



CHRIST CHURCH ABINGDON

PRAYER DIARY DECEMBER 2021

A green shoot will sprout from Jesse's stump, from his roots a budding branch. The life-giving Spirit of God will hover over him, the Spirit that brings wisdom and understanding, the Spirit that gives direction and builds strength, the Spirit that instils knowledge and fear of God.

Isaiah 11:1-2 The Message

SUNDAY 5TH DECEMBER At NCR: 8am HC (BCP) with Keith Dunnett; 10.30am "Joy" *Isaiah 35:1-10* with Steve Sanderson; 6.30pm "Welcoming God in the Waiting" *Luke 1:26-38* with Paul Brombley. At LF: 10.30am Advent 2 (HC) *Malachi 3:1-4 & Luke 3:1-6,7-18* with Anne Taylor. Children's groups on both sites looking at Joseph's Adventure and the birth of Jesus. Pathfinders & Lazars (Yrs. 7-9) are continuing their study in Philippians; 4Filled (Yrs. 10-13) are also meeting at LF. Service of Living with Loss at 3pm at NCR; please pray for all those who are living with loss in this season. At 4pm - Christmas Cookies baking on Zoom, a LF social for all ages. Give thanks for James and Cherry Tweed being so good at organising LF winter socials.

MONDAY 6TH FRONTLINES: Dominic Finch, IT Sales Account Management. **SMALL GROUPS:** Monday Life Group, leaders Gerry Wood & Jean Knight.

Meeting God in the Silence, in the prayer room from 10:30am and 7:30pm with refreshments beforehand. **Please pray for students** returning from university over the Christmas period to reconnect with friends and with their church family at CCA. **Pray for all young people who are being supported by The Abingdon Bridge.** This time of year can often be challenging for those with anxiety, stress or depression. Pray that the message of the angels of peace and goodwill may find a place in their troubled lives.

Pray for the staff team; pray for Nessa Watts, our Curate.

TUESDAY 7TH FRONTLINES: Agnes Foday, Carer. **SMALL GROUPS:** Jeeva Life Group – Emil & Leilani Jeevaratnam; Revival Missional Community – Lucy Ffrench & Alison Winder; Good Shepherd Life Group – Lesley Chapman & Gwenda Sams.

FOODBANK (leaders Hilary Beale & Agnieszka Candan) is open today. Pray for the extra volunteers who are assisting on most days until 17th December. **ARCHWAY staff** are filling 250 Christmas Goody Bags ready for doorstep deliveries by volunteers and staff. Pray for safe travel and meaningful doorstep conversations. **LF Coffee Break** had hoped to meet in homes today and next week and then have a break in meetings over Christmas, resuming with a home meeting in January, but these meetings may now have to be via Zoom. Please pray that they can balance continuing to enjoy each other's company and support, while keeping the vulnerable safe. Pray for peace for those who find the current uncertain situation stressful. **John Owen and the prison team** leading Alpha and visiting men on the wings in HMP Bullingdon.

Pray for Ros Steel, Associate Pastor.

WEDNESDAY 8TH FRONTLINES: Keith Foreman, Active retired. **SMALL GROUPS:** Jars of Clay – Jeremy Fry & Jo Walker; Midweek Prayer Group – Jackie Tattersall.

Wednesday 8am prayer meeting on Zoom. **LINK** (leader Kath Cooke) meets this morning. **South Abingdon FOODBANK** open today (leader Ray Ball). **Pray for the team of volunteers** putting together the 450 packs for Christingle services on Christmas Eve. **FRIENDLY CUPPA** (leader Jane Robinson) in the LF Community Centre this afternoon; please pray that the message of Jesus' birth will make sense and move guests' faith forward. **The Men@CCA Core Team** will meet this month to pray and plan for 2022. Please pray that they would have ears to hear God's plan for them, that 2022 becomes a year when God equips men at Christ Church to turn **outwards** to other men to tell them about the Gospel, to grow **inwards**, strengthening fellowship through prayer triplets, mentoring and mutual accountability and finally, to look **upwards** to know God as our Father and to serve as brothers in Christ, filled by the Holy Spirit. **LF Night Prayer** - weekly prayer at 9pm on Zoom.

Pray for Sue Quantick, Older Person's Ministry Leader.

