

# LET US PRAY

St Michael & All Angels', Macclesfield

January 2020

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In a letter to his son in 1868, Charles Dickens wrote “never abandon the practice of prayer. I know the value of it.” We hope these prayers will help you in *your* private prayer and reflection this month. Use or adapt the ones that resonate with your personal situation or as an aid to pray for those *you* love. And just like Charles Dickens’ advice to his son, we hope you ‘never abandon the practice of prayer’... and that you come to know’ the value of it’.

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*Some men who studied the stars came from the East to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the baby born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star when it came up in the east, and we have come to worship him.” [Later in their travels,] they saw the same star they had seen in the East. When they saw it,*

*how happy they were, what joy was theirs! It went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They went into the house, and when they saw the child with his mother Mary, they knelt down and worshiped him. They brought out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and presented them to him.*

*Matthew 2.1-2, 9b-11*

In the church calendar, January is the season of Epiphany (also known as ‘Manifestation’). At this time, we remember the ‘wise men from the east’ (the Magi) travelling from afar to visit Jesus. They bring gifts and kneel in awe, wonder and adoration of the tiny baby; the ‘Christ-child’. As we remember this event, we celebrate the ‘manifestation’ or revealing of the divine nature of Jesus to us and to all nations of the world.

*“Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations and believed in throughout the world.” Timothy 3.16*

## Collect for Epiphany



*O God, who by the leading of a star, manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ who is alive and reigns with you, in the power of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.*

At the beginning of a New Year (and a new decade) we may have mixed emotions and many questions about the opportunities and challenges we face today and in the months and years ahead. But we must always remember that God is *with us* and *loves us* in the mundane 'everyday' aspects of our lives. We must be ever open to *his work* in *his guidance* through our 'everyday faith'.

### Everyday faith prayer – wherever we are, whatever we do

*Lord of all creation, we thank you that our everyday, ordinary places matter to you and we make a difference there. We offer to you the places where we live, work, learn and play. May we serve you and bear witness to you wherever we are this day and every day. And may we know your presence with us in these places. Amen.*



### Prayer for those going back to work

*We pray for those who are dreading going back to work,  
for those who have vital decisions to make,  
for those who fear for their jobs,  
for those who have none.  
Bring strength and courage to those who work at home all day.  
Give peace and rest to those who work shifts or anti-social hours.  
Whatever the circumstances, may we (and those we love)  
always lean on your strength and trust in your will  
and may we receive your wisdom and discerning grace. Amen.*

### Prayer for Vision Day 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020

*Lord help us to believe that we are all ordinary people, made extraordinary through your vision and power. Take our insecurities and give us the courage to see ourselves and others as you see us; with gifts and potential to transform your world and build your Kingdom. Amen.*

## Reach Out and Combat Loneliness & Isolation

During January and February, The Samaritans are promoting Mondays as 'Brew Mondays'; encouraging us to reach out and have conversations with those around us to combat loneliness and isolation. Surprisingly, this is more prevalent in young people. In a similar vein, The Carers Trust is publicising 30<sup>th</sup> January as 'Young Carers Awareness Day' – 1 in 5 secondary school children may be a young carer which also brings isolation, worry and stress.



### Prayer for Young People

*Loving God we pray for the young people of our church, our community and the world; young people with so much to offer, so many gifts, so many fresh ideas, so much enthusiasm, yet faced today as never before by all kinds of pressures, demands and temptations.*

*We pray for those who feel lonely, isolated or overwhelmed by responsibilities at such a young age. Help us to appreciate and support them; to be open to their insights, to use their gifts, to nurture their faith and to care about their welfare.*

*We pray that you will guide and uphold them in their work, their studies and all the demands made on them; encourage and comfort them in all they do for their family, for their friends and for our community, show them your love and your way for them in the future. Amen.*

### Prayer for Young Children (and for all of us)

*Hold my hand, God, lead the way.  
Help me to be good every day.  
Let me know what's wrong and right,  
keep me safe day and night.  
Let me know what you have planned,  
lead the way God,  
hold my hand. Amen.*



## **A final blessing for ourselves...**

God go with us on our journey of faith; revive us when we grow weary,  
direct us when we go astray, inspire us when we lose heart,  
reprove us when we turn back.

Keep us travelling ever-onwards, a pilgrim people, looking to Jesus Christ  
who has run the race before us, and who waits to welcome us home.

*(Nick Fawcett)*

**If you would like something included in the next prayer letter**  
please contact a member of the clergy:

Martin Stephens	01625 426 110	teamrector.macc@gmail.com
Karen Brady	07419 820 864	revkarenbrady@gmail.com
Sue Reid	01625 421 984	clergypa@maccteam.org.uk

*Have you considered joining with a small number of others (perhaps a prayer partner or forming a prayer triplet) to meet regularly to pray together?*

## **Opportunities at St Michael's to join with others in prayer**

- Contemplative prayer

**Friday mornings at 9.10am, in the Savage Chapel**

**Also, monthly on 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday evenings**

*see noticesheet for venues*

- Fortnightly prayer meeting

**alternate Wednesdays, 10:30am in Savage Chapel**

*This month: Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> January*

- House & fellowship groups, for prayer and more!

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month, 2pm-3.30pm at 10 Badger Rd**

*This month: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> January*

**Fortnightly on Mondays, 7.30pm-9pm at The Rectory, 85 Beech Lane**

*This month: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> January*

**1st & 3rd Thursdays of each month, 8.00pm-9.30pm at various venues**

*This month: Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January – contact David B (431606) for venue*