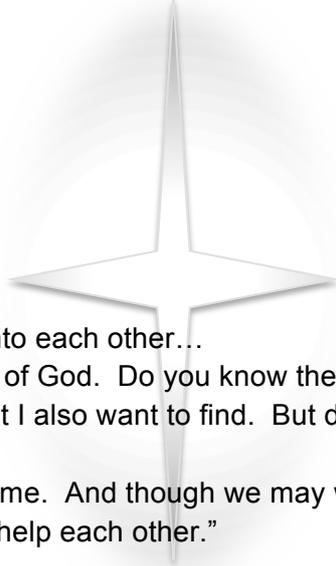


"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13)

# Cults Parish Church

## *Prayer Diary January 2019*



Two Travellers bumped into each other...

"I'm seeking the Kingdom of God. Do you know the way?"

"I don't, though that's what I also want to find. But didn't your Guide say 'Seek and ye shall find'?"

"Thank you for reminding me. And though we may walk in different and haphazard ways, we can help each other."

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 18<sup>th</sup> to Andrew Fairhead. [andrew.fairhead@btinternet.com](mailto:andrew.fairhead@btinternet.com) Phone 01224 861926.

At 7pm on the last Wednesday of each month (except December), 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 prays in private 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, or let Shuna know and she will confidentially notify the team.

**Tuesday January 1** [At Christmas and] *"throughout life, we may suffer because we don't get the things we want and don't want the things we get. So if we're unhappy because we want a bigger car that we don't really need, the Buddhist approach is that maybe we should reduce our desire for large cars, rather than increasing our capacity to buy them."* (Vishvapani)

**Wednesday January 2** The four Advent candles represent hope, peace, love and joy. My wish, and surely God's, is that none of these would be lacking anywhere in the world or in people's lives, including my own. I picture You, Christ, as the fifth, white candle, and pledge myself to live in Your light.

**Thursday January 3** *Lord, I thank You for Emmanuel, the Saviour who was born and lived and died with us. Your promises through Him make such a difference to my ability to hope, and to work on for Your Kingdom, despite worries and setbacks.*

**Friday January 4** We pray for our political leaders, facing so many difficulties. Help them to behave and act with selfless integrity, and give them tactical skills like Jesus's for healing divisions and settling arguments.

**Saturday January 5** (A prayer for the morning.) *Christ, hold me in Your firm embrace. It won't mean that I can't move or do my daily tasks, but it might mean that I don't flail about with my arms or my tongue and hurt people. With Your sure hand, guide all my actions today.*

**Sunday January 6** Lord Jesus, we come once more to the stable, and say, like the visitors from the east: "We have seen God's sign, and have come to worship You." As we gladly dedicate our unique gifts to You, we ponder, silently, what kind of Gift we are gazing on...

**Monday January 7** *As their new term begins, we pray for our local schools, and for their staff and pupils, both new and returning. We pray for God's help to build good and trusting relationships between the schools and churches in the area, so that our children may see the positive effects of faith on life and community.*

**Tuesday January 8** Let us bring to God those people who find January a sad and depressing month after the Christmas festivities: people who might have lost a dear one, or have fallen into financial problems; or who are struggling with addiction, or suffering ill-health and can't see any improvement; those whose relationships with others are strained, and those who by nature cannot be happy or confident. May they know You love them, Father, and that You sent Jesus for their well-being.

**Wednesday January 9** *We pray that the leaders and politicians of the Middle East will develop a keener desire to protect human life, and thus bring the devastating troubles under control.*

**Thursday January 10** As Vera's mother Mary returns to Cameroon, let us pray for effective, fair and honest leadership there, which will end the oppression and violence that the British-speaking minority is enduring in a predominantly French-speaking population.

**Friday January 11** *I pray for someone near to my heart. Lord, You know how I love and sometimes hurt for them. I ask You to be near them (and me), so that all will be well.*

**Saturday January 12** Lord, we are thankful that Traidcraft is continuing, but as it has had to reduce its horizons, we pray that the producers who can no longer sell to it will find other outlets. And we pray for the staff in Gateshead, many of whom will have lost their jobs, while those remaining have to get used to a new way of working.

**Sunday January 13** *As JAM resumes at Church, we pray that more parents will bring their children to learn their important and unique place in God's Kingdom.*

*We pray also for the crèche, where more volunteers are needed.*

**Monday January 14** Let us pray for parents whose children have learning disabilities or behavioural difficulties. The joy and peace of Christmas is not automatically theirs, and the new term may have brought other challenges. Lord, give us the sympathy and imagination to know what we can do to make life easier for them.

