

"You will be given through prayer the resources you need to see you through,
to face whatever happens." (Rev. Dr. Alan Billings)

Cults Parish Church

Prayer Diary January 2018



Christmas is over, but the offer is still on?

Of course it is. God's offer is not just for Christmas. He has sent someone to help us bear our burdens, so that we will not be broken by them, but led into the Light; someone who teaches us that we must not burden others unfairly, but treat them like ourselves.

No conditions. No special selection.

But God requires an offer from us. Empowering others can't just be about expecting things from our politicians. It means a willingness to give power away ourselves. Social justice requires sacrifice. May the pattern of Christ's life become ours.

(Partly using words of Philip North, Bishop of Burnley)

The Faith Journey Core Group hopes that this Prayer Diary will be a useful daily companion that will help unite us in prayer at Cults Kirk. Please send your contributions or requests for the February diary by January 19th to Andrew Fairhead.
andrew.fairhead@btinternet.com Phone 01224 861926.

At 7pm on the last Wednesday of each month, everyone is welcome to meet in Morven at the Kirk Centre for prayers of thanksgiving and intercession, and to talk informally about praying. (You don't have to talk if you would rather just be there in silence.)

Our prayer team will pray for individuals, or about more confidential matters on your behalf. Please put your written request into one of the prayer boxes at the Kirk or the Kirk Centre.

Monday January 1 We are people of hope. Let us go out into the wonder of God's creation with hope in our hearts, and share the hope of Christ with all we meet, by noticing someone else's humanity, by listening to someone's story, and by praying for our world. In this New Year, we need to see, feel and share hope. (Rev. Gordon Craig)

Tuesday January 2 *(Let us all pray with those who put these prayers on our Christmas prayer tree.)* Lord, please bring hope to the hopeless and work to the jobless. Please look after all those in need, and bring peace to the world. Amen.

Wednesday January 3 We realise from the Christmas story that so many were excluded from established religion in the Holy Land. Lord Jesus, that's why You were sent from God. We pray You will tell us who we are excluding these days.

Thursday January 4 *"Through our hope, we do not wait for a rescue or gamble on a bit of luck, or dream dreams, but bring breath and love and sweat to bear upon the darkness."* (Denise Inge)

Friday January 5 This is Scotland's year of young people, and it needs to be Cults Kirk's as well. May the various religions in Scotland give young people an understanding of the traditions they are part of, but which they can shape for the future; that what they do matters and is valued; and that they matter and are valued.

Saturday January 6 *God of all, the wise men followed the star(s), but they must have realised that You are in control of the future. In this matter-of-fact world, we acknowledge our need of that same trust and hope in You.*

Sunday January 7 Lord, I think of the gifts I was given at Christmas, and I thank the givers for the love they showed me; but I am so needful of things that money can't buy. Among them is humility. How much will that cost me?

Monday January 8 *We thank God for the pleasure and privilege of having had Debbie and Keith, and Katie and Peter among us, who have done so much for His Kingdom here. Father, bless their future paths and be their comfort still (for Thou art with them).*

Tuesday January 9 (A children's prayer.) It's funny, but at Christmas, when I gave things to people to show how much I care for them, it was really nice for me. Lord Jesus, I hope I can do more giving like that all this year.

Wednesday January 10 *Let us all pray, as the Green Group will be this evening, that humankind can yet mend its disastrous relationship with the planet.*

Thursday January 11 What wonderful teachers our pets are, training us in gentle and caring habits, showing us close-at-hand some wonders of God's creation, and encour-aging us to share with them perhaps more than we would share with other people! As some of them seem to understand grief, perhaps they understand ours at their passing.

Friday January 12 *The weekend work of the Street Pastors continues into the New Year. Their example of non-judgmental support and understanding of people who have had excesses of alcohol, drugs or revelry is a lesson for all Christians.*

Saturday January 13 The Aberdeen Epiphany group (including some of our members) hold "quiet Saturdays". We all benefit from reflection. Today's theme is "A time to speak and a time to be silent". Lord Jesus, when it is appropriate for me to speak, give me grace, and when instead I should be listening, give me grace.

Sunday January 14 *Let us pray to God on behalf of the elderly as they begin another of their many years. O God of the Epiphany, through such as our service at the Deeside Care Home today, help us to encourage them to commit their lives afresh to You, in the certainty that not only will Your grace go with them, but that You will direct their path.*

Monday January 15 For all who are troubled, anxious or depressed, we pray that they can find a source of light to show them their true place in the world. Might they recall where such a light can be found; but if not, it will be up to us to hold a lamp for them.

