

NEW YEAR'S DAY: Lord, we thank you for the gift of a New Year. Motivate us by your Holy Spirit to love you with all our hearts, souls, minds and strength, and to love our neighbours as ourselves. Help us to follow the example of Jesus who was obedient to you for our sakes.

Tuesday 2 January: We pray for all who take up their work again after the holiday period. We also give thanks for those who have worked during the holidays. May they know how much their work has been appreciated.

Wednesday 3 January: We pray for the work of all Aid Agencies. Please empower them for their work. We ask Lord, for the day when all people will have their needs met as righteousness and justice prevail.

Thursday 4 January: We pray for schools, colleges and universities as a new term begins. Bless the staff and students, and may all learning be in accordance with your will.

Friday 5 January: We pray for the Queen and Members of Parliament. Particularly we pray for those involved in the Brexit negotiations. May they be saved from self-promotion and work for the good of all in our country and in Europe.

Saturday 6 January: EPIPHANY “Blessed are you Sovereign God, our light and our salvation. To you be glory and praise for ever. You gave your Christ as a light to the nations. Through the anointing of the Spirit you established us as a royal priesthood. As you call us into your marvellous light, may our lives bear witness to your truth and our lips never cease to proclaim your praise. Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.”

Sunday 7 January:

Lord, as we remember the Baptism of Christ today, we give thanks for our baptism and for our Christian name – the name by which you know each one of us. We pray for children who will be baptised at St. Margaret's this month, & for their parents and their godparents

Monday 8 January: We pray for all those in the industries of farming, fishing and commerce. These are days of uncertainty. Protect them from stress and anxiety as they await decision for the future.

Tuesday 9 January: We pray for the sick in body, mind or spirit, and especially those known and loved by us. Give healing to the ill, and compassion to their Carers.

Wednesday 10 January: We pray for all who work in the Criminal Justice System. Protect them from the evil they deal with. Give them wisdom & understanding for both victims and perpetrators.

Thursday 11 January: We pray for the emergency and rescue services. Keep them safe and may their work whether paid or voluntary bring good results.

Friday 12 January: We pray for refugees and homeless people, for the Night Shelter as they welcome guests on Saturday evenings. We pray also for FIND and for our longing for the day when these initiatives will no longer be needed.

Saturday 13 January: Grant to us Lord, time and commitment to prepare ourselves to meet with your Risen Son in the Breaking of the Bread as we gather in your house with your people tomorrow.

Sunday 14 January:

“This is the day that the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.”

Monday 15 January: We give thanks for the beauty on the natural world and its resources. We give particular thanks for our county of Suffolk, its beautiful countryside, large skies, rivers and coastline. May we see your creative work and enhance it with our own creativity.

Tuesday 16 January: We lift up to you today our families and friends. We give thanks for all the love & joy they bring into our lives. Forgive us if there is tension and disagreement among us. May we forgive and be forgiven.

Wednesday 17 January: We are in the middle of the month. Help us Lord, always to be constant in our daily prayers. If we have promised to pray for someone, keep us faithful to our promise.

Thursday 18 January: Beginning of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Lord, may we be willing to look outside our comfort zones and experience the expression of faith in others.

Friday 19 January: We pray for our Christian brothers & sisters in this town. May we appreciate their presence in our community and share our faith and fellowship with them.

Saturday 20 January: We pray for Christians who live in poverty and under oppression. May they know your love and be strengthened by our prayers, concern and help.

Sunday 21 January: Lord, give peace in your church. Where there is dissension bring harmony.

Monday 22 January: We give thanks and pray for the members of Tacket St .Congregational Church who shared a number of monthly evening Celtic Worship Services with us.

Tuesday 23 January: We pray for leaders of many Christian churches throughout the world as they struggle with persecution and other problems situations. Give them wisdom, courage and integrity as they lead their people

Wednesday 24 January: We pray for the Archbishops Justin Welby & John Sentamu, and for our own Bishops, Martin & Mike. May they be true shepherds of your people.

Thursday 25 January: **Conversion of St. Paul.** Almighty God, who caused the light of the gospel to shine throughout the world through the preaching of your servant St. Paul; grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion may follow him in bearing witness to your truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Friday 26 January: **Timothy & Titus**
Heavenly Father, who gave Timothy & Titus to be Paul's companions. Grant that our fellowship may bear witness to the name of Jesus, who is alive & reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Saturday 27 January: Lord, may we all work for the unity which we have prayed for during this week of prayer for Christian Unity, and be aware of your answers to those prayers.

Sunday 28 January: We pray for David our Vicar, John & Keith our Associate Priests, and Sarah our Reader in Training. Empower them with your Holy Spirit as they minister to us.

Monday 29 January: Lord, we give you thanks for the Bible. May we be diligent in reading it and seeking your guidance to understand it and apply its message to our lives.

Tuesday 30 January: We pray for all translators and scholars as they bring a better understanding of the Bible to us. We pray also for the Open The Book teams who go into our local schools to teach children the stories in the Bible.

Wednesday 31 January:

O Holy Spirit, giver of light and life, impart to us thoughts better than our own thoughts, and prayers better than our own prayers, and powers better than our own powers, that we might spend and be spent in the ways of love and goodness, after the perfect image of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH IPSWICH

PRAYER DIARY

JANUARY 2018

Prepared by Helen Elliston