THURSDAY 9TH FRONTLINES: Esther Fox, OT Abingdon Hospital. **SMALL GROUPS:** Faith & Cake Life Group – Lizzie & Tim Shipman; Abi & Jon Waldock; Kitchener’s Life Group – Andrew & Hannah Kitchener. **THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP** (leader Doreen Cooper) Prayer Fellowship today. **SINGING CIRCLE** (leader Jane Robinson) meets this morning at LFCC. **Pray for the team led by Penny Smith and Maggie Baker Rawle** at Abingdon Court Care Home. Pray for one or two more people to join the group. and for the residents and staff as they prepare for Christmas. **CiA staff** meeting this morning. **Lunch Club at Fitzharrys School**, with Bea and Stephanie leading the Wellbeing Course in partnership with Deb from Peachcroft Christian Centre. **GENESIS** (Yrs7-9) meets at 6.30pm, finishing The Wellbeing Journey. **Justice & Inclusivity group** meeting tonight; give thanks for this group and pray for wisdom for the next steps. **News from Sarah Walker and Chris Parkman** (Mission Partners, A Rocha, France) “Today is the predicted completion date for the roof renovations on one of Les Courmettes’ two main buildings – we are praying this goal is met!” **Heather & Shannon** at Dunmore school to talk about the Christmas story and Christingles. **Pray for Alex Horlock, John Owen, and Sue Robbins** (Prayer Ministry).

FRIDAY 10TH FRONTLINES: Simon Furlong, Social worker.

MISSION PARTNERS: Pray for Peter and Jane Dunn (Biglife, Sheffield) “We praise the Lord that Jane is recovering from a health problem and pray for her as she has further treatment over the Christmas period.” **FOODBANK** open today. Please pray for Aga our coordinator, that she will manage to ensure the smooth running of our normal Foodbank processes during this busy time. **CLOTHES BANK** in the church hall from 11.00am - 12.45pm. **Sarah Walker** travels to Vancouver, Canada for six weeks – a time of remote working, visiting A Rocha Canada and supporters, and spending precious time with family after a two-year absence! (Return: 22 January 2022). Please pray for smooth travel and flights unencumbered by cancellations or restrictions, and for grace and peace along the way in the uncertainty. Chris is joining Sarah in a few days. **SPACE meets tonight** – finishing The Wellbeing Journey.

Pray for Gabrielle Dent & Janice Wenninger (Pastoral Visiting). **Pray for Christine Bell** (Pastoral Prayer Ministry).

SATURDAY 11TH JOY! Christmas Party this afternoon; pray that all guests will feel known and welcomed and enjoy the celebrations.

Please pray for the preparation of our Christmas services, for the choir, brass band and string ensemble who will lead the music at our Carol Services on 19th December. **Pray for the Tech Team** over the Christmas period; pray too for people to step forward to facilitate the running of services as we move towards the new model in January. **Pray for those with caring responsibilities and those with long-term illness or disability:** Joy Batty, Paula Beal, Mike Bowles, Caroline & Ellen Craig, Pamela Fitt, Veronica Harden, Peter & Eileen Jeffries, Alan & Doreen Newton, Andy & Sue Porter, David & Barbara Price, Debbie Purbrick, Chris Rowe, Brian Stanmore, Sheila Tubb, Nessa Watts and other church members who are ill, housebound, or recently bereaved.

SUNDAY 12TH At NCR: 10.30am “Love” (HC) *Isaiah 40:1-11* with David Tyler; 6.30pm “Worshipping in the Waiting” *Luke 1:67-80* with Andrew Coleby. Children’s groups on both sites looking at the Shepherd’s adventure and having a Christmas party! Brunch for Pathfinders/Lazers—last event with this age group on Sunday mornings for the term. At LF 10.30am Morning Worship Advent 3 with Becca Williams preaching from *Luke 1:39-45*. Wellspring gathering for contemplative worship in staff room. ROOTS Christmas Social at 4.30pm.

MONDAY 13TH FRONTLINES: Joanna Gladstone, Teacher.

MISSION PARTNERS: Pray for Sheila Furlong (CEO, Archway Foundation, Oxford). Pray for Ashleigh Gibb, currently living and studying in UK.

Biglife: Pray for an event in South Wales today with church leaders, to share the vision for disciple making.

