

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

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### Reading the Bible or leading the prayers in worship

*If you would like to consider being one of the people who read the Bible or lead our prayers within worship at St Michael's please talk to Karen or Martin.*

*Don't worry, we'd train you and let you have a go 'in private' first, but it'd be absolutely wonderful to expand our team of people who are involved in this.*

### 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**  
*This month: Sun 21<sup>st</sup> January – see noticesheet for venues*
- Fortnightly prayer meeting  
**alternate Wednesdays, 10:30am in Savage Chapel**  
*This month: Wednesdays 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> January*
- Monthly service of prayer for healing  
**first Friday, 12:30pm in Savage Chapel**  
*This month: Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January & 2<sup>nd</sup> February*
- 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: Mondays 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> January*  
**Fortnightly on Mondays, 7.30pm-9pm at The Rectory, 85 Beech Lane**  
*This month: Mondays 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> January*  
**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of each month, 7.30pm-9pm at various venues**  
*This month: Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January – contact David B (431 606) for venue*



## LET US PRAY

### St Michael & All Angels, Macclesfield

January 2018

**“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”**  
(Romans 12:12, TLB)

“If we want to see things changed, it starts with prayer. It starts with a new spirit of prayer, using all the traditions, ancient and modern. When it comes, it will be linked to what has gone before, but it will look different – because it is a new renewal for new times. God’s created community is perfectly designed for its time and place. It almost always comes from below. It comes from Christians seeking Christ.”

*Archbishop Justin Welby*

This leaflet has been produced to assist us with our daily prayers; we hope you find it useful. Use the suggestions as you feel is right for you, and of course, add your own.

*O gracious and holy Father,  
Give us wisdom to perceive you, diligence to seek you,  
Patience to wait for you, eyes to behold you,  
A heart to meditate upon you, and a life to proclaim you,  
through the power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## For Epiphany

*Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord.*

In December we remembered Jesus as Immanuel (#GodWithUs). Pray for those people, including any you know by name, who attended a church service during the Advent and Christmas seasons, praying that the God we worship in Jesus might reveal more of Himself and lead people in light, love, holiness and peace.

## Our local schools:

Pray for all staff and pupils to return to school afresh from the Christmas break and with new commitment to teach, learn and work alongside one another in a spirit of friendship and support.

Also this month, the Governors of our church school, Bollinbrook C/E Primary, are seeking a new Head Teacher to start in September. Give thanks for: the good relationship between the church and the school; for Mike Waters (existing Head); and pray for love and patience for him and his staff team amidst an unsettling time. Pray too for God's leading in this crucial appointment for the church school.

Bollinbrook: *"a tree firmly planted by streams of water which yields its fruit" Ps 1 v3*

## For those in our world affected by conflict and recent tragedies:

Pray for areas of ongoing conflict – Syria, Iraq, Iran and others. Remember refugees fleeing these countries that they will find safety.

Pray for people who have lost homes and livelihoods through the wild fires in California, for the families of those who have died as a result of the flooding and mudslides in the Philippines, and for those suffering from the intercommunal violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Give thanks to God for the work of relief and humanitarian agencies, and ask God to bring light in times of darkness.

## For our church leaders - Wardens, Church Council and Leadership Team:

Thank God for those people who serve our congregations, care for our building, and extend pastoral care within and beyond the church community; pray that everyone would work in ways where they sense God's delight in their offering.

Please pray especially for the new Leadership Team as it starts to work together.

## For Lent

*Heavenly Father, you have welcomed us into your kingdom and your heart's desire is to draw every human being to yourself.*

Lent starts next month (14<sup>th</sup> Feb). For our Lent Course this year we will be using 'Everybody Welcome', a 4 session series to help our whole church community become even more welcoming. Give thanks to God for the great opportunities we already have to open St Michael's to our wider community, and ask God for 'divine appointments', where people in need of solace, hope and prayer may be drawn to our church, experience an engaging welcome and encounter God's comfort. Pray for Karen Brady as she and Martin take the lead in this course,

## Our Church Family:

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46.*

Pray for the families & friends of Susan Lawton, Angela Berrisford, Jim/James (son of Ruth) Parker and Mae Duffield whose funerals our ministers took recently. Pray the words of comfort & hope spoken may bring peace to the families.

We pray for Christine Wightman, Jenny, Simon and their families at this very sad time, following the death of David. May God comfort them and help them as they come to terms with their sudden loss. As we thank God for David's friendship and ministry amongst us for many years, we pray for ourselves, for David's friends, and for the wider networks David developed in Macclesfield as he helped us show Christian love in action. Thank you God.

*Be gentle with the one who walks with grief. If it is you, be gentle with yourself. Swiftly forgive, walk slowly, pause often. Take time, be gentle, as you walk with grief.*

Pray for the parents & Godparents of Isabella and Amelia, both baptised at St Michael's (3<sup>rd</sup> Dec). Also, pray for those attending the Baptism Enquirers' evenings at St Michael's on 24<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> January, that as they seek Christening for their children they would experience more of God in their lives and relationships.

## Our Team Ministry:

Pray God's blessing for Sue & Emma in the office; for our licensed ministers: Martin, Karen, Rob, Barry & Taffy (clergy); Lynne, Mike, Fran, Glenys, Robert, Liz, Chris & Judith (Readers); and Andy & Louise Williams as they prepare to join us. Thank God for them and pray for a good 'ending and beginning' of ministries.