



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH PRAYER DIARY – JANUARY 2020

(We focus our prayer cycle with Arborfield, Barkham and Christ Church, Wokingham this January).

O God, who by the leading of a star revealed your Son to the nations of the world; lead us to a clearer vision of your presence, and the nations into the ways of unity and peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Wednesday 1st January

On this day the infant Christ is named Jesus. He is circumcised which is the sign of the covenant between God and Abraham and 'his children forever' and which also is traditionally the first shedding of Christ's blood.

Thursday 2nd, Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th January.

Before we move into Epiphany let us thank God for the blessings of Christmas, the joys and gladness that many will have experienced with their families and their loved ones. We thank those who spent the season caring for those living on their own, or on the streets feeling unloved and unwanted; those caring for the sick and the suffering; bringing knowledge of Christ, the light of the world, to others.

Sunday 5th January First Sunday of Epiphany

Just as the wise men from various nations were called to worship before the Christ child, may the hearts of others learn more of the love of God through the service this Sunday bringing peace and joy to all.

We pray for the residents of Carlyle Court. May the spirit of Christmas persist with them and their loved ones throughout the year.

Monday 6th January

Let us remember with thanks some very happy events that occurred during the Advent period: our Carol Service and Crib Service, the celebration of Mary Ward's 100th birthday and the success of the Advent Fair – all heart-warming occasions. You will remember others.

The House group at Oak Lodge meets at 7.30pm

Tuesday 7th January.

At 7.30pm the Mothers' Union starts the year with their New Year Celebrations. This organisation does so much good work both here and abroad that our members fully deserve their fun.

Wednesday 8th January

Every Christmas we have good reason to be thankful for our choir, its conductor and the organists. Music adds joy to celebrations which would be lifeless without it.

Thursday 9th January.

We must thank those members of our joyous church who worked hard to clean and decorate everywhere so magnificently. Our Welcome Teams did us proud on every occasion too. A friendly smile of welcome and coffee with a chat after a service is so important.

Friday 10th January.

The prayer meeting for healing and wholeness will resume in the vestry at 6.00pm. For those also in need might like to join the prayer group in the Lady Chapel after the morning service on Sunday. Archbishop Laud, we remember on this day, was beheaded by a puritan parliament because he believed that the majesty of God should be reflected in the liturgy of the Church.

Saturday 11th January.

Our thanks for all the preparations busily made for the Christingle service on Sunday and toys looked out for boys and girls who could use something extra after Christmas, in the Women's Shelter.

Sunday 12th January Second Sunday of Epiphany

A special service at 8.00am to mark the Baptism of Christ, remembering that his name means 'Yahweh saves'.

At 10.00am the Christingle and Toy Service will be held. We could use this as an opportunity to pray for all those organisations helping those children who are less fortunate and deprived, to achieve a better life; The Children's Society, NSPCC, Save the Children to mention just a few.

Pray for the residents of the High Street.

Monday 13th January.

The new term will have begun in earnest for all involved in education from pre-school nurseries to university courses. We ask God to help both teachers and scholars enjoy their work, feeling gratified by their efforts and fulfilled at the end of each day.

Tuesday 14th January

The Standing Committee meets this evening. May each member feel satisfied with the important decisions made.

Wednesday 15th January

This afternoon at 2.00pm Rev. Roy Burgess will be talking to the Mothers' Union about his Chaplaincy Experiences and also with the Fire and Rescue Service which should prove a very interesting talk and the latter is certainly a very topical subject.

The Minus Fives will be enjoying their playtime again.

We hope those celebrating Communion enjoy the 10.00am service and coffee and chat afterwards.

Thursday 16th January.

We pray for Hope Zone and the Drop-in Café and those that attend. May leaders and youngsters alike feel the benefit of socialising with one another.

Friday 17th January

Prayers will be offered this evening for those who are sick in mind or body and for those who feel alone needing reassurance.

We pray, too, for the souls of those who have recently died and those who grieve at their loss. Join our prayers with them at home if you are unable to join us in the vestry at 6.00pm

Saturday 18th January

The Working Group for the New Communities Deanery meets at St. John's today. May God grant all who attend reassurance and inspiration for what would seem an important gathering.

This day marks the beginning of the week 18th – 25th when we pray for Christian Unity, which is even more important in the light of so much hostility between those of different faiths, races and nationalities and with increased integration.

This day marks the day Peter's ministry began in Rome and he confessed 'You are the Messiah, the son of the living God'.

