

Parish Prayer Diary

December 2020 - January 2021

Let's begin by praying together -
in our own homes or on Zoom

at our Parish Prayer Meeting on Tuesday 15th December at 7pm



Lament and Hope

Beginning with ourselves, we give thanks for Emmanuel
- God with us - who gave his life that we might live

The Servant King

From heaven you came helpless babe
Entered our world, your glory veiled
Not to be served but to serve
And give Your life that we might live

*This is our God, The Servant King
He calls us now to follow Him
To bring our lives as a daily offering
Of worship to The Servant King*

There in the garden of tears
My heavy load he chose to bear
His heart with sorrow was torn
'Yet not My will but Yours, ' He said

Come see His hands and His feet
The scars that speak of sacrifice
Hands that flung stars into space
To cruel nails surrendered

So let us learn how to serve
and in our lives enthrone Him,
each other's needs to prefer,
for it is Christ we're serving.

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A Reflection from Claire Gee to lead us into Lament

I was running along Chilwell High Road with a friend last night and I felt a bit like everything was getting on top of me -so we were plodding along really quite slowly. Anyway, as we ran past Christ Church they had this poster that was presumably about a course or something and the headline was 'Life means learning to live with lament' and it really switched my mindset and I felt like I had this burst of energy and as if something had really lifted. I started to run a lot more strongly and in the end we did our route faster than we have for ages. I slept like a log and today the world feels a bit easier to navigate! Hope this little story is nice for you to read. (13th November)

We pray for our own poverty of faith – and for the world which seems so fragile and so changed at this time. Let's pray for the people and the governments of every country as we continue to struggle with the effects of the pandemic.

A second reflection from Claire to lead us into Hope

Another little story from my evening running. Was running through Beeston with a friend and was just coming up towards Lidl and spotted a house that had a display in the window. It had like translucent coloured paper, and with the light on it looked like stained-glass. It had a candle and the word hope above it and below it 'The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.' (John 1v5) and my friend commented on how nice the display was and how the words were inspiring. I instantly recognised it as being a bible verse (- he wasn't sure but also wasn't surprised when I said it was from John's gospel). It made me reflect on how being familiar with the bible can make you understand things that you come across in the day -to-day. It also made me appreciate that we live in a part of the world where we can freely have displays like that in our windows and feel safe. There's a lot to be thankful for! Happy Advent. See some of you soon I hope. (1st December)

Hope - the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

We have the freedom to share our faith which is the hope that is within us - we need to be prepared to be part of the outcome of our prayers through actions, words and yet more prayers!

Perhaps using Stan's Newsletter of 10th December will help us to pray about all that is happening in the next 10 days leading up to Christmas.

And it isn't too late to share with our neighbours Richard Phipp's idea of participating in 'Carols on the doorstep' which will be happening on Wed 16th from 6.00 to 6.15pm. We can stand on our doorstep and sing along to carols played on local radio (BBC Radio Derby – 104.5 FM)

We pray for our Mission partners, and the situations they are in:

- for Azaria in Guatemala
- for Paul & Kate and the children in the Middle East
- for Tony & Katherine and the children in South East Asia
- for CCMP (Church and Community Mobilisation Process) in Berega, and for Gideon, the Coordinator, and for Isaac & Ruth Mgego

And our prayers for those with on-going needs:

Julie Astle	Michael & Daphne Bellamy
Doreen Bennett	Rosie Bjelland
Anne Bladen	Barbara Brown
Vickie Brown	Dorothy Bush
Chevonne & Leo Elbourne	Jenni & Ed Elbourne
Betty Ellery	Gill Fazey
Frankie Hall	Gillian Hallam
Keith & Beverley Holloway	Claire Morrell
Frances Pearson	Kathleen & Albert Phillips
Mary Plackett	Richard & Rita Portwood
Dorothy Roberts	Michael Smith
David & Jean Ward	Gill and David Wilmot
Liz Wiseman	

Let us end with looking forwards to the church services over the Christmas period, with David Hanford guiding us into prayers for the Choir, so that everyone will be blessed by the music. Please pray for:

- safety for the choir members as they meet together physically for the first time on 9th and then on 15th and 16th, especially for those who feel anxious about coming out.
- for the challenges of singing socially distanced, and that the music and the technology go smoothly.

Let us pray that everyone coming to our church, to any of the Christmas services and activities, will know the wonder of the Nativity and Christ's coming, and be blessed.