



New Creation Churches

December 2020

Prayer Diary

The word became flesh and
made his dwelling among us.

John 1:14

Christmas

One of the many sentiments i have heard a lot recently is that we should start Christmas much earlier this year as its been such a tough one for everyone, and we all need some extended festive cheer. That may well be true although you would have to go a long way to equal the sight that once greeted me on a night shift, emanating from a Bristol tower block, namely an inflatable flashing Santa with Ho Ho Ho lit up on his portly frame, very festive indeed but this was actually in August.

Although we are now in the wonderful season of celebrating Jesus birth in a lowly Bethlehem stable, when does Jesus come alive for you? Maybe in sung or spoken worship, in public or private prayer, in Homegroup, maybe just in stillness. Christmas Day is on December 25th, but it wasn't always. It is not the date mentioned in the bible as the date of Jesus birth, the Bible remains silent on the day, date or time of year when Mary gave birth. But does the time really matter, what does matter is the message of hope and fulfilling of prophecy. Whenever Christmas is celebrated, we need to remember we are celebrating a real event from 2000 years ago when God sent his son into the world as a Christmas gift for everyone.

Christmas is the spiritual reflection on the foundations of the Christian faith, and is also a celebration. We should celebrate Gods love for the World through the birth of Christ, the fulfilling of the Old Testament prophecies anticipating the coming Messiah.

So this year, when you feel ready, put up the tree, the lights, hang the decorations, blow up the inflatable Santa, but more importantly wish each other merry Christmas, call on a lonely or vulnerable neighbour, pray for those you may not be able to get together with as planned, and remember and spread the real Christmas message, that Jesus was born to save us all. In the words i saw on a car sticker in front of me recently, "Remember, Jesus is for life, not just for Christmas."

God Bless everyone, and wishing you the joy and Peace of Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. Amen

Bible Verses

"Today in the town of David, a Saviour has been born to you, he is the Messiah, the Lord."

Luke 2:11

"The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."

John 1:14

"For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the Government will be on his shoulders, and he will be called wonderful counsellor, mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6

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 .

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 december. 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.