

## **St Andrew's and All Saints Prayer Diary – December 2019**

We conclude our reflections on the words of the Lord's Prayer as we pray through this important month in our calendars. Through Advent we will be thinking in our services about Preparing the Way, and celebrating Christmas in our various churches.

We pray in particular for our church leaders and their families at this busy time. For Dave and Alice Bruce, Joshua and Eleanor. For Peter and Emma Myres, Charlotte, Pippa, James and Alice. For Eddy and Hanna Edwards, celebrating their first Christmas as a married couple. And particularly for Helen Attree and Kim, Becky and Lauren, in this year of "firsts" without Jeremy.

In our nation we pray for the General Election, and all those who are standing for parliament.

**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the Kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours, forever and ever, Amen.**

**Week 1 – As the temptations of consumerism are all around us, we continue to pray for a right sense of perspective as we plan and shop for Christmas gifts, treats and food. Pray for the distribution of our Christmas leaflets (Hope is Born), that they will be read and that people will consider coming to church this Christmas.**

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December – as we think about Mary and the way she prepared for the birth of Jesus, pray for our morning services today in St Andrew's and All Saints, and for Deeper this evening at All Saints. Also pray for the young people's market trip this afternoon.

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – Pray our MP, Harriet Baldwin, and for those who are standing in our constituency: Martin Allen, Samantha Charles and Beverley Nielsen.

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December – Pray for ourselves as we consider who of the above to vote for. Pray for God's Kingdom to come in the constituency of West Worcestershire.

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December – Pray for St Andrew's musicians as they meet to look at the worship songs to be used in our services. Pray for Debbie Austin as she leads the group.

Thursday 5th December – Pray for the Christmas lunch and service at the Octagon today, for all who attend and all who serve. Pray too for St Andrew's PCC as it meets this evening.

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December – Pray for those who will find Christmas difficult this year, that they may find peace and comfort in this time. Pray too for the Christmas market to be held at St Mary's.

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December – Pray for the prayer workshop – An Advent Journey – being led by Jane Long at All Saints this morning. For Jane and all who attend.

**Week 2 – Deliver us from evil. In this critical week for our nation, pray for our election, for the party leaders, for those elected to parliament and those who lose seats. Pray for God's kingdom work to prevail.**

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December – as we reflect on Joseph and the part he played in the nativity of Jesus, pray for our morning services today in St Andrew's and All Saints. Pray for the fellowship lunch at All Saints and all who attend. Pray too for the Hustings event, organised by Churches Together in Malvern, this afternoon in Lansdowne Methodist church.

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December – Pray for people who are standing for parliament across our nation. For protection from attack, both physical and verbal. Pray today and tomorrow for the interviews for a new Head Teacher at the Wyche Primary, and for Dave as he sits on that panel.

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December – Pray for Christian MPs, and for many of God's people to be elected. Pray that they may be salt and light in Westminster, and in the work that they do.

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December – As canvassing ceases, and MPs return to their constituencies to vote, pray for peace over the whole process of the election tomorrow. Pray too for the Waiting Room at All Saints this evening.

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December – Pray for the General Election today, and ourselves as we cast our votes. Pray for God's hand to be over the conduct of the election, and that His will be done.

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December – Pray for the Holiday at Home Christmas lunch at St Andrews, and Sing a Song of Christmas to be held at Malvern Wells village hall. Pray too for those who have been elected to parliament, and the appointments which will be made. Pray for Christian MPs.

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Pray for Carols on the Common on Peachfield Common, that many people will come and hear the Good News of the birth of Jesus in song and spoken word.

**Week 3 – we acknowledge that all things are under God. His is the Kingdom, all power and all glory. Pray that we may be part of bringing that into our nation.**

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December – as we consider John the Baptist, born just a few months before Jesus, think or how we can prepare for the Way of the Lord in our words and actions. Pray for our services today, and those who lead them. Pray particularly for the Christmas services today, and all who attend, maybe for the first time. For the Christmas service at St Mary's, the nativity service at St Andrew's, for the Hope in the Darkness alternative Christmas service at All Saints and for the Youth Church event at All Saints.

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December – Pray for the 4Front theatre presentations today, being held at All Saints (for the Wyche and Malvern Wells Schools) and Malvern Parish school.

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December – Pray for those who will find their finances squeezed over the Christmas period. For Peter Buchanan and the work of the Food Bank as they prepare and give out Christmas parcels to those in need.

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December – Pray Chris Mesley and Denise Ditchburn and for the work of CAP, that more people will become debt-free during this month.

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December – Pray for the Octagon coffee shop Christmas party.

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December – Pray for the homeless in our area. Pray that they may find places to stay, particularly over Christmas. Pray that we might be generous in our dealings with those who have little or nothing.

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December – Pray for the reflective Christmas Open Afternoon, to be held at St Mary's, and for Lynne Pocock as she leads it.

**Week 4 – praise God that His reign is for ever, and that we can look forward to an eternity in His presence.**

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December – as we think about the world preparing, and continue our Christmas celebrations in our churches, pray that we too may prepare our

hearts for Jesus coming again. Pray for our worship services today, and in particular the carol service and Christingle at All Saints.

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December – Pray that the song of the angels will resound in all our homes today, and spread out into our neighbourhoods.

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Pray for our services today. Remember the Messy Christmas at All Saints, the Crib service at St Mary's, the carol services at St Andrew's and the Late Night Holy Communion at All Saints. Pray for other late night services to be held at the Priory and some other churches across the town.

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December – may we all have a very happy and blessed Christmas this year. Pray that our church services will be a blessing to all who attend, and the Christmas gospel will be heard by many for the first time. Remember those who will have their Christmas tinged with sadness this year, that they may know the peace and comfort of the Lord.

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> December – pray for our neighbours, that Christ may be part of their celebrations. Pray for the people who live next door or across the road.

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> December – as the shopping season begins, pray that we may retain a sense of awe and wonder. Pray for those who do not know the joy of the season which continues into January.

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> December – Pray for our church leaders, that they may be able to rest from all the busy-ness of the past weeks, and be able to take time out with the Lord and with their families.

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December – Amazed and Thankful – pray for our worship services today and those who lead them. Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the holy One, give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> December – Pray for Christians in Malvern, and the various churches in and around the town, for blessing into the new year.

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> December – Pray for ourselves, that as we approach 2020 we may be prepared and ready to do new things for the Kingdom, and be expectant that God will move in our lives and the lives of our churches. Amen.