly, and the guests will appreciate the time together.
- 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 Marine Parade East (Jan Chittock).

Wednesday, 1st April

‘This took place to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet: “Say to the Daughter of Zion, ‘See, your king come to you, gentle, and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey’”.’ **(Matt. 21: 4, 5)**

“We praise you today, Lord God, for the obedience of our Lord Jesus to your will and for His fulfilment of prophecy. We pray that we may all be humble and obedient servants, as we prepare to celebrate once again, all that Jesus went on to do that first Easter.”

➤ Pray that faithful people across our country will love the Lord with all their heart, mind, soul and strength.

- Thank God for the opportunities that Easter brings to share the Good News. Pray that we will have the strength to make the most of these opportunities.
- Please pray for our Wednesday Worshipers as they have their *Holy Week Reflection* in St. Mark’s today. Pray that visitors will be welcomed and regulars will be able to attend. Pray that all will feel encouraged and challenged.
- Mission Links: Please pray for the work of The Leprosy Mission as they seek to bring transformation: breaking the chains of leprosy and empowering people to attain healing, dignity and life in all its fullness. (Every two minutes, someone is diagnosed with leprosy.)
- Please pray for North Road (David and Joy Clayton).

Thursday, 2nd

MAUNDY THURSDAY

‘The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them.

They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them.’ *(Matt. 21: 6, 7)*

“We praise you, our God, that all the preparations for the entry into Jerusalem worked out just as Jesus intended – as did the events that followed throughout the next week. We pray that you, Lord, may, even now, be preparing for great things to take place this Easter.”

- Pray that all the Lord’s people throughout the country may be obedient to the Word and greatly blessed by the Lord.
- Please pray for Bethany Again – that God’s comfort would be felt by those who attend, especially at this time of year.
- Please pray for the Maundy Thursday service taking place tonight. Pray that as we share the Lord’s Supper together we would be strengthened by him to follow him in the days ahead.
- Persecuted Church: Pray for Open Doors’ partners, who support believers in the Central African Republic with persecution survival training, economic empowerment projects and trauma care.
- Please pray for Highview Avenue (Daisy Cook).

Friday, 3rd

GOOD FRIDAY

‘A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”’ *(Matt. 21: 8, 9)*

“We praise you, Lord God, that the crowds gave Jesus such a glorious welcome as he rode into Jerusalem. We praise you for the Lord Jesus himself, that he rode on, knowing that he was riding towards the first Good Friday. We pray that all who fill our church today may truly sing His praise and welcome Him into their hearts and lives.”

- This Good Friday, please pray for all who are seeking peace in the Middle East. And let’s pray that peace will come – a peace with justice, good governance and freedom. **P.T.O.**

- Pray for our Walk of Witness today - that many will see it and think.
- Please pray for the Good Friday service taking place this morning. Pray for the visitors who will attend today, that they may have open ears and open hearts. Pray this for our church family too.
- Pray that as a church we would live in the light of Jesus' sacrifice.
- Please pray for Highlands Grove (Mike and Helen Cooper).

Saturday, 4th EASTER EVE

'When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?". The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee".' **(Matt. 21: 10-11)**

"We praise you, Lord God, that the entry of our Lord into the Holy City attracted so much attention from so many different people. We praise you that the whole city was stirred. We pray that many hearts may be stirred this weekend as the old, old story is retold once again."

➤ Pray that the hearts of many faithful Christians across our land may be strangely warmed in these Easter days.

- Please pray for a Great Awakening in many hearts in Great Clacton this Eastertime.
- Pray for our *Easter Reflection* in St John's this afternoon and for Mark as he leads this. Pray that the time would cause many to quietly reflect on all that was achieved by Jesus for us.
- Local churches: pray for all the services that will be happening across our town and Deanery this Easter.
- Please pray for Hawthorn Road (Darren Cromwell).

Sunday, 5th EASTER SUNDAY

'The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; HE HAS RISEN, just as he said".' **(Matt. 28: 5, 6)**

"Lord of all life and power; who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour; glory and might, now and in all eternity. Amen." (THE PRAYER BOOK COLLECT FOR EASTER DAY)

P.T.O.

- As the women who went to the tomb passed on the message of the Risen Lord, please pray that Christians up and down our country will share this wonderful news with others.
- Pray that our Sunrise Communion will be a witness to passersby.
- Please pray for our various services today - that many will learn of God's goodness, want to praise him, be encouraged in their faith and strengthened by the Easter message to live for him every day.
- Pray that we, as a church family, will be challenged to keep on sharing the Good News of Easter, as we hear it once again.
- Please pray for Towse Close (Stephanie Cuthbert).

Monday, 6th

EASTER MON (Bank Holiday) – this week we look back on the events of the first Easter

'From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over the land.' *(Matt. 27: 45)*

"Father God, help us to spend some time dwelling on the darkness which our Lord confronted on the Cross. We pray that He may confront and conquer the darkness which stalks our world today."

