

## Christmas and New Year 2016/2017 Prayer Diary



The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Luke 2:10-12

Let us give thanks to God for his great love for us, in that he sent his Son to this Earth as a helpless babe. Amidst all that happens at this time may we stop and give thanks.



Despite the joy of celebrating Jesus’ birth, for some it can be a lonely and painful time:

“I dread Christmas. It’s a very lonely time for me.”

“I have no family so I don’t see anyone from one day to the next. I will be glad when Christmas is over – it’s a family time and having no family is hard. I will have beans on toast for my Christmas dinner”.



Please pray:

- For those for whom this is a different Christmas and who perhaps have lost a loved one or there has been a big change
- For friends and families as they get together - for sensitivity, wisdom and patience.
- For us all to look out for others who may be lonely or at the edge of things.
- That all of us will understand more about God’s love shown to the World through the birth of Jesus.

Please pray for our keys events:

- 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lunch – 11<sup>th</sup> Dec at 12.30pm
- Christmas Sunday Family Service on the 18<sup>th</sup> Dec at 11am
- Carols by Candlelight on the evening of the 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm
- Our Family Christmas Day Service at 10:30am
- Friends and Family Walk – 1<sup>st</sup> January

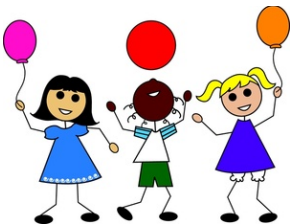


Please pray:

- That we will invite friends and family along to the services and that they will feel welcome.
- For the organisation of all the events

Give thanks for:

- The 30 children who had fun at the Christmas Light Party on the 3rd, and learned that light is stronger than darkness, and that Jesus is the Light of the World.

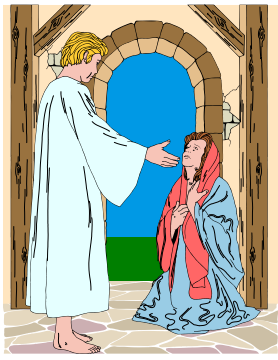


- Give thanks for the work of Toddlers as they meet each Tuesday and Thursday morning.
- Pray for the parties on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Dec, for good fun and a chance to be reminded about Jesus coming into the world as a baby.
- Pray that the parents, carers and children will come to the Christmas services.

Give thanks for the work of Operation Christmas Child and that many children around the world will know that are loved and valued at this Christmas time.



**Good News. Great Joy.**



# Christmas and New Year Prayer

You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus.

<sup>32</sup> He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High

(Luke 1:31/32)



Pray for the **Street Pastors** as they will be on the streets serving our city by being Jesus' hands and feet, getting alongside those who are celebrating with colleagues and friend. Please pray that the Street Pastors will have the opportunity to share hope and care, and that they may be "there" when it matters.



<u>December</u>		
Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup>	Second Sunday of Advent 11am Worship and Communion
Tuesday	6 <sup>th</sup>	World Mission Prayer 7:30pm Centre
Saturday	10 <sup>th</sup>	Men's Breakfast 8am Centre
Sunday	11 <sup>th</sup>	Third Sunday of Advent 10am Communion 11am Worship 12:30pm 175 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lunch
Monday	12 <sup>th</sup>	7:00pm Deacons Meeting & Band of Prayer
Tuesday	13 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm Church Meeting
Sunday	18 <sup>th</sup>	Fourth Sunday of Advent 11am Christmas Family Service 6:30pm Carols by Candlelight
Sunday	25 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am Christmas Day Family Service
<u>January</u>		
Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup>	11am Morning Worship and Communion (Michael's last Sunday preaching in Viewfield) 1pm Friends and Family Walk

## Vacancy

- Give thanks for Michael's ministry and for all that he and Val have done.
- Pray for them as they move to the South Lakes.
- Pray that the right people will be chosen for the Vacancy Group.
- Pray for the Interim Moderator and Vacancy Group as they seek God's leading in looking for someone to lead us forward.
- Pray for all the practical arrangements such as Pulpit Supply and Pastoral Care in this time of vacancy.

## Middle East: moves of the Spirit

Give thanks that:

- 10,000 Muslims across the Near East study the Bible together each week.
- Prayer movements are sweeping across the region.
- Churches are going through renewals as they reach out to migrating Middle East and North African refugees.
- In Iran, Syria, Jordan, Iraq and Afghanistan, many are coming to Christ.
- 500 churches are planned to open next year in Jordan, Syria, Iraq and Egypt.

Pray for:

- Christian communities in the Middle East
- For organisations like Sat-7 who broadcasts in the Middle East and North Africa.
- For the families who have fled their homes with only their families leaving everything else behind and are afraid of the future.

**TWAM** Tools with a Mission

Please pray for the recipients of TWAM tools as they celebrate Christmas. Pray that they will know the real meaning of Christmas and find Jesus to be the greatest gift they can receive



Pray for all the people who will spend Christmas alone and in poverty

Bethany seeks to reach out to anyone who needs their services over the festive season, so pray that connections are made and people's lives improved.

Pray for families under financial pressure. Children are bombarded with advertising and parents feel bad when they can't provide what other children are getting. This only makes matters worse for people who are already struggling.

Give thanks that so many of the people coming to Bethany for help will be sheltered and supported this Christmas time. Pray that the real message of Christmas comes through as staff and volunteers demonstrate the Gospel in simple ways to show God's love in action.