



ST MATTHEW'S JANUARY PRAYER DIARY 2018

Please submit items for the February Prayer Diary to Ruth Roberts - ruth.a.roberts@btinternet.com

If you use this diary in the evening, it is suggested that you use the following day's entry.

Mon 1st	At this time we can look back to the old year, and forward to the new. We give thanks for the blessings of the past year, and we place into your hands the mistakes we have made. We entrust the past to your mercy, Lord, the present to your love, and the future to your providence as you lead in your way in the year ahead.
Tues 2nd	Let us give thanks for all those who contributed in any way to the Christmas celebrations in our church and community. Many gave so much time and energy at one of the busiest times of year to ensure the 'good news' was proclaimed with joy and reverence to all. May those who heard this message for the first time have felt the warm love and welcome that St Matthews shares – pray that they will be moved to be brave and come to worship here again.
Weds 3rd	Pray for schools as they go back, give thanks for the break and the time spent with family. Pray for teachers and staff as they work in a very pressured environment. In particular pray for St Matthew's school, the headteacher Sue Todd and for the connection the church has with the school. Give thanks for those who are governors, with the importance of the decisions they make. Pray for Catherine Barratt as Chair of Governors.
Thurs 4th	Pray for those who find the cold winter months really difficult to cope with, perhaps because of age or infirmity. Pray that they would be aware of God's presence, his peace and his comfort.
Fri 5th	St Matthews Little Treasures Toddler group starts today, pray for the children and mums/carers that they would really enjoy the fellowship and friendship, with each other and with the volunteers who help. Pray for increasing opportunities to share God's love, in word and action.
Sat 6th	Remembering the joy and gifts given as the wise men discovered the Christ child, we consider - "What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man I would do my part, yet what I can I give him - give my heart." Pray for the cleaners, flower arrangers, church wardens and all those who 'give' to ensure our church is well cared for.
Sun 7th	Give thanks for all Sunday school leaders and helpers and for Imogen as she organises and leads the help each week. Pray for new helpers who can fill gaps when needed. Pray that the Sunday school children will continue to grow in faith and fellowship and to draw their friends to come too. Pray that more children will come along each week.

Mon 8th	Pray for Kymmene and Josh as they prepare for the new season of CYM's African Adventure. Pray for the Holy Spirit to inspire them as they plan the programme. Pray for more volunteers to help with the cooking and the activities.
Tues 9th	As home groups begin again this week pray for Lizzy and Terry as home group co-ordinators and for all home group leaders. Pray the groups will be encouraging places of open supportive discussion.
Weds 10th	<u>Ipswich Winter Night Shelter</u> : Pray that those who really need this service will sign up and benefit from it, pray that all 12 beds be well used every night and a blessing to the guests. Pray for Julia and our own Marlene as they lead the whole project, for huge wisdom in all the decisions they have to make, for stamina and peace. Thank God for all the volunteers.
Thurs 11th	Pray for those who attend the Thursday Holy Communion service, for fellowship, and that they would really meet with God on these occasions. Pray also for the services in Wingate House, Booth Court and Handford House, pray that many would attend, and that all would feel God's love for them in a very real way.
Fri 12th	Pray for all those who are long term sick. May they have patience in their situations. Give thanks for those who care for them and for those organisations such as Inspire Counselling and Perspectives Pregnancy Counselling who provide vital support to those who need to talk to find peace and explore answers.
Sat 13th	We continue to give thanks for all the support that Town Pastors provide on our streets during Friday and Saturday nights. We pray that they will be led to the vulnerable, and to go where they can be God's peace.
Sun 14th	Pray for Nick, as Area Dean, that he would be able to support local clergy in Ipswich, that he would recognise what he can do and what he can't do, and that he would work well with the assistant Deans.
Mon 15th	As the prayer ministry team meet this evening, give thanks for all those who pray – often unknown and unseen by many but who show so much care for so many needs. Give grateful thanks for Caroline Collett's leadership, pray that the team members would be open to God during these occasions and that people from the congregation would be willing to come forward for prayer, and be open to God's touch.

