



THE UNITED PARISH
Christ Church & St John's

PRAYER WARRIORS

MAY EDITION



Thank you for picking up this Prayer Warrior's booklet for May. We are all appreciative of your prayers.

I have a really good book, here at home. I've had it so long I can't remember when or where I bought it. It's by Bill Hybels and it's called 'Too Busy Not To Pray'. It is very well thumbed.

Regular readers of this sheet will understand I struggle with the discipline of a regular time of devotion. While flicking through Bill Hybels book recently I came across a section which reminded me that as a Christian, Gods presence is with me wherever I go and whatever I do. I know that at any point in my day I can share my heart with him, and he will listen to me. I can communicate with him whenever I want. It has nothing to do with being in a church building or down on my knees.

With that thought in mind, please join with me and the large number of people who 'chat' to our Mighty God and Saviour on a very regular basis.

Yours in Christ

Leigh Henderson.

Prayer Points from Revd Jonny

Like the Apostle Paul wrote on many occasions, I give thanks for the faithful witness of our church in the community of Ballyclare and Ballynure. Pray that we would never lose our passion and fervour for the Good News message of the risen Lord Jesus Christ, and the hope that he brings to every person.

Pray for every person that teaches within our church family, whether from the front of our churches, in our bible study and home groups, that they would remain faithful to God's word and not veer away from it as other churches are doing (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

In this month with the forthcoming General Synod of the Church of Ireland (10th & 11th May) in Armagh, pray for those members gathering from across Ireland that they would be guided by the Holy Spirit in all the decisions they make for the life of God's Church.

Pray for our young people – they have so much to contribute to the life of our church and are a powerful witness of God's love in our community. Pray that God would guide those who have any school exams, that they would know God has incredible plans for their lives and it is his provision that will sustain them and not this world's.

Pray for our newly appointed Select Vestry as they oversee the operational issues within the life of our parish, and those people who have been appointed to specific roles in both churches. Pray that they would know God's strength in the year ahead.

Continue to pray for our church family in Christ Church, that it would grow in number, with an increase in young families.

Pray that God would sustain me in the months ahead – there are a number of demands on me at present that only God is able to priorities – so please be praying for the Exodus Team, for the preparations for the Holiday Bible Club, for my role as Rural Dean, for my pastoral care to many sick and elderly in the parish, for my chaplaincy role in Antrim Hospital.

Please continue to pray for the Exodus Team and our planning for Tarragona. This month the leaders will have further training to do which will be vital for the mission. So please pray for Claire, Josh, Cameron and myself.

There are several building issues that the new Vestry will be working through – there are significant issues with fire safety and health & safety in the buildings, plus significant repairs to the Rectory and Christ Church. Pray that God will provide the resources necessary for these important tasks.

Pray for the paperwork that needs completed to allow the advertising of the Christ Church Organist / Music Direct role to go out. This is an important role for the parish, and sometimes the other pressing demands on me prevent me from getting through the to-do list.

Pray for our current staff – for Chris McCabe as Music Ministry lead for St John's and David Brown as Parish Administrator. Thank God for their support to me and their dedicated commitment to see Christ proclaimed across the parish.

Parish Groups

Mothers Union- Vera Jones

Please pray: -

That there will be ladies willing to let their names go forward for the upcoming election of new All Ireland and Connor Diocesan Officials.

Please pray for members and their families in Zambia, Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria and South Korea with whom we are joined in our MU Wave of Prayer

Please give thanks for: -

The wonderful gathering of MU members we joined from the length and breadth of the Diocese in St Anne's Cathedral in April to celebrate our Annual Festival Service.

For the events happening in May which our members will be attending-

The Connor Diocesan Big Sing in All Saint's Parish Antrim. Favourite Hymns and Worship Songs have been collated and we will join to raise the roof in joyful worship to God.

Our Branch Outing to the Yarns from the Bible Exhibition in St Catherine's Parish Killead. This is an exhibition of hand-crafted knitted tableaux patchwork depicting familiar scenes from the Bible.

Please continue to remember our Indoor Members in prayer. Hilda and Vera enjoyed a visit to each of them in their homes at Easter bringing a small gift. Your faithful prayer support of Mothers' Union is greatly appreciated.

Prayer Ministry Team- Andree Bradley

Please give thanks for answered prayer as we welcome young adults, who have come forward to serve on the Prayer ministry team.

Please pray for the team going forward as we pray together for a suitable Church environment for prayer ministry during our meeting in May.

Genesis Art Fellowship

We have been working through the bible chronologically and are currently working through the book of Job.

Please pray: -

For God's blessing of provision.

That we would continue to grow in a Godly understanding of the creative life.

That we would have discernment to be able to develop the group with Gods guidance.

That the group membership would grow as God wills and in his timing.

That God would continue to speak to us powerfully through his word.

Give thanks for: -

The great facilities in a beautiful location-Christ Church Hall.

Blessing us with a steady group of members with a diverse interest in arts and crafts.

The success of our endeavours and the support of the parish.

