



THE UNITED PARISH
Christ Church & St John's



Prayer Warriors December 2022

Thank you for picking up this sheet of prayer requests, and becoming part of the growing number of people in our church family who pray every month for the needs of the many organisations that we are involved with.

This will be the last prayer sheet until the New Year. I'm afraid that I am no different from everyone else and no matter how hard I try I get sucked into the busyness of Christmas to some degree.

So this year I am determined to be more disciplined with my time, so that Clive and I can spend more time with each other and with our family, and most importantly in sincere appreciation of the unbelievable gift that God gave to us when His only Son was born to save us.

The poem below was written by Bert Rea, a member of St Johns congregation.

The Reason For The Season

Life is so busy, with work and meetings,

It can be demanding and give us some beatings,

But at the end of the year, we can be of good cheer,

For Jesus was born, to give hope to the forlorn,

He is the true reason, for this wondrous season.

So love those we hold dear, and to those in need, lend an ear.

Enjoy the festivities and all the good eating's,

And give God thanks, and everyone else, Seasons Greetings.

Please continue to pray whenever you can and wherever you can.

Praying for a blessed Christmas and joyous New Year for everyone

Yours in Christ

Leigh Henderson

Some prayer points from Rev Jonny

Pray for Michael Ogilby as he continues to provide lay reader support to both the parish and to the Diocese.

Pray for those within our church family who will find Christmas especially difficult either due to loneliness or worry. Pray that we all can reach out to those in need at this time of the year.

Pray as I begin to gather the Alpha leadership team together for our 2023 Alpha. Thank God for those people who have offered to help lead.

Pray for energy for David & myself in the busy run up to Christmas.

Pray for those young people who are being confirmed by Bishop George on 11th December.

Pray for the young people that we will be taking on mission in July 2023 to Spain.

Pray that others will come forward to help with the Warm Spaces scheme to give a warm place to people in our community.

Compassion Ministries – Frances Wilson

As the cost of living rises, please continue to pray for those in our community who are struggling to deal with financial hardship and whose mental health may be suffering as a result.

Give thanks for the dedication of the volunteers in our various compassion ministries.

Give thanks that we have been able to connect with several local organisations to work together for the good of the community.

Pray that those who receive from our compassion ministries will know Gods love.

Baby Basics – Give thanks that planning permission has been granted for the dedicated unit at Christchurch. Pray Gods wisdom for the team as this project progresses. Give thanks that for the 77 referrals we have had this year helping teenage mums, victims of abuse and refugees. Thank God for those who send the referrals and deliver the baskets. Give thanks for everyone who donates.

Munch on Mondays – Pray for those who visit the table. Give thanks for the relationships we are building with our regulars and pray that there will be more who will benefit from this ministry. Pray that some people would be lead to the Alpha course in January. Give thanks for Ballynure Co-op and for their willingness to help families in need.

Food Bank – Please give thanks for our links with this wonderful organisation and for guidance as to how we can continue to work together.

CAP Life Skills – Our next course is planned for January 2023. Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us to individuals and to potential referral agencies. We are grateful for that a number of people have already expressed an interest in attending.

Winter Coats Appeal – Give thanks for our new partnership with Redeeming our Communities to provide a winter coats project in Ballyclare, and for the kindness and generosity of those who donated the overwhelming quantity of coats.

Parish Organisations

Mothers Union – Vera Jones

Please pray for the 16 days of Activism Campaign 25th November (International day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) until 10th December (International Human Rights Day). Our Global Day of Action is marked on 26th November when we call specifically for an end to the violence and abuse suffered by both men and women. Our Parish supports the 16 Days of Activism Campaign and both our church buildings are recognised as safe spaces where victims are welcomed and assisted.

Please also pray for the many initiatives MU is involved in on local, national and worldwide basis.

As we approach December and look forward to Advent and Christmas may we as MU members in our United Parish send Seasons Greetings and Christian love to all our parishioners.

Select Vestry

Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance on the Select Vestry in all matters that they have to deal with.

Pray for the work that is about to commence on the Baby Basics unit in Christ Church, that all aspects of the install go according to plan.

As we recommence recruitment for the Music Ministry co-ordinator in St John's, pray that God will direct Rev Jonny and the Vestry to the right person.

As the economic situations become difficult in our country, pray that the Select Vestry will continue to be wise stewards of the money that God has blessed us with.

Youth & Children

Boys Brigade – Ian Heaney

Please give thanks that all three sections have had a strong and positive start back after 3 years of disruption.

Numbers are high, kids are getting on well, and we have had boys come in from new families in all sections.

Getting BB back to what it was has gone very smoothly and myself and the other leaders are truly grateful for this. So, yes, at this point in time please give thanks to Almighty God for all aspects of our work in BB.

Friday Night Youth Bible Study – Tim Burns

Please continue to pray for this group as they explore faith and what it means for their lives. Give thanks that the group is eager to engage with the Kintsugi Hope material. Pray that they would learn from it and support each other as they work with it and talk through their mental health. Pray for wisdom for the leaders that they would lead gently.

Please pray for the work of preparing the Youth Mission team for 2023 through partnership with Exodus. Pray for those who will be going to serve from the church next summer in Europe. Give thanks for the team of leaders who will support our young people through training and preparation.

Please pray that the NUA Origins material would continue to help encourage the group to think about faith and how important it is. Pray that they continue to find it motivating and helpful in their day to day faith.

Youth & Children

St Johns Creche – Kirsty Jess

Please pray for the new format of crèche in St Johns. Holding it at the back of church means lower volunteer numbers are required and parents have a space at the back of church for active children during worship. Pray that numbers will rise for regular attenders and volunteers, so we can maybe revert back to the old format in the future.

Christchurch Youth Bible Study – Alison Campbell Smyth

Please give thanks for this bible study group which has just started up on a weekly basis. It is an answer to prayer by a faithful God. Please pray that good relationships will be built with the teens and that they will be shaped by the Holy Spirit in these important formative years. Pray that more young people would consider joining each week.

Mission- (Home & Abroad)

CMSI – Bert Rea

Kenya – Please pray for the 4 million people who are currently facing hunger due to the worst drought in 40 years, with no rain at all for the last 4 rainy seasons. Many of the domestic animals essential for food and survival are dying eg cows, sheep and goats. Wild animals are also suffering. Many schools don't have food for school meals, so children have to sit through the day with only water to fill their stomachs, making it very difficult to study. Pray that God will send rain, and that sufficient food will be available to prevent starvation .Please also pray for the many aid agencies as they become involved in the crisis.

COP27 has recently met in Egypt to discuss the ongoing climate emergency, with particular regard to the effect on areas such as food, agriculture, water, nature, oceans and human settlements. Please pray that all world leaders at COP27 will carry through on their promises.

Pray for the small team who are beginning to develop a partnership plan with CMSi.

Alpha– Jill Clayton

Please pray for the Alpha course starting at 6.30pm on Sunday 15th January in St John's Church.

Pray that God will be preparing people to respond positively to invitations and that members of the congregation will invite friends to come to find out more about the Christian faith.

Pray that as banners are displayed, they will attract people in the community to enquire about the course.

Give thanks for the team, praying for them as they work together on practical arrangements, getting to know each other and train to host and help with the small groups.

Please also pray that others from the congregation will be willing to help set up and serve refreshments at the beginning of each evening.