Tues 16th	Pray for the Messy Church events for 2018, there are 8 in the diary! Pray for good ideas, plenty of helpers, and for the people who will be attending. Give thanks for this great outreach event, and pray that many would be touched.
Weds 17th	The Parish Leadership Team meet today. Pray for Nick as he leads the team, and leads the Parish. May the group work well together and be very aware of God's leading in all they do.
Thurs 18th	Give thanks for all that Gareth does as Treasurer of the Parish, and those who work on the accounts of the different churches. Pray for these next few months as they balance the 2017 accounts and get them to the auditors. Pray that it would be stress free!
Fri 19th	Pray for the work of the Church Mission Society as they reach out and transform lives across the world. Pray in particular for Michael Green (St Matthew's) and Alex Teixeira (Brazil) for their continued spiritual, physical and mental strength in their work with those who wish to know more about the Lord.
Sat 20th	County Lines: Not a geographical nor political issue, but the name of the most powerful illegal drug, trafficking etc organisation across England, currently being established now in Ipswich in particular, with rival gangs wanting control of the market here. Pray that miraculously the market would disappear, the whole infrastructure would become open to the Police and dismantled, those currently held in fear or worse would be set free physically, mentally and spiritually. Pray for protection especially for mid-teens high at risk for being lured in.
Sun 21st	Give thanks for all who ensure services run smoothly, PA, AV, Servers, Coffee team, prayer ministry team, administrators, musicians, readers, people who lead prayers. Pray they will feel God's purpose and love in all they do.
Mon 22nd	<u>TK (Talitha Koum)</u> : Seven rooms are now ready for women needing rehab in a residential setting, and all necessary accreditations are complete. BBC R4 says there is a huge need for such facilities, please pray that Local Authorities, Prisons and similar will start and continue to refer the right women to TK, and that the centre will indeed rapidly become a place of hope and peace and true rehab in all dimensions, for an ongoing stream of women with these needs.
Tues 23rd	Pray for those who will struggle when the bills come in from December and Christmas. Give them wisdom in making priorities, and in seeking help where they need it. Pray that those who have homes and friendships to offer find ways to be hospitable and reach out to those in need.

Weds 24th	St Matthews DCC meets today, give thanks for all who serve on the DCC, pray for good discussions and decisions, always listening to God's way forward.
Thurs 25th	Give thanks for the work of CYM and pray for Harry in his placement with them, that God will richly bless his work with our young people. Pray for Steph as she develops her role as chaplain in St. Matthew's school, so that the children will be strengthened in their faith, and be helped to reach their potential.
Fri 26th	Pray for the work of Open Doors supporting the persecuted church across the world and for Kagera our link diocese in Tanzania. Give thanks for the privilege of being able to worship in safety and wealth.
Sat 27th	We give thanks for the fellowship our church family provides and the activities which support and sustain our relationships such as Only Girls Allowed (OGA), the Men's group, Seniors, Youth groups, 3rd Saturday morning group and the music groups. We pray that all groups that meet within and as a result of our church will continue to flourish and that all will feel God's love through them.
Sun 28th	Pray for Messy Christingle today, that good conversations would be had, that people would recognise something of God's love and light and their need for Him.
Mon 29th	Pray for the Fletcher Centre, for Kim and Wayne as they oversee it's use. Pray for the work that will be involved in preparing the flats after the current tenants leave, for the decorations and building work that will be carried out. Pray that it happens quickly and efficiently.
Tues 30th	Give thanks for Punch's legacy, and the new kitchen in the church and in the Fletcher Centre which has been funded by this. Pray that we would really enjoy and appreciate these new facilities.
Weds 31st	Gracious God as we begin a new year, remind us of the things that are truly important and worthwhile. Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what you want us to do. Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time.

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.

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