CMSI - Bert Rea

Please pray for all in Nairobi which has been hit by devastating flooding, the combined effect of the El Nino weather phenomenon and the Indian Ocean Dipole climate pattern has created heavy rains and caused floods to ravage East Africa. CMSi have launched an urgent financial appeal to help those in the partnership area.

Please continue praying for Tujisaide school leaders as they adjust to the new Competency Based Curriculum.

Please continue praying for the health of the elderly Gacucu (little grandmothers) community members.

Please continue praying for the resources for the remaining part of the Tumaini Centre of Excellence.

Please continue praying for Tumaini football team, which was newly promoted, but is finding the competition in the higher league challenging.

Please give thanks that the full 45,000 Euros grant from Irish Mission Agency Mísean Cara has come through for the Tujisaide school building project. This amount has been supplemented by a generous 9,000 Euros grant from Electric Aid, plus co-funding from CMSi link parishes and supporters. Also, please pray for the ongoing building work that will continue in the school over the next year.

Please continue praying for our link partners Antony, Louise, Isabelle, Lucy, and Kathleen as they serve the mission and call of the Tujisaide Self-Help Group.

Release International – Lisa Willet

Iran:

Give thanks for new translations of the Bible in Iran's minority languages. Pray for those involved in producing and distributing them - for safety, wisdom, and finance. Pray that the Bibles will reach those in the underground church who are most in need of a source of hope, strength, and encouragement as they face significant opposition.

India:

Parliamentary elections begin this week. Pray that people will feel free to vote democratically. Pray that the elected government will repeal the divisive anti conversion laws, which are leading to an increase in violence and arrests.

Boys Brigade- Ian Heaney

So, BB is over for the year! All the displays went well, and it was a great end to the year. However, just because BB as a programme is over does not mean by a long way we are done! There will be the junior section camp at the rectory, nights out with the company section, and our DofE is in full swing, as I have already mentioned in the past!

We have gold and bronze out in May and gold to follow up in July with their gold expedition in Wicklow.

All these things need prayer because it is only by the grace of God that we do any of it!

Friday Night Discipleship Group- Tim Burns

We are coming to the end of our Friday nights and our young people are starting exams soon. Pray for them as they study: - some have GCSEs, AS' & A levels and also university exams. Pray for those who are thinking of attending university and for those wondering what to do after GCSEs. Pray that we continue to stay connected with them as they take different future paths. Please pray for those young people preparing for summer teams and camps.

Youth Worship Team – Rev Jonny

Over the last year we have been blessed to have the young people in St John's leading worship once a month. We are beginning to consider having a monthly evening worship gathering starting in September. Pray that God will guide those who are beginning to plan for this, that they would clearly hear His direction.

Compassion Ministries- Frances Wilson

General

Give thanks that we are privileged to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community. Give thanks for the connections we have made with the recently formed Rashee and Erskine Community Group. Give thanks that there are 2 Christians on the committee and pray that their influence will spread throughout the community. Give thanks for our amazing volunteers who are so committed to these ministries. Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us as to how we spread the good news of Jesus through the compassion ministries. Pray for opportunities to have conversations about our faith. Our desire is to see lives transformed and for people to come to know God.

Pray for God's guidance regarding which organisations we should engage with to connect with people who will benefit from our ministries. And for the individuals we connect with through the compassion ministries and for those who need help but are afraid to ask.

Baby Basics

Give thanks for the generosity of organisations and individuals who donate to us, and for the referral agencies who collect the packs to take to their clients.

We have received 32 referrals so far this year. Pray for these families; although we do not meet them, we hear their stories - teenage Mums, victims of domestic abuse, refugee. In April we helped a family whose landlord put them out of their home after they made a complaint to the authorities that he had done nothing to fix excessive dampness in the house. Pray for God's guidance as we continually seek new referral agencies.

Munch on Mondays

Give thanks for the continued support of Ballynure Co-Op and for the recent donations we have received from the Ballyclare Milestone Spar and St Vincent de Paul.

Give thanks for the funding provided by Antrim & Newtownabbey Council which has allowed us to provide additional food.

Christians Against Poverty

Give thanks for the ways in which we can link our ministries, thinking particularly of the Life Skills course we are currently running with Women's Aid, one of our Baby Basics referrers. Pray for the ladies who have joined us on the course. - Pray for the plans for a further course in September based on our connections with the Rashee & Erskine community group.

Kintsugi Hope

Pray for the individuals who have joined us for our first course which started in the middle of April. Give thanks that the group has come together well and for the good conversations we have shared. Pray for Liz and Frances as they plan the sessions.

School Uniform Scheme

Give thanks for the many individuals who donate uniforms. Give thanks for the vouchers received from Antrim & Newtownabbey Council which recipients can use in Sport 'n' Sound. As we distribute the vouchers, please pray for wisdom so that we will know who is most in need.

Foodbank.

Give thanks for the cooperation between our ministries and the Ballyclare Foodbank. We help each other with, for example, toiletries and nappies and we have shared food donations provided by the Spar at Ballyclare Milestone.