

ST. MARGARET'S
COLEVIEW,
SOUTH MARSTON
&
STANTON FITZWARREN

DECEMBER /
JANUARY PRAYER
DIARY



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The Gospel of Luke – Chapter 2 Verses 11-14

¹¹ "Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests."

To my fellow Christians...

Owing to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, many church and local events have been put on hold or cancelled altogether. As a result, until such time as the events recommence, the prayer diary will be scaled down to weekly prayers, much like the prayer diaries that are distributed over Christmas and the summer months.

I will still attempt to make the prayer diary as varied as possible, but for that to succeed I will continue to require your help and support, so please feel free to jot down your own thoughts for prayer below.

God Bless,
Adam Jenkins

If you would like to suggest any topics for prayers, please contact:

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Prayer topics...

1st - 4th As we enter the season of Christmas, pray this week for all those who are trying to keep a sense of normality during the festive period, be it shows, bazaars or parades. May we recognise that, while this Christmas may not be the kind of Christmas that we would have expected to have a couple of years ago, it is still a time for peace and thankfulness to shine through.

Week beginning 5th December

Collect: Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God.

With a new COVID variant making its presence felt recently, remember in your prayers this week all those who are continuing to feel the effects of the pandemic and will feel its effects in the coming weeks and months. Take a moment to remind yourselves that this crisis is not over, and it will take a concerted effort to contain it, if not eradicate it.

Week beginning 12th December

Collect: God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.

This week in your prayers, pray for all those who are struggling with their mental health and see no clear path. Pray that God will give those people a reason to go on, and give hope to those all over the world who are struggling with famine and homelessness. We especially think this week of those who have recently been affected by the strong wind and rain of Storm Arwen and the significant drop in temperature.

Week beginning 19th December

Collect: Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.

As the schools break up for the Christmas period this week, pray this week for those in the church who are committed to serving the local church through prayer and visiting the schools in a variety of roles. Pray that the church continues to support the schools and grow in their involvement and commitment always seeking God's guidance on new ways to serve the school community.

Week beginning 26th December

Collect: God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ.

During this Christmas week, in this season of gifts, remember to celebrate the coming of Jesus as the only gift that really matters, and the gift that really overwhelms us, despite the surprises and the imagination of those who give us presents. As we experience delight and frustration in equal measure, pray for all those who are unable to celebrate Christmas for whatever reason, and that they too may experience the true meaning of this season.

Week beginning 2nd January

Collect: God our Father, in love you sent your Son that the world may have life: lead us to seek him among the outcast and to find him in those in need, for Jesus Christ's sake.

As we enter a new, and hopefully more cheerful, year we pray that our Lord of light comes to draw us out of the darkness into His glorious light. May we come to Him afresh this Christmas and New Year, longing for a new start and another chance. Pray that we may fill our celebrations with golden, glowing hope to sustain us through this coming year.

Week beginning 9th January

Collect: Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognise him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

This week in your prayers, as we celebrate the baptism of Christ only two weeks after we commemorated His birth, we pray for all those who will be baptised into God's kingdom this year, both young and old. May they express the same curiosity of Christ and live lives according to His word and law.

Week beginning 16th January

Collect: Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.

As the new term at schools, colleges and universities get into full swing, pray this week for those people who are Christians in their places of education. Whether they be teaching staff, volunteers or pupils, pray that God will give them the strength and support needed to be Christian witnesses in their environment.

Week beginning 23rd January

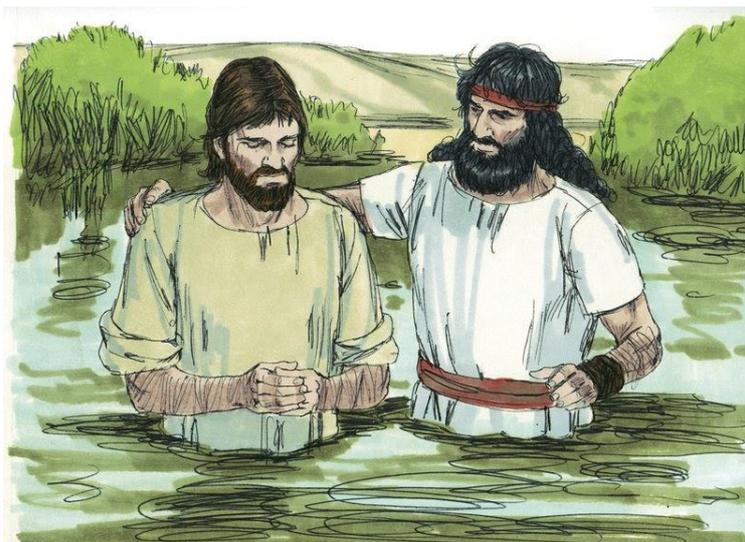
Collect: God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed: anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord.

In this period of reflection, pray this week that we may focus our memories and our hopes. May we remember that God's love is inexhaustible and that we may use this example in our own lives. Keep our vulnerable people in the forefront of your thoughts and that they may know God's goodness and mercy in this New Year.

Week beginning 30th January

Collect: God of heaven, you send the gospel to the ends of the earth and your messengers to every nation: send your Holy Spirit to transform us by the good news of everlasting life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Remember in your prayers this week our Ministry Team: Elveen, Mark, Lisa, Alison and Dan. We remember especially Mark and his family, as he departs for pastures new this month. May he know just how much he has meant to us over the last 4½ years. He has been a real source of inspiration to us, particularly during the struggles of the last 2 years with the closure of the churches and his work with the online services to make sure that we could continue to worship with each other. May God bless him and his family now and forever.



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