



IN THE PARISH OF ST MATTHEW, TRIANGLE AND ALL SAINTS

# PRAYERDIARY

December 2019

Please submit items for the January Prayer Diary to Chris Gonin. If you use this diary in the evening, it is suggested that you use the following day's entry.



Sign up to the CoFE's #FollowTheStar Christmas journey and receive reflections each day from Christmas Day to Epiphany (5 January) to your inbox.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/followthestar>

**Sun 1<sup>st</sup>** Pray for all those who have been called to stay at St Matthew's. Pray that everyone staying will be open to God calling them to a new thing as we seek new growth within the church.

**Mon 2<sup>nd</sup>** Give thanks for Messy Advent held at the end of November. Pray for those who attended that they would have met with God in some way and want to find out more. Give thanks for every Messy Church held in 2019 and for all planned for 2020. Pray God would grow disciples through these events. Give thanks for the many people who have been willing to pray and plan and prepare activities for Messy Church. Pray that there would be a few more people willing to help.

**Tues 3<sup>rd</sup>** Handford House Care home has been open 10 years. Give thanks for the celebrations they will have, and for the services which have happened every month since they opened, and for the many lives, residents and staff, who have been touched by God.

**Weds 4<sup>th</sup>** Pray for the preparation of the many services to be held during December and for the opportunities to invite others along. Help us all to be bold and invite friends and family to the special Christmas services.

**Thurs 5<sup>th</sup>** Pray for St Matthew's Learning Community; for Ruth Best, Henry Catchpole, Daisy Weekes, Marlene Scrivener, Nick and Gareth as they meet tonight. Each CofE parish in Ipswich has a Learning Community to help focus each church's mind on mission. Pray for a good meeting and for Godly plans to be discussed.



**Fri 6<sup>th</sup>** Pray for the ongoing plans for the church plant. Pray for Andy and Dawn, and all who have indicated they will be going to St Nic's. Give thanks for the people who have heard God's call to move and pray that they will be excited about what God will be doing. Pray for the right foundations to be established and for hearing and following God's lead.

**Sat 7<sup>th</sup>** Lift to God the Table-top Sale in church this morning. Pray for all those who come regularly who are not yet Christians.

Pray for the canvassing for the general election. Pray that all who can vote would be able to make a reasoned choice.

**Sun 8<sup>th</sup>** The Seniors' Christmas service and tea takes place this afternoon. Give thanks for the many who attend and pray they would sense God's presence and know his love for them.

**Mon 9<sup>th</sup>** Pray for people who will find everything to do with Christmas difficult, whether through bereavement, illness, financial worries, mental health issues or whatever means that they dread this season. Give them people alongside them who understand. May they know God's presence with them.

**Tues 10<sup>th</sup>** Pray for CYM - for Lorraine, the new Chaplain at Suffolk One 6<sup>th</sup> Form College, as she settles into her new role. Pray for Josh Ambrose as he does his Christmas visits to the schools who went to African Adventure to hand out Christmas cards and take assemblies and develop links with staff and children. Remember too the trustees as they guide and support all that goes on.

**Weds 11<sup>th</sup>** Pray for people who are finding the idea of the church plant difficult. Pray for God's peace for each person, and a sense of excitement at the new thing God will be doing at both St Nic's and St Matthew's.

Lift to God the Carol Service at Booth Court at 10am and the Christchurch school carol service in church.

**Thurs 12<sup>th</sup>** Pray for the Parliamentary elections taking place today. Pray for the right outcome for the good of the country.

Ask God to bless the Westwood Court Christmas service at 11am and the Beech Lawn nursing home Christmas service.

**Fri 13<sup>th</sup>** Pray for St Nic's that we will hear from God as to what he wants us to do and in what order he wants us to do it. Pray for the temporary Steering Group which will lead the Church Plant up until the launch in April. Pray that we are focussed from the beginning on relating to and being accessible to the younger generation and the unchurched.

**Sat 14<sup>th</sup>** Town Pastors, especially as we lead up to Christmas, pray for eyes wide open to see the vulnerable and great wisdom in providing the right support. Pray for peace on our streets and for drug dealers to find it impossible to ply their trade in Ipswich. Pray for potential victims to be given amazing wisdom to refuse trying them out.

**Sun 15<sup>th</sup>** Give thanks for the Sunday school team and for Imogen Catchpole as she leads them. Pray for enough adults to help run Sunday School in the new year, and for all the children who come to be blessed by their time in their group.

**Mon 16<sup>th</sup>** Give thanks for all those who help with the Seniors group, providing an opportunity for those who are less able to be out and about to meet together and enjoy fun, food and fellowship. Pray for enough helpers, and that all who want to attend are able.

