

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH PRAYER DIARY

December 2023

But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings.

Malachi 4:2

Friday 1st *Persecuted but not forgotten: Iran

#8 on Open Doors' World Watch List

Iranian house church leaders and members risk many ways of being persecuted, including denial of basic rights and long, abusive prison sentences. Converts from Islam are at particularly high risk. Pray for God's strength and protection for the almost 2 million Christians.

Saturday 2nd

Pray for a swift and peaceful end, and a just solution, to the terrible hostilities in Israel and Gaza.

Sunday 3rd Advent Sunday

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

Monday 4th Climate Change

Pray that measures to address climate change will remain at the forefront of the agenda of governments worldwide, including ours.

Tuesday 5th Toddlers

Pray that mums, children and carers who enjoy Toddlers today will have a real sense of God's presence in our building, and that they will want to know more about the Christian faith.

Wednesday 6th

Pray for God's blessing and direction as PCC meets tonight in these early days of vacancy; for love and unity.

Thursday 7th

Around the country many university and college CUs will be leading carol services; pray that many students will attend them, and meet with Jesus.

Friday 8th *Persecuted but not forgotten: Iran

Pray that Jesus will set free many more hearts in Iran, and that Christianity will cease to be portrayed as a foreign idea.

Saturday 9th

Pray for Chris and Helen, our wardens, that they will be equipped for their extra responsibilities at this time.

Sunday 10th Advent 2

Lord, as the church across the world gathers today may our eyes be opened to see spiritual realities, may our prayers rise before your throne like incense, and may our faith put a smile on your face. Amen.

Adapted from Lectio 365

Monday 11th

Ask God's blessing on our mission partners Tim and Miranda, and their two daughters, that they will be able to celebrate Christmas joyfully, and help others to do so too.

Tuesday 12th

Thank God for all those involved in leading the renewed Youth Cafes, and pray for a great time of fun tonight. Ask that God will speak to everyone through the Bible-based Crash times.

Wednesday 13th Living with Loss

Thank God for his blessing on this recently formed group, and pray for a helpful time together for all who attend today. Christmas will be a very difficult time for some of them.

Thursday 14th Tearfund

Pray for success for Tearfund's bold campaign to reduce plastic pollution, especially in some of the poorest countries in the world for whom it's a huge problem.

Friday 15th *Persecuted but not forgotten: Iran

Pray for strong faith and courage for Iranian Christians, especially in rural areas, where social pressure and control make meeting at all very difficult.

Saturday 16th

Pray that as a church we will always prioritise safeguarding, and ask God's blessing on Ann Clark as she leads this vital area of church life.

Sunday 17th Advent 3 Carol Service

Pray that every part of our Carol Service will breathe the hope of Emmanuel to every person present.

Monday 18th

Pray for Margaret Newstead in her many and varied tasks as our administrator, that she will be well-supported.

Tuesday 19th

Ask that our government will make wise decisions that will help those who are struggling at this time to have enough.

Wednesday 20th

As our schools reach the end of a long and busy term, pray for blessing and refreshment over the holidays for staff and students alike.

Thursday 21st

Pray for Framework and other local charities that work with the homeless, especially at Christmastime; that issues will be addressed and permanent solutions found for many.

Friday 22nd *Persecuted but not forgotten: Iran

Pray that Open Doors' online ministry service will be a huge blessing and encouragement to many Iranian Christians.

Saturday 23rd

Pray for God to be at work in power this Christmas through the services that are held in every church in Southwell, changing lives and bringing glory to him.

Sunday 24th Advent 4 Christmas Eve

Pray that our Nativity Service will be really well-attended, and a wonderful chance to share Christmas hope with many families.

Monday 25th Christmas Day

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, may we be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Amen

Tuesday 26th Boxing Day

You are the One who enters our humanity, consoling us in calamity, companioning us in loneliness, encouraging us in kindness, sustaining and challenging and blessing us. Be with us still, God incarnate, this Christmastide, and all our days. Amen

Wednesday 27th

As Alison Slinger moves on from her many years of faithful service as our treasurer, ask for God's blessing on her and her family.

Thursday 28th

Thank God for his provision of Richard Marjoribanks and Denise Parkin, who together will succeed Alison on in leading our church's finances. Pray they will know God's help as they settle into their roles.

Friday 29th *Persecuted but not forgotten: Iran

Dear Father, thank you that your church in Iran is growing despite attempts to suppress it. Please protect our brothers and sisters, so that they can build a strong, mature Iranian church.

Saturday 30th CPAS

Pray for the role that CPAS as our patrons will play in helping to find our new vicar; for wisdom, guidance and harmony as they work with our wardens, PCC, and Archdeacon Tors.

Sunday 31st New Year's Eve

Lord, on the threshold of a new year, as your church across the world meets to worship, may preachers and worship leaders step out of the limelight into the twilight to fix the spotlight entirely upon you. Amen

Adapted from Lectio 365

Thank you for using the Holy Trinity Prayer Diary. If you can't get to church to collect your copy you will find it on the church website (www.holytrinitysouthwell.co.uk). If you have any concerns that you would like included please contact:

Marjorie Hustwayte at Marjorie@hustwayte.co.uk 01636 813013

or Suzanne Dent at suzedent@btinternet.com 01636 815913

*Each week we pray for persecuted Christians based on information given on the Open Doors website. For more information, visit www.opendoors.org