**Tuesday January 15** *Music to Remember is back, spreading a little happiness. May it be what we all do as we "go by" in this world: spreading a little happiness to help others' dreams come true.*

**Wednesday January 16** Lord Jesus, we ask for Your blessing and divine guidance on the efforts for Justice and Peace made by Cults Kirk, and by all people of faith. We move through life with our eyes open and acknowledge that is wrong in the world has its roots in each one of us. We all stand in need of salvation. This is what the work looks like.

**Thursday January 17** *Lord, as Aberdeen's night-time economy continues to expand, we pray that people will be able to enjoy themselves safely.*

**Friday January 18** The police deserve our prayers. We hear how, with reduced forces and more complex investigations to carry out, it is increasingly challenging for them to keep us safe. They are policing with our consent, and should not have to feel they cannot provide the service we request.

**Saturday January 19** *We pray that a way can be found to rescue drug-addicts from the evil grip of organised criminals, who see their weakness as an easy source of profit. God knows that is evil enough, but the profits are then used in other anti-social ways.*

**Sunday January 20** God's mission through Jesus was to show that vulnerability trumps violence. Some glorious illustrations of that are happening right now, but Lord, we want it to be a universal truth. Your Kingdom come.

**Monday January 21** *Give me good work to do, that I may forget myself and find peace in doing it for Thee. Though I am poor, send me to carry some gift to those who are poorer, some cheer to those who are more lonely." (Henry van Dyke)*

**Tuesday January 22** (A children's prayer.) Lord Jesus, the arrival of snow shows me for what I am: an imaginative person, who likes to be active amongst amazing nature. As You did when You were a child, I thank God for what I can do and for this lovely world.

**Wednesday January 23** *On January 27<sup>th</sup> 1945, Soviet troops advancing into occupied Poland discovered Auschwitz, and the gradual liberation of concentration camps began. The motives and methods of the Nazis seem incomprehensible, but it was their corruption of ordinary people that shows the danger we still face.*

**Thursday January 24** Next Sunday is also World Leprosy Day. Lord Jesus, we thank You that when you healed those affected by the disease, You showed us that we should all give care to those with any kind of illness. We are sorry that leprosy is still with us, but thankful for all who do so much to understand and treat it; for the Leprosy Mission and our local campaigners.

**Friday January 25** *Today is the anniversary of Shuna's induction. We joyfully thank God for our friendly, competent, hard working new minister at Cults Parish Church, and trust her and her family to Him. May they have a lovely year, and many more to come.*

**Saturday January 26** Rabbie was celebrated by many yesterday, but our Burns supper is this evening. We are thankful that we have talented members who organise celebrations, sacred and secular, for us. In this case, it is our Christian Aid team, and so we pray that our enjoyment will bring benefits to those we don't know, but care about.

**Sunday January 27** *Teacher Christ, at Communion, You move among us asking "How are you doing?" I will tell You the good things I want to do, but please remind me if I could be doing more. I will ask for help, knowing it will come if that is Your will. You give me hope. I will do my best for You.*

**Monday January 28** We pray for ordinary Iranians, who as a result of sanctions are facing unemployment, poverty, and a lack of food and medicines; and for Palestinians, suffering similarly through blockades and oppression. Lord, when there is discord between nations, let the leaders search their consciences and embrace compromise.

**Tuesday January 29** *Saving Lord, You weigh human behaviour in the balance and find it wanting. You know all about dishonest, opportunistic leaders, about our obsession with making money and getting possessions, our failure to care for Creation, our failure to attend to people's moral and psychological well-being, and our failure to acknowledge and honour You. And yet You never stop trying to help us do better.*

**Wednesday January 30** Thanks to You, Christ, I realise it is really important to pray throughout my active day: for those who are sick or in danger or in other desperate need; for my friends and family; for forgiveness. I thank God for the outstanding beauty of nature, and for the nourishment it gives me; for those who toil on my behalf or for others; for the wonders that human ingenuity can achieve, which I pray is put to good use not bad; and I pray for those who do wrong. As it was for You, such praying makes my day meaningful and an honour to You and my God. Without frequent prayer, my active day cannot be properly focussed.

**Thursday January 31** *Bring us together Lord, so that we will see for ourselves how you are able to use us.*