Sunday 19th January Third Sunday of Epiphany

On this Sunday, halfway through the week of Prayer for Christian Unity, let us pray fervently that we might all be one; which is what our Lord would have wanted.

Pray for the residents of Addiscombe Road, Blake Close and Old Pharmacy Court.

Monday 20th January

Let us pray for our community that we may continue to live in harmony, happy to enjoy the pleasure of living in a pleasant village enjoying, for the most part, reasonable prosperity. May the work of the Food Bank and Fair Trade continue and be well supported by us all.

The House group at Oak Lodge meets at 7.30pm

Tuesday 21st January

The Book Club meets this evening in the hall at 8.00pm to study and discuss Rowan Williams book 'Luminaries: Twenty Lives that Illuminate the Christian Way'. This book by the former Archbishop is highly praised and much acclaimed.

Wednesday 22nd January

We thank our vicars and lay readers for the hard work put in the last few months. We sadly said a fond farewell to David. We must also thank the acolytes, readers and intercessors. So much hard work goes into their preparation of the services.

Thursday 23rd January

Our teachers of the youngsters who attend The Net also are to be congratulated on the imaginative services devised for our youngsters. The craft and art work are amazing and completed in such a short time.

Friday 24th January

Join the Prayer Group at 6.00pm either in body or spirit to pray for healing and wholeness for those in need.

Saturday 25th January

We remember on this day that Saint Paul, that vehement anti-Christian zealot was converted. His teaching through his letters has inspired generations.

Sunday 26th January Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

The Pastoral Visiting Group meets tonight. The importance of their invaluable work cannot be overestimated.

Pray for the residents of The Avenue and Aldworth Gardens

We remember Timothy and Titus, Paul's faithful companions on his journeys. Timothy had a Jewish mother and a Greek father. Titus was wholly Greek. They are honoured for their devotion which explains Paul's opposition to circumcision though both submitted for peace and harmony.

Tuesday 28th January

The meeting of the P.C.C. takes place. We wish them well in their deliberations and hope that God will help their decisions.

Thursday 30th January

King Charles I, 1600 – 1649, was a faithful member of the Church of England, catholic and reformed. He died for his beliefs at the hands of a puritan Parliament. They resisted his attempts to persuade them into accepting and establishing high-church Anglican practice by repeatedly dismissing them which led to the Civil War. Eventually captured and imprisoned he was finally executed.

A Prayer for Epiphany

O God our light and our redeemer,
our guardian and our guide,
shed your light upon us and hear us when we call,
just as you were the guide to the Magi in their long pilgrimage,
confident always in your loving care and guidance,
all our days. Amen

Prayers for our Community

We pray for all who work for the good of our community;- all doctors and nurses, and pharmacists; the paramedics, ambulance drivers and quick response team; the police and fire-fighters and those who hold our local shops, cafés and restaurants, and public houses.

We pray for our charity workers; our own Church mission leaders; COATS, Good Neighbours, the minibus drivers, the Food Bank and those running the Bracknell Sleep accommodation for the homeless.

Our special thanks to all at this time.

We pray for all our residents, our neighbours, friends and members of our congregation.

We pray particularly as promised for the residents of those street mentioned above.

May they enjoy peace and happiness throughout this coming year.

Prayers for St. Peter and St. Paul whose names are linked with our **Week for Christian Unity** (St. Peter's day marks the start, St. Paul's the end.)

Almighty God,
Who inspired your apostle Peter
to confess Jesus as Christ
and son of the living God;
build up your Church upon this rock,
that in unity and peace
it may proclaim the one truth and follow the one Lord,
Your Son our Saviour, Jesus Christ
(Collect for the day of Peter's Confession).

Collect for the Conversion of Paul

**Almighty God,
who caused the light of the gospel
to shine throughout the world
through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul,**

**grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion
may follow him in bearing witness to your truth.**

Light and Peace

**(A Celtic Prayer for the New Year, our homes, our families, our
community, our country and the world's many nations.)**

**We pray that Jesus
The light of the world
Will bless us with the light of life
The light of love
The light of wisdom
The light of wonder
The light of joy
Light without and Light within.**

**May God bless us with peace,
Peace in our hearts and peace in our house,
Peace for ourselves and peace for our loved ones,
Peace for today's decisions, peace for tomorrow's plans
May God's restoring, reassuring peace
Surround us always.**