MWM at 2:30pm in the Barn to share readings and pieces of music. This is the final MWM gathering, after 12 years of faithful ministry. We thank the Lord for the leaders, and their love, care and wisdom. **LF leadership team meeting** tonight.

Pray for the staff team; pray for our cleaning staff, Mark Chapman, Joanne Elliott and Naomi Challis.

TUESDAY 14TH FRONTLINES: Jonny Grange, Farrier.

SMALL GROUPS: Rainbow Life Group – Hugh Price & Clare Simpson; The Wellbeing Journey Group – Rosemary Green.

FOODBANK open today. Please pray for all volunteers engaged in this work, both behind the scenes and in the church buildings during these busy days. For many volunteers this is their opportunity to hear the

message of Christmas. **John Owen and the prison team** leading Alpha and visiting men on the wings. **Mission Partner Sheila Furlong** is attending a launch of All Party Parliamentary Group on Loneliness.

FOOTPRINTS meets this morning in the Barns with Ros Steel speaking. Pray for guidance for the team as they think through how they might introduce ways of sharing Jesus with guests. Please pray that the team will make wise and sensible decisions that guests will find helpful. **SPACE Band** meeting tonight to rehearse in church, final session of the term.

Pray for Andy Dent and Andy Lowe, church wardens.

WEDNESDAY 15TH FRONTLINES: Sarah Grange, Mum / Carer. **SMALL GROUPS:** Village People – Mike & Jan Haywood.

Pray for Leilani Jeevaratnam, Methlyn Regisford and Sarah Turner ministering to the residents of Fountain Court. **Wednesday 8.00am prayer meeting** on Zoom. **LINK** - Christmas Nativity celebration (last meeting of term) - please pray for families to enjoy being in church and to see that Jesus is the heart of Christmas. **FOODBANK** team making up the extra parcels to give out to agencies tomorrow and to clients on Friday, then next Wednesday. **South Abingdon FOODBANK** open today over lunchtime. **LF Night Prayer** at 9pm on Zoom.

Pray for Hilary Beale, Philip Bingham and Paul Brombley, deputy wardens, and **Martin Steel**, treasurer.

THURSDAY 16TH FRONTLINES: Rosemary Green, Home, family, church family, Footprints. **SMALL GROUPS:** Snowball Life Group – Ian & Maggie Snowball.

THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP: “Christmas Praise” a shared celebration of words and music. Some members are going for a Christmas Meal at The Spread Eagle afterwards. **Lunch Club** at Fitzharrys School with the Well-being Course. **SINGING CIRCLE** meets this morning for the last session at LF Community Centre. Please pray that the message of Jesus' birth will help to grow and develop faith in families. **GENESIS** (Yrs7-9) meets at 6.30pm, for a joint social with SPACE (final event of the term for both groups).

Pray for Roland Knight, Parish Safeguarding Officer, **Val Challis, Karen Brombley & Anne Taylor** as Safeguarding Advisors, and for **Val Challis & Sarah Brombley** as trainers.

FRIDAY 17TH FRONTLINES: Alison Grieve, Credit controller. **SMALL GROUPS:** Friday AM Women's Life Group – Claudette Beale. **FOODBANK** open today with parcels given out. Give thanks for the many donations received which will ensure sufficient funds are available to meet the needs of all families and individuals this Christmas. **Duchess Nursery** (opposite NCR) in church this morning for a nativity play. **As schools close for the Christmas holidays,** pray for pupils, teachers and all school staff to have healthy and blessed Christmas breaks after a particularly challenging year in school. **Twass the Night before Christmas** - LF Zoom social - pray that this may be a time of hope, joy & welcome for all. **Pray for John Rogers,** chair of Mission Support Group.

SATURDAY 18TH MISSION PARTNERS: **Pray for Tabitha Jorden** (Agape, Cambridge). **Pray for Mission Partner Martin Riddall** (AFCM, UK). **LF Christmas Exhibition "What does Christmas mean to you?"** from 10am-4pm, LF Community Centre. Please pray for this community outreach, for people to contribute art & poetry, for local people to come and discover more about the real meaning of Christmas. Pray especially for Jane Robinson as she co-ordinates this event.

SUNDAY 19TH At NCR: Carol Services at 10.30am (indoor) and 6pm (outdoor in the car park) – carols, choir, Christmas readings, mulled wine and mince pies. LF Christmas Celebration at 10.30am with Ben Jeapes speaking - a special celebration, people of all ages contributing, younger youth band playing. Pray for everyone involved in all these services and for a sense of joy and hope in the worship, whether people are on livestream, Zoom or in person.

