

Friday 1st Prayer for the new year.

May the Lord make this New Year a happy one...

Not by shielding me from sorrow and pain, but by strengthening me to bear it if it comes. Not by making my path easy, but by making me sturdy enough to tread any path. Not by taking hardship from me, but by taking all cowardice and fear from my heart as I meet hardships. Not by granting me unbroken sunshine, but by keeping my face bright even in the shadows. God, make this year a safe, happy and healthy one for all who live in your world. Amen

Saturday 2nd

Pray for all those businesses in Cannock which have been adversely affected by the coronavirus epidemic. Pray for their owners, managers and employees who are living through a time of great uncertainty and economic crisis.

Sunday 3rd

God of all hope we call on you today. We pray for those who are living in fear: Fear of illness, fear for loved ones, fear of other's reactions to them. May your Spirit give us a sense of calmness and peace. We pray for your church in this time of uncertainty. For those people who are worried about attending worship. For those needing to make decisions in order to care for other. For those who will feel more isolated by not being able to attend. Grant us your wisdom. Holy God, we remember that you have promised that Nothing will separate us from your love – demonstrated to us in Jesus Christ. Amen

Monday 4th

Pray for Rev. Vicky and for the three churches in her charge. Pray and give thanks for all who support her ministry at the three churches. Pray for the Wardens and church officers at St. Luke's, St. Thomas' and St. Saviour's. At the beginning of the year pray God's blessing on all the three churches.

Tuesday 5th

Pray for the work of Refuge, committed to a world where domestic violence is not tolerated, where women and children can live in safety. Refuge helps women and children to rebuild their lives, free from violence and fear. Pray for all suffering domestic violence.

Wednesday 6th Epiphany

Father God, the star that led the Magi to the stable announced to the world that its Saviour was born. Today we live in a world that is still covered by darkness, and still needing to make that journey to the stable door. May our lives reflect your light day by day, as we seek to serve where you have placed us. That we might be the means through which others can encounter Jesus Christ. Amen

Thursday 7th

Pray for the use of the Church Centre as one of the coronavirus testing stations in Cannock. Pray for those who will be organising and administering the tests and for those who will be tested. Pray that anyone testing positive will be able to isolate and recover from the virus.

Friday 8th

Pray for UNICEF and its work with children around the world. Pray for its current campaign to help children in Syria where the years long conflict has exposed children to displacement, violence and grave human rights violations which have disrupted education, health care and the supply of water.

Saturday 9th

Pray for our local doctors surgeries during the coronavirus emergency. Give thanks that we are able to access medical advice and treatment. Pray also for the doctors and for the practice managers, nurses and receptionists who enable the surgeries to offer care and support.

Sunday 10th Baptism of Jesus.

God of grace and glory, you call us with your voice of flame to be your people, faithful and courageous. As your beloved Son embraced his mission in the waters of baptism, inspire us with the fire of your Spirit to join in his transforming work. We ask this in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Monday 11th Persecuted Christians

Pray for the organisations who support persecuted Christians around the world. Pray for Christianity Solidarity Worldwide, Release International, Barnabas Fund, Christian Freedom International, Open Doors and Christians Worldwide. Pray for the organisers and the volunteers on the frontline.

Tuesday 12th Somaliland

Pray for the Christians in Somaliland. One married Christian couple, arrested by police in September when Christian material was found at their home, and charged with being "apostates and evangelists spreading Christianity" in Muslim-majority Somaliland, were suddenly released and deported to Somalia, allowing them to travel with their youngest child to a safe country and reunite with their two elder sons. The couple, made several appearances in the Somaliland regional court before being unexpectedly released and ordered to be deported on 1 November.

Wednesday 13th India

Pray for Christians in the state of Chhattisgarh who have faced a tough time since coronavirus restrictions were placed. They face four main challenges: they are not allowed to farm, which is their main source of income; they live in ongoing fear of social excommunication; they are prohibited from using communal wells; and their Christian activities are closely monitored. Villages where there are three or fewer Christian families impose strict guidelines on the Christians: if they perform any Christian activity in their house, they will be excommunicated, and their land and property taken away.

Thursday 14th

Pray for Care International providing emergency support to refugees and to internally displaced people forced by conflict and violence to leave their homes and live in temporary camps in terrible conditions. Care also helps refugees deal with the psychosocial effects of experiencing conflict and violence – particularly sexual and gender-based violence. Care provides long-term support to refugee communities, and to their host communities, so that people can regain some dignity and control over their lives.

Friday 15th

Pray today for LEPROA raising awareness of leprosy, a disease that many people believe to be extinct. Pray for the nearly 600 people are diagnosed daily with leprosy and start treatment for disease. Pray for all those LEPROA supports who are affected by disease, poverty and prejudice.

Saturday 16th

Pray for Save the Children protecting children in humanitarian emergencies from disease and hunger. STC help many children survive this year by tackling pneumonia, the biggest infectious killer of children, fighting malnutrition the underlying cause of one third of child deaths and by feeding thousands of children at risk of starvation in places like Yemen.

Sunday 17th

Pray for all the Christian communities in Cannock, giving thanks for those who are able to meet and worship their Lord today. Pray for those churches unable to open their doors at the present time. Pray for those producing videos and material for the internet so that non-attending worshippers can connect with their place of worship.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity January 18th -25th
The theme this year is *Abiding in Christ*.

Monday 25th Conversion of St. Paul

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.
Ephesians 1:3-7

Tuesday 26th

Pray today for the Lifeline Connection charity dedicated to helping people whose lives are in chaos because of substance abuse. Hold before God all those helped by Lifeline who are in the grip of addiction to toxic substances. Pray for any who live in the Cannock area.

Wednesday 27th

Pray for the work of Support Staffordshire in the Cannock chase area. Support Staffordshire provides support, training and development advice to Voluntary Groups, Community Organisations and Social Enterprises operating for the benefit of those who live or work in Cannock Chase and surrounding area.

Thursday 28th

Pray today for St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church. Pray for Father Peter Weatherby their priest and all who support and serve the church. Pray God's blessing on all the church does in serving the community in Jesus' name.

Friday 29th

Pray for St. Stephen's, Mill St. and Bethel Methodist churches. Pray for Rev. Nigel Young and all who support him as minister in charge of the three churches. Pray for the faithful regular worship of the three congregations. Pray God's blessing on them.

Saturday 30th

Pray for the Salvation Army in Cannock and for their officer, Captain Lydia Bartlett. Pray for all who have leading roles at the citadel. Pray for the band members, the band leader and the songsters who play leading roles in the worship at the Army. Pray

God's blessing on all the Army for all it does in the community.

Sunday 31st

Prayer is the light of the soul, giving us true knowledge of God. It is a link mediating between God and man. By prayer the soul is borne up to heaven and in a marvellous way embraces the Lord. This meeting is like that of an infant crying on its mother, and seeking the best of milk. The soul longs for its own needs and what it receives is better than anything to be seen in the world.

St. John Crysostom

Parish of
St. Luke Cannock and St. Thomas Huntington

PRAYER NETWORK
JANUARY DIARY 2021



Dear Lord, We know that we are commanded to abide in You and we desire to live our lives day by day, simply resting and abiding in You.

Teach us Lord how to abide in You, so that all that is of ourselves will melt away as the Spirit of Christ pulses through our being.

Give us the strength to be fruitful branches, for You alone are our sufficiency. Enable us to abide in Your love so that we may produce much fruit, out of the abundance of Your grace.

In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

"If you keep My commands you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commands and abide in His love." John 15.10