

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

FEBRUARY
PRAYER DIARY



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The First Epistle to the Corinthians – Chapter 5 Verse 7

7 "Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch – as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed."

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-6th February: With COVID deaths in the United Kingdom going beyond 100,000 last week, it is a bleak reminder of the desperate situation the world finds itself in. We pray this week that the vaccination programme will continue to bring a swift end to this pandemic and that we will never forget the lives lost through this dark time.

Week beginning 7th February

Collect: Almighty God, give us reverence for all creation and respect for every person, that we may mirror your likeness in Jesus Christ our Lord.

In this season of unpredictable weather, snow, rain and floods have us in their grip once more. Pray that those who do not have a roof over their head are kept safe and warm, as well as our more vulnerable people - the elderly, the housebound and the sick.

Pray also this week for everyone in our local communities and that we will be good neighbours by being actively aware of vulnerable people around us, particularly those who may be more susceptible to the coronavirus, and that we may continue to find new and innovative ways to support them whilst still keeping them safe.

Week beginning 14th February

Collect: Holy God, you know the disorder of our sinful lives: set straight our crooked hearts, and bend our wills to love your goodness and your glory in Jesus Christ our Lord.

As we celebrate the beginning of Lent this week, we pray this week for all those who have been forced, through no fault of their own, to close businesses and potentially put thousands of people out of work, whether it be due to the pandemic or other reasons. Pray that business owners are able to rebuild and that those who are out of work to find new employment in order to keep themselves and their loved ones secure.

Remember also in your prayers our fellow Christians who have been struggling with their faith during this pandemic. May we use this period of reflection to reach out to all those who are trying to reconcile their beliefs to what is happening in the world and help them to consider what God is continuing to do for them.

Week beginning 21st February

Collect: Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

With uncertainty over when schools will re-open, pray this week for all Headteachers and teachers; that they are given wisdom and discernment as they continue to lead their schools in a different way, and that God will help them to make important decisions, particularly when it comes to keeping their pupils safe when schools eventually do open their doors once more.

Also this week, pray for the parents of our schoolchildren who are once again have to juggle their own lives with home-schooling their children. Remember them during the stressful times as they work hard to keep their children educated, especially as the majority of them will never have had proper teaching experience and will not be sure if what they are doing is right.

Week beginning 28th February

Collect: Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

When we watch the news, particularly in the last year, our hearts are saddened by the images of a world in desperate need of positivity. However, we as Christians are not powerless - we can pray. Though it may seem sometimes like there is no difference being made, we know that God is there in the middle of all the gloom.

Pray this week that all those who have been affected by coronavirus will turn to Christ in their grief and know that he cares for all of them, no matter what their situation is. Pray that they will witness God's intervention and see His glory, safe in the knowledge that their loved ones will receive eternal life.

