



New Creation Churches

July 2020

Prayer Diary

**“Cast all your anxiety on him,
because he cares for you.”**

1 Peter 5:7

Like me you may remember where you were the night the Prime Minister announced the start of the lockdown to deal with the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic, it has become an iconic moment in time and much has changed over the past 16 weeks or so. New terms have entered everyday language, self- isolation, shielding, furloughing, and COVID itself, indeed a snapshot of our lives today will seem a world away from normality, but undoubtedly some of the changes we’ve had to make will make us better and stronger, as long as we decide to take the positives forward. It has given us a chance to learn new ways of communication, online through zoom meetings, and inventive ways to stay in touch with each other as individuals and communities through online blogs and services. it’s given us the chance to reflect on what is important in life, and for many it’s helped to focus on what comes next.

It will be some time before we truly understand the full impact Lockdown has had on our country and the world, but it seems increasingly clear that we will never fully go back to the way things were, and maybe that is a positive in itself. Can we maintain the acts of kindness, the generosity of spirit, the loving care, all so evident in our community here, especially since the Lockdown ? Can we make these positives the new normal ? Can we value stillness and quiet, and not rush to fill the void, which often means a rush to judgement. As Mother Theresa said, If you spend your time judging people, you have no time to love them.

These have been, and will be, challenging times, some are challenges we’ve never faced before, some are old challenges in new guises. The Pandemic has amplified and exposed inequality, and some in society that have least in terms of resources and status have suffered the most, this has created a sense of injustice which needs understanding and addressing. The gospel of Jesus will be what helps us cope and gets us through, it is our constant support and inspiration in good and bad times, it addresses human nature in all its flaws in as true and effective a way now as it did then, and we all need to embrace with renewed energy the fruits of the spirit to spread the Gospel of love in the times to come.

Bible Verses

“The Lord is my light and my salvation – Whom shall I fear?” Psalm 27:1

“I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, do not fear, I will help you.”

ANSWERS TO PRAYER FROM PREVIOUS MONTH'S DIARIES:

- We continue to give thanks for the way the local communities have responded to the current situation looking after the most vulnerable.
- Generosity in donations to the Foodbank.
- Jane Hare's shoulder is getting more mobility week by week

A reminder of what the Prayer Diary is about:

The prayer diary reminds us to pray each day for a person in the church, a street or organisation, and a diary event, and informs and directs our prayers, underpinning and supporting the day-to-day work of the churches in Banwell and Congresbury. The Diary is circulated to St Andrew's electoral roll in both Anglican churches and Congresbury Methodist members.

Please keep it in a handy place to use each day - it is designed to stick on the fridge with a magnet, or to fold to go in a book or bag etc.

The aim is that once every five months every person in the churches, each village & church organisation / group & each village street will be prayed for. **If you have not yet been included (and wish to be) please contact Congresbury Church Office (01934 833126).**

YOUR FEEDBACK IS WANTED

We would welcome any feedback and news of prayer answers / requests. Please contact the Congresbury Church Office (01934 833126) with your suggestions, answers to prayer, and any specific prayer requests. *Please could you get these to the Church Office by 20th July. Thank you.*

Current Prayer Diary Editorial team: David Ashton-Hilton, Mo Barber, Avril Chadwick, Liz Cran, Grace Isaac, Sonya Stocker and Ian Stocker, Rosemary West

New Creation churches -Prayer During the Day

O Lord, open our lips and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

This is the day that the Lord has made

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

(Psalm 51.15, Ps 118.24)

As we recall God's faithfulness we pray:

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. *(Lam 3:22-23)*

The Word of God

the psalm for today is in this month's Prayer Diary.

The Bible readings for today are in this month's Prayer Diary.

Response *silence and a time for individual reflection*

Prayers

please use today's entry in the prayer diary to guide your intercessions

The New Creation Prayer:

Loving God, you are one-

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, united in peace.

Unite our two traditions and village communities into one body- your body, and sustain our rich diversity we pray.

We give you thanks for your commitment to your people of every age and place.

We ask for your help to fulfil our commitment to you and each other.

Grant us your peace, that we might grow in patience and humility,

and help us to leave behind all that might hinder our unity as we walk with you.

Enable us, by your Spirit, to work together in peace in a new way,

to love our neighbours as ourselves and to honour Christ as Lord. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer is said

The Conclusion

Bind unto yourself the name, the strong name of the Trinity;

by invocation of the same,

the Three in One and One in Three.

Of whom all nature hath creation,

Eternal Father, Spirit, Word:

praise the Lord of your salvation,

salvation is of Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

(St Patricks breastplate prayer)

If you would like to join with others in saying daily prayer, please see Pew News for details for the coming month.