

SAT 30 DEC Jonah 2, Col 1:15-23, Psalm 113 We remember that Jesus was born a refugee. There are many people fleeing from their homes to find a new home in our country. We ask for wisdom for the government to deal effectively, fairly and compassionately with those seeking asylum.

SUN 31 DEC Isa 61:10-62:3, Gal 4:4-7, Luke 2:15-21, Psalm 148 We pray for peace and sobriety as the beginning of the New Year is celebrated. Let us give thanks for God's goodness and provision during the last year as we worship.

MON 1 JAN Naming and circumcision of Jesus Numbers 6:22-end, Luke 2:15-21, Psalm 8 We pray for the New Year: for peace on earth, security in our nation and that many will come to faith in Jesus.

TUES 2 JAN Ruth 1, Col 2:8-end, Psalm 18:1-30 We pray for each of the nine churches in our benefice that they would be inspired to know how to share the good news of Christ in the community during this new year.

WED 3 JAN Ruth 2, Col 3:1-11, Psalm 127 As we begin this New Year, let us ask the Lord to help us to sustain our resolutions - maybe learning a new skill, beating an addiction or learning to pray more.

THURS 4 JAN Ruth 3, Col 3:12-4:1, Psalm 89:1-37 We pray for those who need hospital treatment or operations, that they would receive the Lord's healing. May they know his presence with them.

FRI 5 JAN Ruth 4:1-17, Col 4:2-end, Psalm 48 We pray for our pharmacies and pharmacists. We are thankful that we have access to the medicines we need, unlike so many people around the world.

SAT 6 JAN Jer 23:1-8, Matt 20:1-16, Psalm 99 We pray for our police force and particularly for our local officers. Please help them to serve with patience, diligence and without prejudice.

SUN 7 JAN Isa 60:1-6, Eph 3:1-12, Matt 2:1-12, Psalm 72 God used the star to speak to the Wise Men, making use of their knowledge of astronomy. We give thanks for the ways that God speaks to us now and ask that he will hone our ability to discern his voice.

MON 8 JAN Gen 1:1-19, Matt 21:1-17, Psalm 2 We pray for children, teachers and school staff as they begin a new term. We pray that the schools in our benefice would be secure, safe and fun places to learn.

TUES 9 JAN Gen 1:20-2:3, Matt 21:18-32, Psalm 9 We continue to pray for Ukraine as the war continues. We ask for wisdom and strength to persevere for President Zelensky, his government, those responsible for strategic decisions, soldiers on the ground, medical staff and all those suffering as a result of the devastation of war.

WED 10 JAN Gen 2:4-end, Matt 21:33-end, Psalm 20 We remember those who are unemployed or unable to work and struggling with the consequences. May they be surprised by the goodness and generosity of their local communities and recognise God's provision at work.

PRAYER AND BIBLE READING DIARY

NOVEMBER 23RD to JANUARY 10TH 2024

THURS 23 NOV Isa 10:33-11:9, Matt 8:14-22, Psalm 62 We give thanks for the gift of music and song. We pray for the choirs, organists and musicians in the benefice as they prepare for the Christmas season.

FRI 24 NOV Isa 11:10-12 end, Matt 8:23-end, Psalm 63 We pray for members of our families that do not yet know you. May we have opportunities to invite them to Christmas services to be part of our worship and to hear your word.

SAT 25 NOV Isa 13:1-13, Matt 9:1-17, Psalm 78:1-39 We pray for safety on our roads, for those who are learning to drive and for driving instructors.

SUN 26 NOV Ezek 34:11-16 & 20-24, Eph 1:15-end, Matt 25:31-end, Psalm 95 We pray for Isabel Freer Smith as she is baptised at St John's Northington today. May she and her parents Charlotte and William know your blessing and leading in their lives, Lord.

MON 27 NOV Isa 14:3-20, Matt 9:18-34, Psalm 96 We ask for wisdom and the leading of the Holy Spirit for all those who are making decisions and trying to discern God's will for their lives.

TUES 28 NOV Isa 17, Matt 9:35-10:15, Psalm 97 We bring before God the situation in the Middle East. We pray your comfort for all who are suffering. We ask for wisdom for the Israeli government to know how to deal with the threat from Hamas and we pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

WED 29 NOV Isa 19, Matt 10:16-33, Psalm 112 We pray for Christians who face disciplinary action at work for holding to their Christian viewpoint. May they be strengthened to speak the truth in love.

THURS 30 NOV Andrew the Apostle Ezek 47:1-12, John 12:20-32, Psalm 47 We pray for the nation of Scotland, for wisdom for Humza Yousaf and for all politicians and officials who serve in the Scottish parliament.

FRI 1 DEC Isa 22:1-14, Matt 11:2-19, Psalm 139 We ask for good attendance at the Christingle service at St Leonard's, Cliddesden today and for your transforming power to be at work in the lives of those who come.

SAT 2 DEC Isa 24, Matt 11:20-end, Psalm 145 Thank you for the community singing event at St John's Northington today. May all who attend be blessed by the joy of making music together.

SUN 3 DEC Isa 64:1-9, 1 Cor 1:3-9, Mark 13:24-end, Psalm 80 We pray for all who attend the Christingle and the Advent Carol Service at St Mary's Preston Candover today, the first Sunday in Advent. May each person be open to receiving your love and power in to their lives.

MON 4 DEC Isa 25:1-9, Matt 12:1-21, Psalm 50 Thank you for David as he serves across our benefice and deanery. We pray for him, Ruth and the family. We ask for sustenance and inspiration for them during this busy time.

TUES 5 DEC Isa 26:1-13, Matt 12:22-37, Psalm 82 We give thanks for the church in our nation and for all the faithful leaders who are bringing hope to their communities.

