



St Mark's

Comfort & Joy

PRAYER DIARY DECEMBER - JANUARY

We pray for the continuing needs of Anne-Marie Atkinson, Michelle Beckett, Stan and Lorraine Bisby, Christina, Merle Clayton, Helen Hardie, Frances and Andy Kershaw, Aidan and the Newton family, Julie, Maureen Preston, Pat, Rosie Rant, Liz and Shirley Ruddle, Amber Seaver, Adrian Selway, Dave Worthington. We pray also for their families and friends and all those who care for them.

We pray for all in our church family who have been recently bereaved including Andrew Clarke and the family of Christine Lawton.

We pray for all those who are effected by Covid19, physically, emotionally and mentally. Those who are isolated and lonely. Those caring for loved ones and those unable to visit loved ones. For your healing hand on those who are sick. Comfort to the bereaved.

Christmas Gift Appeal

This year we are collecting gift cards that will be given to people in need via Harrogate Homeless Project, Caring for Life and IDAS. We would like to collect gift cards for: National Book Tokens, Greggs, Boots, Primark and Supermarkets. Please purchase gift cards worth £5, to make distribution easier, but you can give as many £5 cards as you like! The cards should be posted into the church letterbox, or, if you order online you could get them delivered to: MSG, St Mark's Church, Leeds Road, Harrogate, HG2 8AY. Deadline: 11/12/20.

Our financial giving appeal is on behalf of The Children's Society and Tearfund. You can give by scanning the St Mark's QR code below or visit: smch.org.uk/comfortandjoy



Every penny donated to us is spent in support of the mission and ministry of the church.



Thank you

Photo credit: The Church of England

www.smch.org.uk



St Mark's

Sun 29th Nov – Sat 5th December

A prayer for the first Sunday of Advent: Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

On 1st December can you join with others to Pray and Fast for the Climate? Thank you, Father for the responsibility you have given us to care for Creation. Help us to reflect your glory in renewing your Creation through our choices and lifestyle.

We pray for energy for the Resurrected Bites team putting together hampers for many local vulnerable families this Christmas, with food and gifts to bring them comfort and joy this Christmas.

Our Mission Partner prayer focus this week is Wellspring. Lord God, we pray young people who are struggling with mental health issues, that, as they receive support from Wellspring counsellors, your light will shine into their lives, and bring them the resilience and hope they need.

Sun 6th – Sat 12th December

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as Judge and Saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God.

This Sunday afternoon at 4pm is our Christingle service created especially for young families. We pray for each family who will have received a goody bag with a kit to make their own Christingles. Lord Jesus, use this event to shine your love and light into many lives, both young and old.



We pray for the Christmas Sanctuary event for women this Friday evening (11th), and speaker Sophie Manson. Father God, please speak through Sophie to reveal your love to each of the women who attends on Zoom. May the Holy Spirit be at work to bring them all comfort and joy.

Our Mission Partner prayer focus this week is Latin Link. As Christians all over Latin America celebrate Christmas, we pray for the Latin Link staff members to be a blessing in their local churches, and to be “good news” people in their communities. We pray for God’s provision for the coming year, and that many of Latin Link’s country staff will experience more freedom as lockdown gradually eases.

Sun 13th – Sat 19th December

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.

#thelightshines is the Harrogate Hub’s initiative across our town this Christmas involving illuminated decorated windows. We pray that the light of Jesus will shine through the windows and cause many people to seek Him.

We pray for the young people from across Harrogate joining for the Contemporary Carols event on 18th. Lord God, give courage to them to invite friends to share in this event and hear about your great love for the world. We also thank God for our choir, and pray for the Carol Services at church on 19th and 20th to glorify God in proclaiming the story of God’s salvation.

Our Mission Partner prayer focus this week is Harrogate Homeless Project. Father God, we pray for the residents of the hostel, and those

still on the streets, especially for your comfort at Christmas, which may bring them sad or difficult memories. Enable the staff to show them acceptance, and bring your hope into many lives in the new year.

Sun 20th – Sat 26th December

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.

A prayer for Christmas Eve: Almighty God, as we prepare with joy to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child, embrace the earth with your glory and be for us a living hope in Jesus Christ our Lord. We pray for the Christmas Nativity to reach out to many young families on Christmas Eve. Loving God, thank you that you reveal your glory to children and infants, and from their lips you have ordained praise (Psalm 8:v2)

A prayer for Christmas Day: Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God.

Our Mission Partner prayer focus this week is Artizan International. This year many differently-able artisans have struggled to connect with others and to engage in their usual craft-making workshops. We thank you for the dedication of Artizan’s staff, in the UK and in Peru and Ecuador, and pray that you will use their time and talents to bring renewed hope and purpose to many people.



Sun 27th Dec – Sat 2nd January

God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Mission Partner Prayer focus this week is Lifeline Harrogate. Christmas season is a tough time of year for those separated from family and friends through homelessness, and only made worse by the pandemic. Lord of perfect love, bring peace to the Lifeline residents, and enable especially in the relationships within the houses. May they each know your love, Jesus, the love of “a friend who sticks closer than a brother.” (Proverbs 18: v24)

On 1st January, as well as celebrating a new year, can you join with others to Pray and Fast for the Climate? Father God have mercy on us, and transform our thinking so that we can live in harmony with your Creation and not exploit it. Give power to those taking courageous stands to change policy and investment to secure a greener future.

Sun 3rd – Sat 9th January

God our Father, in love you sent your Son that the world may have life: lead us to seek him among the outcast and to find him in those in need, for Jesus Christ’s sake.

Our Mission Partner Prayer focus this week is Caring For Life, who have been reaching out in some way to each and every beneficiary this Christmas. We thank you for the love shown by all the CFL staff, and we pray, Father of all, that each person connected with CFL will, in this new year, have hope for the future and a sense of your living presence every day.

Father God, draw close to each person named on our pastoral prayer list, over the page. Father God, we pray that you will bless those for whom we pray with your grace and your healing.