MONDAY 20TH FRONTLINES: Delyth Hallion-Gammon, Foster carer **MISSION PARTNERS:** **Pray for Jason and Sarah Thomas,** currently living and studying in UK. They write "We are part of a new church plant in a predominately South Asian part of London. Pray that this Christmas season we would be able to share the hope of Jesus with many in our community."

"Babs of Bethlehem" at 7pm – fun and laughter for all ages. **Pray for the staff team; pray for Keith Dunnett,** our vicar.

TUESDAY 21ST FRONTLINES: Susan Harbour, Strategic Partnerships Manager. **SMALL GROUPS:** Tattersall Life Group – Jackie & John Tattersall. Tuesday Life Group – Esther Fox & Viv Hitchings; Turner Life group – Andrew & Gill Turner.

Chris Parkman (Mission Partner) travels to Vancouver, Canada to join Sarah and her family. Chris leaves Canada on 10 January for a few days in the UK with his parents before returning to France on 16 January. **FOOD-BANK** open today, pray for those for whom this is a lifeline as Christmas approaches. **John Owen and the prison team** leading Alpha and visiting men on the wings.

Pray for Heather Hughes, Children's Minister and **Shannon McCairns**, Associate Children's Minister.

WEDNESDAY 22ND FRONTLINES: Neil Harrison, Retired. **SMALL GROUPS:** Warburton Life Group – Dal & Olivia Warburton.

Wednesday 8.00am prayer meeting on Zoom. **South Abingdon FOOD-BANK** open today. **Local Houses of Prayer:** Give thanks for a second group now up and running and covering its own area of Abingdon with blessings and intercessions. Give thanks for the green shoots of God's work that we are seeing. Pray that others would catch the vision of a lifestyle of local mission through prayer. **LF Night Prayer** at 9pm on Zoom.

Pray for Bea Ellaby Youth Pastor and **Stephanie Addenbrooke**, Associate Youth Pastor.

THURSDAY 23RD FRONTLINES: Mike Haywood, preaching team, 6.30 leadership team, lifegroup leader, engagement with local community. **SMALL GROUPS:** Thursday Afternoon Life Group – Kath Cooke & Janice Wenninger. Thursday Evening Life Group – Andy & Sheila McCabe.

Pray for the final Christingle preparations to be ready for tomorrow. **Pray for Clint McVea**, Operations Manager.

FRIDAY 24TH CHRISTMAS EVE:

Reading Matthew 1:18-23 THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Christingles: At NCR at 3pm and 4.30pm - **SPACE Band** are playing at the Christingle Services, pray for them as they prepare to lead. **11pm Midnight Communion** with carols. **LF Christingle services** at 3pm and 4.30pm in LF school. The LF youth band are playing for these Christingle services. Pray for people from our community to come and discover Jesus' light and love - for safety too, at every service.

MISSION PARTNERS: Pray for Viva (Children's charity, Oxford). Twenty-five Viva partner networks worldwide are hosting Christmas Parties for thousands of vulnerable children, even with Covid-19 restrictions. Pray for each child who attends a Viva Christmas Party, that they would have an amazing time on the day and real hope for a better future. **FOOD-BANK** open today; pray for anyone who feels alone and desperate. **Pray for Suzie Miles**, Church Administrator and Vicar's PA.

SATURDAY 25TH CHRISTMAS DAY: Reading Psalm 63:5-6 FEAST

At NCR: 8am Communion service with carols; 10am Christmas Family Worship. At LF: 10am- LF Christmas Family Worship - in LF school & on Zoom. Pray for those who find Christmas to be a painful time, that they may know the peace of Christ and His love for us all.

SUNDAY 26TH BOXING DAY: No services today.

Today is the Feast of St Stephen - Pray that we may always be eager to serve the Lord and that we may never hesitate to do all we can to answer God's call in our lives.

LF Boxing Day Walk at 10.30am.

MONDAY 27TH Reading Luke 2:8-14 GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY

FRONTLINES: Pat Herbert, former Mission Partner, church helper. **SMALL GROUPS:** Didcot Life Group - Nat Abbot and Yvonne Voyce. **Pray for Kath and Phil Cooke**, Associate Vicars.

