

# St Andrew's, Backwell and St Bridget's, Chelvey

## PRAYER DIARY for April 2020

### Suggested use of the diary

Either focus each week on a particular aspect of the situation or every day take one topic from each section.

1st – 7th April This week we pray for the NHS, those who are ill and those work in it.

- \* those who are in hospital, especially those in Intensive Care;
- \* those who are ill at home;
- \* doctors and nurses and all hospital staff;
- \* those working behind the scenes, especially in laboratories;
- \* scientists working for an effective remedy;
- \* the need for life saving equipment;
- \* hospital chaplains.

8th - 16th April Christian Leaders and Church Members

- \* Our Archbishops, bishops and other national Christian leaders as they seek to give leadership and support;
- \* local church leaders, especially Revd Katy and the Ministry Team;
- \* on Good Friday we pray especially for people in isolation seeking to follow services on the media;
- \* the use of worship packs at home and other aids to prayer in isolation;
- \* on Easter Sunday we pray that the Easter message of God's presence with us may reach across our nation;
- \* that our church family may maintain a sense of togetherness in prayer and support of each other;
- \* that we may each cope with the restrictions laid on us and find new strength;
- \* for Christian TV and radio broadcasts over this period.

17th – 23rd April Our Government and International Organisations

- \* Our Prime Minister and other ministers, especially the Health Minister, Matt Hancock;
- \* those in charge of economic and employment policy, including support for the self employed;
- \* all MPs, especially our MP, Dr Liam Fox;
- \* the opposition parties, including the newly elected leader of the Labour Party;
- \* North Somerset Council and especially our councillor, Bridget Petty;
- \* the World Health Organisation and its scientific advisors;
- \* the United Nations Organisation, especially UNICEF and its care of vulnerable children in areas affected by the virus.

24th – 30th April Families and Local Communities

- \* Our God of grace and God of mercy, hear our prayers at this time. Ps and all who work in the local surgeries;
- \* dentists and other health professionals;
- \* children and young people not at school and parents seeking to help them at home;
- \* shops and supermarkets with additional pressures on staff;
- \* elderly people, isolated from families and friends;
- \* health workers visiting the elderly and disabled at home;
- \* food banks needing extra supplies.

## A Prayer for the Present Time

Living God, in our hour of need we turn again to you,  
for we have nowhere else to turn.  
We put our faith in you,  
because you have proved your faithfulness time and again.  
We reaffirm our love for you because you have never let us go.  
We thank you that you are not distant from us,  
but have drawn near, in your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.  
He has shared our life, tasted our death and defeated it;  
He understands our worries and our fears.  
Help us to respond as your children now.

We pray, as this pandemic spreads across our world,  
remembering all who have lost loved ones,  
and praying for those seriously ill at this time.  
We uphold the National Health Service,  
as it responds to this added pressure on its already overstretched services.  
We pray for doctors and nurses and all in the caring professions,  
who work to help and support people as best they can.  
We remember those working behind the scenes,  
testing samples, confirming results, giving information to patients.  
We uphold others trying to understand this virus better,  
working to create an effective remedy.

We pray for our Governments in Westminster and Holyrood,  
as they work with the best medical advice,  
to guide us on how we should respond,  
and what action we should take.  
We pray that these guidelines might be taken seriously,  
and that all would put them into action.  
May this crisis bring out the best in us, not the worst.  
Help us to live by faith and not by fear;  
to build bridges not barriers.

We pray for those who have been laid off as their work disappears,  
bringing financial hardship for individuals and businesses.  
May our inconvenience not blind us to others' loss.  
We remember those who cannot visit loved ones in locked-down care homes,  
and we pray for the elderly whose social contacts have been severely curtailed;  
help us to find creative ways of keeping in touch,  
of assuring them they are not forgotten or ignored.

May congregations find new ways of living though this time.  
May we not forget our faith, but draw strength from it.  
So may our worship be heartfelt,  
our fellowship deepen, and our service increase.  
Strengthen us, by your Spirit, so that:  
we may carry on our lives as best as we are able,  
looking out for others, showing love in action, being faithful in prayer,  
and bringing encouragement, hope and peace;  
always trusting in you, our Rock and our Redeemer.

*From The Church Of Scotland (adapted)*