

Children & Families

It was very clear on the Day Away that many of us have a desire for our church to connect with children and their families across all the different age groups. We have an amazing number of links with pre-school children through Squeals but we need to explore ways to deepen and continue those connections as the children get older in a way that enables them and their families to come to faith.

Let's pray:

- for the existing teams involved with children - Squeals, Young Church, Youth, Open the Book
- for a deepening of the links we have already
- for godly inspiration and creative thinking
- for courage to experiment with new things

Christmas Opportunities

• **Christmas Lights Switch On Evening:**

We will be opening up the Church for refreshments and family activities through the evening. Pray for the planning team and for fun and good connections with people. *(If you'd like to be part of the team, come to a meeting in the Church on Monday 7th November at 7.30pm)*

• **Carol singing, mince pies and prayer on Oxford Street:**

Saturday 10th December, 10.30 to 12.30pm *(meet to prepare in the Church from 9.30am)*. This is our 'One New Thing'! Pray for joyful voices, good contacts and spiritual impact.

• **Lunchbreak Carols:**

This happens on Wednesday 21st December at 1pm for those who work in Ripley. A team will be going around Ripley businesses with invitations on Tuesday 13th December from 11am. Pray for God's blessing for the businesses, for response to the invitations and for encounter with God through the Service. *(If God is prompting you to be part of the invitation team, let us know)*

On a separate sheet or on the website, you can find the '**All Saints Civic & Christmas Prayer Diary**', which will give you further guidelines for prayer.



'SAINTS ON THE MOVE' DAY OF PRAYER

Tuesday 1st November 2016

*Stretching out our hand
to be a people of blessing*

As we continue as 'Saints on the Move' together, we are setting aside Tuesday 1st November as a day of prayer. We invite you to join us in whatever way you can as we seek to listen to what God is saying to us as a church, stir up faith and courage through the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit and pray for his loving purposes to be fulfilled in the lives of individuals and in our town and communities.

We encourage you to consider fasting in some way on the day. The guidelines for fasting prepared by Nicky during September are available on a separate sheet or on the website, if you are interested.

In this leaflet you will find some resources to encourage and inform you in your praying. Pray on your own, or in 2s and 3s, wherever you are through the day. Then, if you can, come to the Church to join together in prayer at:

9 to 9.30am

12.30 to 1.30pm

7.30 to 9pm

GIVE THANKS

'Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.' 1 Chronicles 16:34

Let's make sure we spend time expressing our thanks to God for the signs of his work among us.

Love & Grace

Thank God for the love and grace he pours out on us day by day, which we can so easily take for granted. Take time to think about how you've received that love and grace in recent days or how you've seen it in the lives of those around you. Express your thankfulness.

Freedom

Give thanks for the freedom that we have received because of Jesus, as individuals and as a church. Celebrate the wonderful truth that you are a child of God.

Remember the chorus of the song *'No longer slaves'*:

'I'm no longer a slave to fear,
I am a child of God.'

and our declaration as a church:

'We're no longer a church of fear,
we are a church of God.'



LISTEN TO GOD

'Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.' Jeremiah 33:3

On our Church Day Away, we shared many thoughts, dreams and ideas as we looked to the future. Now is the time for us to be discerning together the specific things that God is calling us to do next and the ways that might happen. We long to be led by him in everything. On this Day of Prayer, we encourage you to pray for God's clear leading for us as a church and to spend time listening to him - and, if you think God is saying something to you, please let us know.

STIR UP FAITH & COURAGE

'Stand firm in the faith; be courageous;' 1 Corinthians 16:13
'Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power'

Ephesians 6:10

We believe that in this new season for us as a church, God is calling us to be a people of faith and courage, and to do things that would be impossible without God.

In Acts, the early church often prayed for courage and boldness to share the Gospel and were empowered by the Holy Spirit (eg Acts 4:23-31).

Let's pray:

- for faith and courage to rise up in us
- for boldness to share the Good News of Jesus
- for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit among us



PRAY FOR GOD'S PURPOSES

'Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven' Matthew 6:10

Please feel free to pray in the way that God leads you. However, there are some clear areas for prayer that have emerged out of our Church Day Away, which we encourage you to focus on:

Alpha

We are going to be running the new version of the Alpha Course starting with an introductory supper on **Monday 20th February**. The course will then run on Monday evenings through until the week before Easter with the Day Away on Saturday 1st April.

Let's pray:

- for people to come to faith and become disciples
- for God to show each of us who to invite and how to be involved
- for the planning, publicity and practicalities
- for continuity afterwards