



Monthly Prayer December 2020

At the time of preparing these suggestions for prayer, I do not know how quickly things might get back to some sort of normality and therefore am not sure what activities we should be praying for. Do check your weekly Church Matters or the website to be sure that advertised events are still happening.

Why not have your Church Contacts list beside you when you pray and take a few names each day. If you looked at 10 a day it would take just over a month to pray for everyone.

This month's mission partner – Open Doors

Please pray for the loved ones of 39 people murdered in Islamic extremist attacks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo last week, and for vulnerable believers to be protected and give thanks that Sudanese Muslim and Christian religious leaders have agreed to join forces to promote religious freedom. An amazing answer to prayer! Pray that the resources needed for keeping this work going whether that is people or financial will be forthcoming especially in this difficult time across the world.

If you would like to find out more about the work of Open Doors or pray for other work they are involved with then please use the link below:

<https://www.opendoorsuk.org/resources/prayer/>

This time tomorrow

We want to pray for people in their whole lives and how they share their faith with those they meet. In December, we pray for those involved in Local and national government and the civil service.

Tuesday 1st

Today is world AIDS day. Give thanks that Aids can now be treated and pray for all those countries where it continues to be a serious problem.

Wednesday 2nd

Pray for everyone who is worried about their job and their financial position.

Thursday 3rd

Pray for our Mission partners working in areas where there are risks from Covid19 in circumstances where health care is limited and any vaccines may not be easily to be used.

Friday 4th

Pray for the scientists and health service personnel working on the successful development and distribution across the world of a vaccine that will deal with Covid19.

Saturday 5th

Pray for all who are fearful or anxious, asking that they will know God's peace and faithfulness.

Sunday 6th.

Pray for all who lead or preach in our Sunday worship, whether on YouTube or Zoom.

Monday 7th.

Pray for Rachel Powlesland and Hayley Brydges and all they are doing to support children, young people and families. Give thanks for their creativity.

Tuesday 8th

Pray for the leadership team meeting today. Give them wisdom in all their recommendations and decisions.

Wednesday 9th

Pray for an understanding of the meaning of Advent when we think of the second coming of Jesus.

Thursday 10th

Pray for all those who are suffering because of winter weather and for those who find it difficult to heat their homes.

Friday 11th

Pray for all who are suffering as a result of Covid19. Those who are on ventilators, those in hospital, those at home and for all who care for them.

Saturday 12th

Pray for those who can find no time to prepare for the birth of Jesus because they are too busy preparing for meals and get-togethers.

Sunday 13th

Pray all who lead our worship today.

Monday 14th

Pray for the ASMA churches, their incumbents, clergy, wardens and volunteers that will find the resources they need to do what they need to do.

Tuesday 15th

Pray for the shops that get they will have a positive experience leading up to Christmas.

Wednesday 16th

Ask God to help you to hear his still small voice of calm as preparations heat up for Christmas. Help us to make a good use of the many resources God has given us and to live as sustainably as possible.

Thursday 17th

Pray for our residential and nursing homes at Christmastime asking that isolated residents will be able to see members of their families.

Friday 18th

As term ends at Stoke Bishop School, pray for teachers and pupils asking that they will have a good holiday and that family relationships will be positive over the holidays.

Saturday 19th

Pray for those who have to work over the holiday period and those who volunteer to make Christmas better for other people.

Sunday 20th

We hope to have a series of Carol Services today. Pray for all involved, giving thanks for Christmas music which brings such joy as it tells the Christmas story.

Monday 21st

Today is the shortest day. Give thanks for the seasons and the hope of Spring.

Tuesday 22nd

Pray that the workloads in families will be shared over Christmas and that no-one will be too tired to appreciate the joys of the Christmas story.

Wednesday 23rd

Pray for those who are finding Christmas difficult because of financial difficulties and anxieties for the 2021.

Thursday 24th

Pray for the Christmas trail taking children and their families around the parish and for the Midnight Communion service and those who come to that service when they rarely attend church otherwise. May everyone come close to God and a better understanding the Good News.

Friday 25th

On Christmas day give thanks for the birth of Jesus and pray in the midst of whatever celebrations are possible, everyone will get some sense of what the day is really about. Pray for those leading our three services today.

Saturday 26th

Today we remember Stephen, who died for his faith – the first Christian Martyr.

Sunday 27th

Pray for our one service today, when the church remembers St John.

Monday 28th

Pray for those who have found Christmas difficult because of the absence of significant people either because of death or illness or the rules around Covid19.

Tuesday 29th

Pray for those who have worked over Christmas to keep us safe.

Wednesday 30th

Pray for all who are homeless, because of war, famine or drought and help us to remember them.

Thursday 31st

On New Year's Eve, pray for all who have found 2020 particularly difficult and ask that they will have hope for the future.

Looking ahead

Do check the website and read the weekly emails to find out what is happening at St Mary's. stmarysb.org.uk, emails and social media and do feel free to contact one of the clergy if you are in difficulty. (phone numbers in copies of the Messenger or via the office 01179687449)