

This month's prayer letter has been put together with the assistance of a small group who meet fortnightly for prayer.

"We begin with the Lord's prayer and are then led by the Holy Spirit to:

- Praise and thank God for His goodness to us
- Pray for our concerns and those of others and the world
- Pray for the sick and for ourselves

When faced with trial PRAYER is not the last resort. PRAYER is the greatest thing we can do."

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 1st Tuesday & 3rd Sunday evenings**
This month: see noticesheet for venues
- Fortnightly prayer meeting
alternate Wednesdays, 10:30am in Savage Chapel
This month: Wednesdays 9th & 23rd January
- Monthly service of prayer for healing
first Friday, 12:30pm in Savage Chapel
This month: Fridays 4th January and 1st February
- House & fellowship groups, for prayer and more!
2nd & 4th Mondays of each month, 2pm-3.30pm at 10 Badger Rd
This month: Mondays 14th & 28th January
Fortnightly on Mondays, 7.30pm-9pm at The Rectory, 85 Beech Lane
This month: Monday 14th and 28th January
1st & 3rd Thursdays of each month, 8.00pm-9.30pm at various venues
This month: Thursday 3rd & 17th January – contact David B (431606) for venue

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

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LET US PRAY

St Michael & All Angels, Macclesfield

January 2019

As we begin a new year, we are told:

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See I am doing a new thing" Isaiah 43 v18 (NIV)

Also: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" 1 Thess 5: v16-18

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

*Gracious and Holy Father, please give me:
Intellect to understand you; reason to discern you;
Diligence to seek you; a spirit to know you;
A heart to meditate on you;
Ears to hear you, eyes to see you
A tongue to proclaim you;
A way of life pleasing to you
Patience to wait for you
And perseverance to look for you*

(The prayer of St Benedict)

Our nation

Grant us, Lord God, a vision of our land as your love would make it:
- a land where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor;
- a land where the benefits of civilised life are shared, and everyone can enjoy them;
- a land where different races and cultures live in tolerance and mutual respect;
- a land where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love.
And give us the inspiration and courage to build it, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Considering the critical decisions to be made this month about our relationship with the EU, pray for all our members of Parliament:

*God of eternal love and power,
Protect our High Court of Parliament and all its members
From partiality and prejudice;
That they may walk in the path of kindness, justice and mercy.
Give them wisdom, insight and a concern for the common good
The weight of their calling is too much to bear in their own strength,
Therefore we pray earnestly, Father
send them help from your Holy Place and be their tower of strength.
(from a prayer of the Archbishop of York)*

Our Town:

Praise God for the initiatives of ROAR (Reach Out and Recover); WHAM (Winter Nightshelter) and Street Angels. Pray for those sleeping on our streets as the weather gets colder, that they may come to the shelter, and also be helped to find a more permanent solution. Ask God to guide those trying to coordinate different support initiatives.

Ask God to bless those who work in the Hope Centre, especially praying for the new managers.

Pray for Monday "Start the Week": St Michael's open for prayer and reflection.

Our Church School: Bollinbrook CE(A) Primary:

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

Praise God for the energy and enthusiasm of the staff team; ask God to keep them strong and well through the next term. Pray for children experiencing difficulties in their home environment, that staff at school will find ways to help them to feel secure and supported.

Pray for the Governors in their meetings this month; ask God to uphold them, granting them wisdom and insight. Ask God to guide the search for two new Foundation (Church) Governors and that the right people will respond to his call.

For our Church Life:

Pray for inspiration for the new year, for all the clergy and Lay Readers. Thank God for all those who give their time to serve tea and coffee at the Open Door café and for the welcome they are able to offer

For those who may be thinking about joining the Just Wondering course which starts on 8th January, that the Holy Spirit may give them courage to come and that their hearts may be open. For those who will be facilitating, that they may be given the right words and know the right times for silence.

Pray for those who assist with Holy Communion, especially for those now considering doing this for the first time.

Pray for the meeting of the Church Council on 22nd January, for open and fruitful discussion and wise decision-making.

Our Church Family:

Thank God for the care Tony Skirvin has received over the last few weeks, and that he has now returned home. Pray for Tony and Enid as Tony continues to recover at home.

Pray for the parents & Godparents of Ariana Dejeva, baptised at St Michael's on 9th December. Also, for those attending the Baptism Enquirers' evenings on 23rd & 30th January, that as they seek Christening for their children they would experience more of God in their lives and relationships.

May God uphold and enfold those who have been bereaved:

For Vera, wife of Adrian Butler; for Liz and Brenda, daughters of Amy Toole; for Sharon Goodwin, daughter of Patricia Hudson; and Norman, Kathleen and Helen, son and daughters of Mary Hodson. May the words of comfort and hope spoken bring peace to the families.

Pray for those mourning the death of Roy Shuttleworth, and for those taking part in his funeral on 8th January.

Dear Father, help us to remember that we are always connected to you and that when we pray you always hear us. Amen