

Sunday 1st – Sat 7th March

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Imagine you cannot any longer come to church due to ill health or frailty. What would you value prayer for as the rest of the church family gathers? Father God, thank you for the Thursday communion services and monthly fellowship lunches.

On 1st March, can you Pray and fast for the Climate? Mission partner A Rocha International believes that conservation builds hope. Thank you, Lord, for the many acres of forest being protected and cherished in Ghana, Uganda and Kenya. We pray for these, and our local forest parks, that they may be places of life and hope.

Sun 8th – Sat 14th 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.

Father God, thank you for our teenagers at St Mark's. Give them your peace and joy, and healthy relationships at home and at school. Help each young person make good choices, and bless them whenever they meet at church – at the after school club, Friday night youth, Sunday morning activities and Monday bible studies.

Picture the work, in Harrogate and in Westminster, of our local MP Tom Gordon. What issues are close to your heart as you pray for him?

Sun 15th – Sat 21st March

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.

Four years on, imagine you are a citizen of Kiev, Ukraine, tired of war and exhausted from the cold and daily fear. What would you say to international leaders working for peace and seeking diplomacy rather than war? How can you pray into this?

Perhaps you are someone, or know someone, who has recently come to faith in Jesus through the Alpha course. Thank God for his grace in Jesus, and for the new life we have in him. Ask God's blessing on Cesca and the whole Alpha team. Pray too for a generous response to our church Giving Day on 22nd March.

Sun 22nd – Sat 28th 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.

Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings are the rehearsal times for our choir and worship bands. Can you pray at these times, asking God to increase our dependence on Him as worshippers, whether leading or participating in the sung worship. Misson Without Borders works in Ukraine and Eastern Europe through local churches. Picture yourself as a local church leader, helping at MWB's after school homework clubs. Pray that your church will bring the light of Jesus to those living in the darkness of poverty.

Sun 29th March – Sat 4th April

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.

There is One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism. Father God, watch over all those being baptised at St Mark's. Help them trust in

Jesus throughout their lives.

How would it feel not to be able to afford new clothes for yourself or your family? St Mark's Clothes Bank offers free good quality clothes to many people in need locally. Pray for the volunteer team, for energy, humour and grace in all their dealings.

Sun 5th – Sat 11th April

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.

Mr Bible at Toddler Praise says: "Happy Easter, Jesus is alive!" As we greet one another and say Happy Easter, let's also add, Jesus is alive! How does Jesus' risen life empower you to live today and this week? Father God, inspire by your Spirit our leadership team, our clergy and all in leadership positions, that Jesus would be seen in their lives, he who came "not to be served but to serve".

Sun 12th – Sat 18th 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. You've been busy preparing sandwiches, cake and coffee as part of the St Mark's café team – pray for everyone meeting and serving at The Lounge café – may it be a place of friendship and of encounter with God.

We ask God to refresh school staff and schoolchildren during the Easter holidays. As routines change, may there be plenty of sleep, positive relationships, activities and "screen-free" time.

Sun 19th – Sat 25th 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. Imagine you are attending one of the animal husbandry projects at Caring for Life in Leeds. You are thankful for the community at CFL, and for the sheep, chickens and farmland. What would you say to the CFL staff sharing the love of Jesus each day? Our baptism ministry team visits families with young children before and after their baptism. Pray for Gail as she coordinates this, and for good conversations, moments of connection and hearts to be open to God's love.

Sun 26th April – Sat 2nd May

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.

Once a month the children all gather together at the 10.30 service for 'Ignite'. Pray that each child would encounter Jesus through the songs, the games, and bible story and the activities. Ask God to bless Liz and Hannah, and to continue to provide for the children's ministry.

St Mark's APCM, giving thanks for all PCC members, and praying for wisdom and unity in decision-making, that God's kingdom may be built through our actions and words. May St Mark's be known as a place of welcome, a place of stewarding God's Creation carefully, and a place of encounter with the Risen Christ.

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 MARCH/APRIL AT ST MARK'S

Please use this prayer diary to intercede for our mission partners, our church family and the wider world. If you have suggestions for future issues email: frances.bryant@smch.org.uk

We gather to pray as a church family once a month on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. Our next prayer meetings are **March 25th (generosity focus)** and **April 22nd (youth ministry focus)**