WED 6 DEC Isa 28:1-13, Matt 12:38-end, Psalm 7 We pray that all people in the UK will be accepted and treated with respect and without prejudice or discrimination, whatever their faith.

THURS 7 DEC Isa 28:14-end, Matt 13:1-23, Psalm 42 We remember those who are ill or bereaved and ask for your comfort and healing for each person and their families.

FRI 8 DEC Isa 29:1-14, Matt 13:24-43, Psalm 25 We pray for our postmen and women and all who bring deliveries to our doorsteps. Please protect them from accident and may we have opportunities to bless them and show our appreciation for their service throughout the year.

SAT 9 DEC Isa 29:15-end, Matt 13:44-end, Psalm 9 We pray for the Christmas Concert at Bradley Church this evening and ask your blessing for all those who are organising, performing and attending.

SUN 10 DEC Isa 40:1-11, 2 Pet 3:8-15a, Mark 1:1-8, Psalm 85 We pray for the Carol Service at St Peter's Brown Candover today that all who come would be freshly overwhelmed by the mystery of your birth.

MON 11 DEC Isa 30:1-18, Matt 14:1-12, Psalm 44 During this season of Advent, we pray that you would enable us to set aside time to spend with You, Lord, away from the distractions of the world and to be refreshed by your Holy Spirit.

TUES 12 DEC Isa 30:19-end, Matt 14:13-end, Psalm 56 We are thankful for the dedication of all who serve in the emergency services. May they be blessed by your presence and your sustenance during the Emergency Services Service in Winchester Cathedral today.

WED 13 DEC Isa 31, Matt 15:1-20, Psalm 62 We pray for all those who are facing Christmas alone for the first time, and those who find this a difficult time of year. Please bless each one with your loving kindness and with fellowship.

THURS 14 DEC Isa 32, Matt 15:21-28, Psalm 54 We pray for our bishops and archdeacons that you would strengthen them in their ministry and keep them close to you amid all the pressures on their lives.

FRI 15 DEC Isa 33:1-22, Matt 15:29-end, Psalm 86 We ask that you, Lord would minister to all who attend the carol service at St Leonard's today. We also remember all those who pass out as officers at the Sovereign's parade at Sandhurst, that they may serve with courage, wisdom and integrity.

SAT 16 DEC Isa 35, Matt 16:1-12, Psalm 145 We remember the Food Bank, Crisis at Christmas, the Night Shelter and all organisations that work to support people in need at this time of year. May we be generous in our support.

SUN 17 DEC Isa 61:1-4 & 8-end, 1 Thess 5:16-24, John 1:6-8 & 19-28, Psalm 126 We pray for Alfie Ellwood and his family as he is baptised at St James' Wield today. May he know your love and guidance throughout his life. We ask that all who attend the Carol Services at St John's and St Martin's today would respond to and dwell on your word of life.

MON 18 DEC Isa 38:1-8 & 21-22, Matt 16:13-end, Psalm 40 We pray for King Charles that you would give him wisdom and courage to rule justly and righteously.

TUES 19 DEC Isa 38:9-20, Matt 17:1-13, Psalm 146 Thank you for retired priests who continue to minister in various ways. Thank you for the blessings we have received from those who have visited us this year.

WED 20 DEC Isa 39, Matt 17:14-21, Psalm 46 We pray for shop and supermarket staff as they work to keep the shelves supplied with Christmas produce. We bless them with patience and joy in their work.

THURS 21 DEC Zeph 1:1-2:3, Matt 17:22-end, Psalm 121 Let us lift up our eyes to the Lord and take our minds off the things of the world as we make our last-minute preparations for Christmas.

FRI 22 DEC Zeph 3:1-13, Matt 18:1-20, Psalm 124 Today is the Winter Solstice. We pray that God the Creator will be worshipped and not the creation, marvellous though it is. May there be a spirit of generosity and joy in the singing of carols round the pond at Cliddesden.

SAT 23 DEC Zeph 3:14-end, Matt 18:21-end, Psalm 130 We pray for safety for all who travel over the Christmas holiday season.

SUN 24 DEC 2 Sam 7:1-11 & 16, Rom 16:25-end, Luke 1:26-38, Psalm 89 We pray for the Christmas services today: the nativities at St Leonard's and All Saints, Dummer and 9 Lessons and Carols at St Andrew's. May the busyness of the season be put aside to dwell on your presence with us, Immanuel.

MON 25 DEC Isa 52:7-10, Hebrews 1:1-4, Luke 2:1-20 May we wonder and worship as we see the marvel of the incarnation again today. May there be life changing encounters as we worship the newborn king.

TUES 26 DEC Stephen, First Martyr 2 Chron 24:20-22, Acts 7:51-end, Matt 10:17-22, Psalm 119:161-168 We remember all those who are being persecuted for their faith around the world and ask that they would be given faith and courage to stand firm in the strength that you have given them.

WED 27 DEC John Apostle and Evangelist, Ex 33:12-end, 1 John 2:1-11, Psalm 21 Let us love one another as Christ has commanded us, especially during this holiday season when life can be stressful. May we enjoy times of fun, rest and relaxation.

THURS 28 DEC The Holy Innocents Gen 37:13-20, Matt 18:1-10, Psalm 36 We lament the growing number of abortions performed in this country. We pray for organisations that seek to uphold the sanctity of life and to help those who feel that there is no other option available.

FRI 29 DEC Jonah 1, Col 1:1-14, Psalm 19 Your law is perfect and your ways are just, Lord. We pray for wisdom and integrity for all involved in the legal profession that your standards of righteousness would be upheld.