- Pray today for Bishop Rob, the Bishop of Ebbsfleet. Pray that he may be very effective in supporting all the ministers and churches in his care.
- Give thanks for all the people who visited church during our Easter services. Please pray that many would return soon.
- Please pray for all those we know who are not well at this time.
- Pray for those on the staff team who will be having a bit of a break over the next few days.
- Please pray for Richard Daish.

Tuesday, 7th

'About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" – which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?".' *(Matt. 27: 46)*

"We thank you today, Father God, that our Lord Jesus bore all our sins in His body on the tree. We thank you, Father God, that He took our place and paid our price."

P.T.O.

- Pray that the Church of England may remain faithful to the witness of God’s Word – ensuring that it is taught and valued.
- Give thanks for all the work that Hannah and Rachel have done with the children and young people over recent months.
- Pray for all those moving into the new houses around our parish.
- Please pray for all those we know who have been bereaved or are sad or struggling at this time.
- Please pray for Branston Road (Pam Dench).

Wednesday, 8th

‘When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah”.’ *(Matt. 27: 47)*

“We thank you today, Lord God, for all the opportunities which you give us to correct wrong ideas about who our Lord Jesus is. We pray that we may seize these opportunities whenever they arise. We thank you, Lord God, for the many Gospel opportunities we have had over the Easter period.”

- Pray that the Crucified and Risen Christ may be proclaimed clearly in the churches of our land.
- Pray that many in this parish might seek the Lord.
- Please pray for all those struggling with family problems.
- Mission Links: Please pray for Gift and Kathryn in Uganda. Pray for Kathryn’s healing from back problems and for them both as they look after Gift’s mother, Penina, as she has medical tests carried out. Pray for healing, strength and peace at this time.
- Please pray for Frinton Road (Rita Dews).

Thursday, 9th

‘Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink. The rest said, “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him”.’ *(Matt. 27: 48, 49)*

“We thank you today, Lord God, for all those who have heard the story and the message of Jesus and will take action. We pray that they may go forth to spread abroad all they have seen and heard.” *PTO*

➤ Please pray today that ministers and congregations across the country may seize every opportunity to proclaim the merits of our Crucified and Risen Lord.

- Thank God for the Food Bag Ministry that operates from the Church Hall. Pray for all those coming to collect bags today.
- Please pray for Together today. Pray that visitors would be welcomed and regulars would be fed and encouraged.
- Persecuted Church: Please pray for Open Doors' partners that strengthen persecuted Christians in Niger through economic empowerment programmes, leadership and discipleship training, persecution survival training and pastoral care for new believers.
- Please pray for Cherry Tree Avenue (John and Clare Disney).

Friday, 10th

'And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.' **(Matt. 27: 50)**

"Almighty God, look with mercy on this your family for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed and given up into the hands of sinners and to suffer death upon the cross; who is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen." (A COLLECT FROM THE PRAYER BOOK)

➤ Thank God for all the efforts of The Christian Institute and those in the House of Lords to defeat the Assisted Dying Bill.

- Please pray for your family, your neighbours, your community - pray for vital and effective outreach into our parish.
- Pray for our Church Office and all that will happen there today.
- Pray for those inspecting our plans for the New Church Hall.
- Please pray for West Avenue (Charles and Patricia Ebsworth).

Saturday, 11th

'The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate..... "Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how". So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.' **(Matt. 27: 62, 65, 66)** P.T.O.

“Grant, Lord, that we who are baptized into the death of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ may continually put to death our evil desires and be buried with him; and that through the grave and the gate of death we may pass to our joyful resurrection; through his merits who died and was buried and rose again for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.” (A COLLECT FROM THE PRAYER BOOK)

- Please pray for the forthcoming Deanery Synod elections. Pray that many good and godly people may be elected. And pray that they, in turn, may elect many good people to the General Synod.
- Please pray for those who are preparing for tomorrow’s services.
- Please pray that we would, once again, see more children and families at our services, before too long.
- Other local churches: Thank God for Rachel’s work at St Paul’s and how it helps us to work closely with our neighbours there.
- Please pray for London Road (Daphne Edwards).

Sunday, 12th

‘The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; HE HAS RISEN, just as he said”.’ **(Matt. 28: 5, 6)**

“O Lord our God, please bless all who worship you in churches across our town and our country today. Bless us all, fill us with your Spirit of love, joy and peace and send us forth into your world with your glorious message of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- Please pray today for those clergy who are facing opposition either in their parishes or in the wider church. Please pray that they may be given strength to endure with grace and good humour. Pray too for wisdom to know how to respond.
- Thank God that we can meet together as His people in freedom and without fear of persecution.
- Please pray that each of our services today will be welcoming, uplifting, challenging and encouraging for all who attend.
- Please pray for all who will join in with the online service today.
- Please pray Reigate Avenue (Gary and Rose Fellowes).