

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:

Adam Jenkins Tel: 01793 827520

E-mail: adam.w.jenkins@talk21.com

Prayer topics...

1st – 5th As we exit lockdown this week and enter a new tiered system of restrictions, we thank God this week for the news that places of worship can re-open and we can all meet together once again in praise. However, we also pray this week for all businesses both locally and nationally who will not be able to restart; we give hope that they will be able to survive this tough winter period and they can come through the other side stronger and ready for next year.

Week beginning 6th 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.

This year has been tough for everyone, with many people forced to spend the majority of the year away from their loved ones. Pray for all those who have turned to God this year for comfort and support. We will His kingdom to come, but it is not ours to take. Pray that He will meet our longing, enter our waiting and give life to our hoping, especially in our culture of impatience.

Week beginning 13th 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 deprived of that which we take for granted; we pray for children who ache with hunger owing to a lack of food and for those who have no place to call home and are forced to spend their lives on the streets, especially during these cold winter months. We pray that God will give hope to the hopeless during this time that can give so much but can also take away.

Week beginning 20th 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.

Remember in your prayers this week our Ministry Team: Elveen, Mark, Lisa, Alison and Dan. Pray that, in this year of desperate pleasure and stale smiles, we will remember the ways that we have benefitted from their instruction, especially when we have been forced to watch services online. Their enthusiasm was not diminished during this time, so ours should not be either. Pray that God will continue to be central to our lives, with help from those who lead us.

Week beginning 27th 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 where family gatherings have mostly been curtailed owing to COVID-19, we thank God for still being able to celebrate the birth of His son into a human family. May this image of the nativity hold us and those we love together during this time, and that our love for family and friends reflect the same love He has for us.

Week beginning 3rd 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, in this season of memories, we can celebrate our shared memory of the birth of Christ. May we remember times of greater innocence and less cluttered lives, and pray that this year will hold much that is delightful, and that God's quiet and constant presence through every part of it will sustain us through the highs and the lows.

Week beginning 10th January

Collect: Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognize 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, no matter how old they are. May they know the security that Jesus had while he was growing up in Nazareth. May their souls proclaim His greatness, and their spirits rejoice in His saving grace.

Week beginning 17th 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.

With America inaugurating their new President this week, pray this week for our political leaders, both here and abroad. Pray that they may put their differences aside and come together to build a firm foundation for our future, whilst keeping the needs of the people of their respective countries uppermost in their thoughts and decisions.

Week beginning 24th January

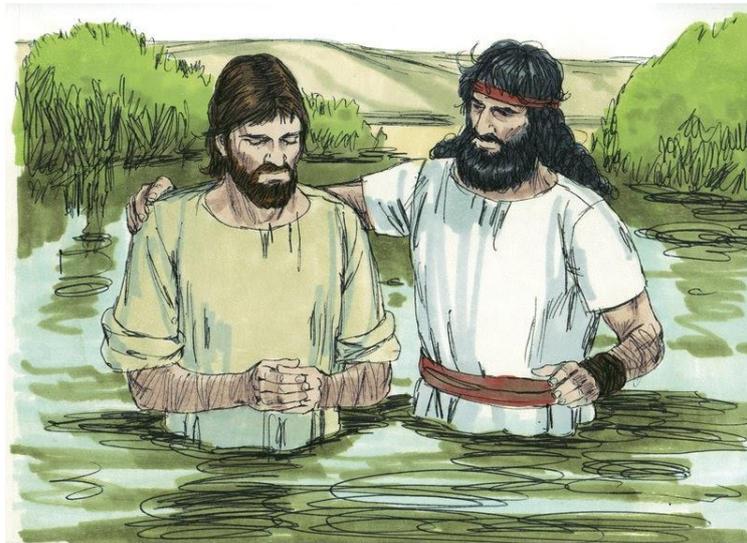
Collect: God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed: anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord.

In your prayers this week, pray for all those who are sick in body, especially for those who suffer from leprosy as we commemorate World Leprosy Day on Sunday. Pray that, as Jesus cleansed the lepers in His time, we may remember all those who are working hard to create vaccines for our most dreaded diseases as they too seek to purify those who are ill.

Week beginning 31st 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.

With schools across the country having had to adapt to new classroom restrictions, pray this week for those people who are Christians in the schools. 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 schools.



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