



New Creation Churches

February 2021

Prayer Diary

**Be kind to one another,
tender hearted, forgiving one
another as God in Christ
forgave you.**

Ephesians 4:32

Kindness

As we move on into 2021 and leave the Christmas season behind, our ability to be kind has never been more important, God's basic command is for us to love one another, sounds simple but we are frequently found wanting in this regard. Kindness underpins the Gospel message and the various fruits of the Spirit blend well with one another (kindness involves love, longsuffering, self-control, etc.) for good reason: God is complete and balanced. Kindness is another area that keeps our spiritual attitudes and lives balanced, and fulfils our spiritual inheritance from God. The writer Maya Angelou recognised the potential impact of kindness, saying, "People will forget what you said, forget what you did, but will never forget how you made them feel." So How do we show more of it?

Often it's the little things that count. Striving to show more of these tender mercies to others little by little will add up to a completely changed overall attitude, one formed by kindness. Leaving the Christmas season behind does not mean leaving the innocent and loving wonder of the Christmas story behind too.

We need to make room for kindness in our personality and daily schedules. This may mean changing routines, taking more time for other people and developing an attitude of giving. It won't happen overnight, nor should it be forced or insincere, but the more you think about showing more kindness, the more your daily life will be impacted by that thinking. Don't squander opportunities for kindness. They often come around several times a day. If you are ready for them, you can make the most of them. If you miss one, then strive to show kindness next time, as Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "you cannot do a kindness too soon for you never know how soon it will be too late." A sobering thought indeed.

Kindness is not a selfish attempt to get something for ourselves. It is a show of mercy and love to other human beings with no thought of reward. May we all develop the same type of love and kindness God has for us to make our struggling world, and those struggling within it, a brighter, happier place. We cannot all do great things, but we can do little things with great love as Mother Theresa said.

New Year Resolutions come and go, and get broken, so maybe in the uncertainty of the coming months, the guarantee we can all try is to show kindness in thought, word and deed. We need this pledge to each other to be honoured more than ever. Amen

Bible Verses

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another as
God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32

Love is patient, love is kind, it does not envy or boast, it is not
arrogant, conceited or rude. 1 Corinthians 13:4

Whoever pursues righteousness and kindness will find honour,
righteousness and life. Proverbs 21:21

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 February Thank you.*

Current Prayer Diary Editorial team: David Ashton-Hilton, Mo Barber, Avril Chadwick, Liz Cran, Grace Isaac, 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.