Our Justice and Peace Group meets this evening, remembering that Our Lord, having assured us of our resurrection, commanded us to give everyone a life worth living.

Tuesday January 16 *We thank God that Church life is again well under way after the Christmas break. Many folk will be glad to get along to Music to Remember this morning; and our Guild's selfless care for others will be encouraged by Mary Mulligan of Christian Aid. Elsewhere, our Kirk Centre Management Committee is meeting to maximise our benefit to the community through the facilities and opportunities we provide.*

Wednesday January 17 Lord, as You are with all of us, You are with those whose relationship is in trouble. May that knowledge give them comfort and strength to persevere through the difficulties. May they gain grace from it, enough to mend the relationship if they feel You would have it mended.

Thursday January 18 *Is faith something I hold? That might not be good enough! Faith should hold me. Lord Jesus, I want to increase my faith. That is my resolution.*

Friday January 19 Let us pray for the success of research into cures for serious illnesses, and for those who suffer from those illnesses at the moment. May God help them deal with the lifestyle changes that occur as a result, and give them the grace to go forward with undiminished purpose, finding a new path in their lives.

Saturday January 20 *Let us pray for wisdom for our politicians as they negotiate difficult agreements on our behalf.*

Sunday January 21 We apply many arts and crafts in this season to celebrate God's gift of our Saviour; but our very ability to create and perform are also God's gifts, to be celebrated with gratitude. Our Sanctuary is a fitting place for that, as it will be for the musical recitals this afternoon and in subsequent months.

Monday January 22 *Lord Jesus, when I think of the many manifestations of hatred around the world, and even the times when I've been tempted to hate, I can see it has no place in God's Kingdom. Once given in to, it falsely seems to justify outrageous behaviour towards the object of the enmity. What a betrayal of ourselves and our Heavenly origin.*

Tuesday January 23 We give to God our gratitude for the extraordinary assistance given to us in recent months by Craigiebuckler Church: for its members who officiated at the vote for Shuna, and the outstanding dedication of Kenneth to the continued functioning of Cults Kirk. May we remember how we were helped in the best tradition of Christianity.

Wednesday January 24 *At this time of year, our nation celebrates its proud heritage. Let us also celebrate how we benefit from what is good in other cultures.*

Thursday January 25 For the bereaved, the pain that will not go away and the fear of what the future holds are present as if meant to last. But present too, in the touch of friends, is love which tends that hurt they never wished. (John Bell and Graham Maule)

For our Church, a new chapter opens. We thank God for bringing Shuna to us, and pray that we can support her, understand her guidance, and continue the story of God's care for the world.

Friday January 26 *Mlombwa Church has been praying for us as we have searched for a new minister, and now they are praying for us and Shuna in our new mission and witness together. Let us pray for them, as they also welcome their new minister, the Reverend Collins Maganga. We pray that God will continue to inspire the Malawian churches to strive to improve their country, and that He will let us know how we can help.*

Saturday January 27 We pray for the flourishing of all churches in this New Year, particularly, in our neighbourhood, for Sheddocksley Baptist Church, which is ambitious to expand to accommodate its growing numbers. And let us remember the churches in the Middle East that are determined to rise from the rubble and murder.

Sunday January 28 *Lord Jesus, even as we recently celebrated what Your birth meant to us, we knew the passion that was ordained for You at the end of Your earthly ministry. We will partake of Your body and blood today with devotion. We will try to commit ourselves to living with Your conviction, remembering the profoundly joyous hope that we can give to others in Your name.*

Monday January 29 We commend to God the Sue Ryder “Dee View Court” care home, which uniquely in Scotland provides appropriate accommodation and facilities for people with neurological conditions. As more accommodation is desperately needed, may yesterday’s retiral collection help a little with the home’s expansion plans.

As yesterday was also world leprosy day, let us pray for all the organisations that aim to improve life for people with leprosy, including the Leprosy Mission Scotland and its local team of supporters here in Aberdeen.

Tuesday January 30 *May we look on recycling as a way of honouring the world, of appreciating what we have received from its bounty. Tomorrow, on our behalf, members of our Green Group are visiting Aberdeen’s new recycling centre. May they be able to encourage us all to take part in Creation-care.*

Wednesday January 31 It is the Father Himself who leads us to pray about something. Our prayer is an acknowledgement that we strive for His view, His will. And so I pray: “Father, hear my prayer today about ... It is You who guided me to it. Thus what I request, or give thanks for, or ask forgiveness for, is from Your will. Amen.”