Ask God to bless the Wingate House carol service taking place today.

**Tues 17<sup>th</sup>** Little Treasures hold their Christmas party today- may it be a great occasion, and may there be opportunities to talk about the real reason for Christmas. Give thanks for Mel Mattis who heads up the group and the many helpers who willingly give their time every week. Pray for a good turnout for the Carol Singing leaving Burlington at 6.30pm this evening.

**Weds 18<sup>th</sup>** Pray for the care homes that we visit during the month; Booth Court, Handford House, Beech Lawn, Wingate house and Westwood Court. Give thanks for these opportunities and pray that many people will be touched by God's love through them. Pray for residents who are part of St Matthews's church family to have opportunities of sharing God in all they do and say.

Pray too for Nick as he speaks at the County and Borough lunchtime Christmas service today.

**Thurs 19<sup>th</sup>** Lift to God St Matthew's school Christmas service today. Pray for St Matthew's School, giving thanks for Darren Gates in his first term as the new head teacher. Pray that despite the pressures and busyness of running a school he would enjoy the challenge and know God's stillness and peace.

**Fri 20<sup>th</sup>** Pray for Ipswich Winter Night Shelter as they work to provide homeless people with a safe, warm place to sleep during the winter months. Pray that guests would be helped to make positive changes.

**Sat 21<sup>st</sup>** Pray for our Silent Night service, a time for peace and stillness, for those who find Christmas especially tough. Pray that many would come and would experience God's touch in some way.

**Sun 22<sup>nd</sup>** Ask God to work through our Carols by Candlelight service at 6.30pm. Pray that we would all be willing to invite people to attend. Pray it would be a great occasion of worship, where the gospel message is clearly heard.

**Mon 23<sup>rd</sup>** Give thanks for our recent Sizewell weekend; for the sense of unity, the opportunities to build relationships and Jeanette's teaching on blessing and wholeness. Pray that we would use what we learned to reach out to others with God's love when they are hurting.

**Tues 24<sup>th</sup>** In the midst of Christmas preparations, take a few moments to wonder again at the amazing God whose birth we celebrate tomorrow. Pray for safe journeys for those travelling today.

**Weds 25<sup>th</sup>** The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14  
**Thurs 26<sup>th</sup>** Pray for Nick after the busyness of Christmas -for rest, peace and inspiration as he leads St Matthew's into the New Year. Ask God to pour out his Holy Spirit on each one of us as we seek to make his love known in the world.

**Fri 27<sup>th</sup>** Pray for Kagera, our link diocese in Tanzania. Pray that the dormitory at Ngara Anglican Primary School (NAPS) will be ready for boarders in January.

Give thanks for the third-year students at Kagera Christian Theological College (KCTC) who will leave this month. Pray that their transition from student life to the busy work of evangelism in their villages will be a smooth one.

Give thanks for all the new church buildings in Kagera which were completed this year and pray that their congregations will continue to grow and thrive.

Pray for Dr Gilman Buhaga who has taken over as Medical Director at Murgwanza Hospital. Ask for God's blessing on him as he leads his team to develop the hospital into a specialist referral hospital.

**Sat 28<sup>th</sup>** Pray for the practical arrangements for St Nic's: that in discussions with Inspiring Ipswich we will be able to negotiate appropriate financial budgets which will allow for future growth.

Pray too that in our discussions with Churchgates (the trust that owns the St Nicholas Centre) and Inspiring Ipswich we will be able to agree contractual arrangements and have the time to practically put in place policies and procedures.

**Sun 29<sup>th</sup>** Give thanks for our young people and ask God to strengthen and inspire Becks as she leads them. Pray for Mike Calver and Julie Murphy our wardens and for all those who make the church look and feel welcoming.

**Mon 30<sup>th</sup>** Pray for all the plans involving Inspiring Ipswich, for the ways that all churches in the Deanery are planning for growth. Pray for the learning community from St Matthews and for Simon Barrington as he guides us. Help us to see the ways that God wants us to grow.

**Tues 31<sup>st</sup>** As we look back over 2019, give thanks for all the people we have had contact with, for the conversations that have pointed to God, and pray that in 2020 this would continue and increase, that we would be willing to speak out about God's amazing love for each person.

*We would like to thank all those who send us details for the Prayer Diary. All are welcome to contribute. We hope the diary is helpful in your prayer life. Any comments or requests are much appreciated.*

#### CONTACTING US:

Chris Gonin [c.gonin@btinternet.com](mailto:c.gonin@btinternet.com)

Kelly Head - [iodsluvvies@gmail.com](mailto:iodsluvvies@gmail.com)

