

Sun 3rd – Sat 9th March

Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord.

We pray for each member of St Mark's, whether young or old, to grow as a disciple of Jesus, and so we ask for your insight for each of us, Lord. Help us to fix our eyes on Jesus and to see our lives and your world through the prism of His perfect love.

Lord Jesus, you are the Prince of Peace, and you reign with justice and mercy. We pray for Ukraine, two years on in a bitter war, and long for your peace and justice in that country. Use Christians in that place to bring hope and to work for peace, and change the hearts of those in power who seem bent on violence.

Sun 10th – Sat 16th March

A prayer for Mothering Sunday: God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful: watch over us and hold us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

In this season of Lent, help each of us at St Mark's to learn true humility, to lament honestly the brokenness of our lives and of the world around us, and to have a vision of the lasting hope and joy only you, Lord God, can provide.

As nature brims with promise and life in spring, make us a community overflowing with love for people and planet. Keep us mindful how our behaviour impacts others and the earth. Help us individually and as a church to join all Creation in singing your praises, and to be good news to all of Creation, bringing hope and life to all.

Sun 17th – Sat 23rd March

Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord.

We pray for Hannah, Liz and Gail as they head up our youth, children's and toddler ministries. Bless whole families through your Spirit's work in the lives of young people and children, drawing many people to know and love you, Jesus. Meet with us, Lord, as we

pray together on Sunday 24th at 6.30pm.

People who are new to St Mark's are invited to the Newcomers' Tea on Sunday 24th March. Pray for a warm welcome, and for many people to find their home here. Thank you, Lord, for Charlotte, Olivia and Christine and all on the welcome team. Help each of us to look out for and get to know those who are new.

Sun 24th – Sat 30th March

A prayer for Palm Sunday: True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: grant us the faith to know you and love you, that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory.

Father God, bring your love and forgiveness into the lives of the young people who are involved with the chaplaincy at Wetherby HMYOI. Use the In2Out mentors to bring hope to many through their conversations and one-to-one support. Please provide for In2Out's work this year, enabling them to touch and transform many more young lives. May the Easter cards, comics and Easter Eggs from St Mark's be a blessing to the prison inmates, and to the staff.

A prayer for Good Friday: Eternal God, in the cross of Jesus we see the cost of our sin and the depth of your love: in humble hope and fear may we place at his feet all that we have and all that we are, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sun 31st March – Sat 6th April

A prayer for Easter Day: God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Thank you, Father, for the gift of music. Bless all who take part in or listen to the performance of Handel's Messiah on Easter evening. Thank you for the way this music tells the story of your love and salvation. Help us live in the light of the resurrection, pointing to the Way to Life in Jesus.

Father God, give courage and wisdom to Deborah Booth our environment officer, and to the teams who are working to make our church fit for the future, reducing its carbon footprint and transitioning to sustainable energy sources. Lord Jesus, use us to be

bearers of good news to all creation. Pray for our small groups to be beacons of hope for Creation, alongside offering love, study and fellowship.

Sun 7th – Sat 13th April

Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred: open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace, to the praise of God the Father.

Father God, we pray for the group of young people from St Mark's going away for the weekend to Yorkshire Camps. Work through the teaching, the games, activities and conversations, to bring each person closer to you, Lord Jesus. Thank you so much for Hannah, and all the team who give their time and wisdom to disciple the youth.

East Africa has faced long-term drought, due to the rapidly changing climate. Countless families are losing children to starvation every day. We pray for resources for Oxfam, Christian Aid, Tearfund and many other relief agencies. Father God, wake up national leaders and policy-makers to the urgency of the climate crisis, and use them to bring compassion and aid to the hungry in East Africa.

Sun 14th – Sat 20th April

Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father.

This week let us pray for those in our circle of family or friends who don't yet know the reality of God's saving love. Take time to name them before God. Father God, make us true witnesses of all you have done, give us the right words and stories to say or write, and so help us to share with others the fullness of life as we walk with you.

We pray for all who are elderly, infirm or unwell, for your special grace and compassion, and for all who care for them. Some are listed below. Thank you for all your family at St Mark's. Give wisdom to all on the pastoral care team as they support and provide for those in need among us.

Sun 21st – Sat 27th April

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father.

Lord Jesus, thank you that your Shepherd's voice calls and leads us. Thank you for the work of In2Out, bringing your love and good news to young prisoners in Wetherby HMYOI and elsewhere. Please equip all staff to deal gently and patiently with each person, and may your strength and wisdom, Lord, help them make positive changes in their lives. Join us to pray for In2Out on Sunday 28th at 6.30pm.

Father of all compassion and comfort, we pray for your presence to minister to all affected by the war in Gaza. Bring an end to the hostilities, use peace-makers from around the world to work towards a lasting peace in the region. Heal the traumatised, bring comfort to the bereaved, and hope to the hopeless, for your glory we pray.

Sun 28th April – Sat 4th May

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father.

Lord of all Creation, give us creativity as we seek to safeguard our church and all Creation for future generations. Give our government courage to enact energy policies that will use resources sustainably. On 1st May can you join with others to Pray and Fast for the Climate? [Pray and Fast for the Climate – Pray and Fast for the Climate](#)

Following our church Annual Meeting (APCM), we thank you for all on our PCC, our church wardens, and all involved in leadership. May they continue to guide us at St Mark's to be a community where all are welcome, where the hungry are fed, the lost found, the broken healed and the wanderers brought home. May your risen life and light, Lord Jesus, shine in and through our church family.

GIVING TO MISSION

At St Mark's we give 10% of our core income to support Christian mission at home and abroad. In addition, a substantial proportion of the Parish Share which we pay to our Diocese goes towards mission outside of our own area. We are thankful to be able to support so many gospel based, kingdom initiatives which are bringing light, hope and practical help to people across our town, nation and globe.

There are two easy ways in which you can give to St Mark's Church to help maintain this valuable work:

1. **Regular giving**
2. **One-off giving**

To find out more, download a form or make a one-off donation visit our website: smch.org.uk/give or call the church office on: **01423 544528** and we'll send you the information.

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



PRAYER DIARY FOR MAR-APR AT ST MARK'S

Please use this prayer diary to join with the St Mark's church family to pray together for our community and the wider world. This season we are praying especially for:

St Mark's Youth and Children's Ministry and Liz Resch, Hannah Ferguson and Gail Vlack as they oversee our children's, youth, and toddler groups.

In2Out changing lives from the inside to the out, supporting young people on their release from custody. [Home | In2Out](#)