TUESDAY 28TH Reading Matthew 18:1-5 A CHILD

FRONTLINES: Charles Hipsley, workplace ministry. **SMALL GROUPS:** Bingham Life Group - Diana & Philip Bingham; Coffee Break on LF - Pearl Renshaw & Jane Johnson; French Life Group – Marcus & Joanna French. **NO FOODBANK open today.** Pray that anyone needing emergency food will find support from other emergency services.

Pray for Matt Dobie, Digital Production Manager.

WEDNESDAY 29TH Reading Luke 2:15-19 MYSTERY

FRONTLINES: Nick Humphreys, Teacher. **SMALL GROUPS:** Barnabas Life Group – Mel Pickett & Claire Proudman; Helen & Nalin Life Group – Helen & Nalin Kadodwala.

Pray for Phil Adams, Manager of the Barns Café.

THURSDAY 30TH Reading Isaiah 9:2,6-7 PEACE AND JUSTICE

FRONTLINES: Viv Hutchinson, Teacher. **SMALL GROUPS:** Bible Journaling – Anne Taylor; Dubock Life Group – Andrew & Sally Dubock. **Pray for Jo Greenaway, Hannah Kitchener** (maternity leave), **Alex Lister** (Supervisors) and **Jo Walker** (Admin), staff of the Barns Café.

FRIDAY 31ST Reading Matthew 25:34-40 CARE FOR THOSE IN NEED

FRONTLINES: Julia Jamieson, Solicitor in Wills and Probate.

MISSION PARTNERS: Pray for Andy and Andrea Warner (ECM, Castellon, Spain). They write “Two non-Christian friends of Juan (a Christian) joined us at his house for the ninth episode of Alpha. They found it bewildering to join in the middle. Please join us in praying that they would be interested in starting from the beginning in the New Year.” **Pray for Chris and Suzy Wilson** (CMS, Ethiopia) – they have moved temporarily from Ethiopia to a place of safety elsewhere. **FOODBANK** open today. **Pray for Chris Ellaby and Jonny Grange**, Worship Pastors and **Jan Haywood**, Worship Coordinator. Pray for the move to three Sunday services in January, for new members to join the team and wisdom for the further development of worship within our church.

SATURDAY 1ST JANUARY 2022 NEW YEAR'S DAY

Reading Luke 2:15-19 GIVING THANKS

COP26 has come and gone, and Christian organisations including A Rocha have done what they can to influence the results. The climate crisis is still with us, and next year will be about the biodiversity crisis. But it is still God's world. Pray that will know how to look after it. “The whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth,” wrote Paul (*Romans 8:22*).

SUNDAY 2ND At NCR: 10:30am Morning Worship, with the baptism of Oscar Mann; children in church for first part, and then to family activities in the Barn; 6:30pm evening service. At LF 10.30am All-age Communion with James Tweed. Mission of the Month for January is Viva.

MONDAY 3RD Reading Mark 6:30-34 REST AND RESTORATION

FRONTLINES: Emil Jeevaratnam, Retired GP, MOD. **SMALL GROUPS:** Monday Life Group, leaders Gerry Wood & Jean Knight.

Meeting God in the Silence will pause in January and re-launch in February with some additional teaching/sharing on contemplative prayer before moving into silence.

Pray for the staff team; pray for Nessa Watts, our Curate.

TUESDAY 4TH Reading Colossians 3:16 CAROLS

FRONTLINES: Andrew Kitchener, Software Developer, Tessella. **SMALL GROUPS:** Jeeva Life Group – Emil & Leilani Jeevaratnam; Revival Mission- al Community – Lucy Ffrench & Alison Winder; Good Shepherd Life Group – Lesley Chapman & Gwenda Sams.

FOODBANK open today. **LF Coffee Break** resumes today. **SPACE Band** resumes tonight. **Standing Committee** extended meeting this evening, looking at the vision for the buildings on the NCR site.

Pray for Ros Steel, Associate Pastor.

WEDNESDAY 5TH Reading John 1:1-5, 10-13 GIVING AND RECEIVING

FRONTLINES: Jean Knight, Active retired, co-leader of lifegroup, member of several local interest groups. **SMALL GROUPS:** Jars of Clay – Jeremy Fry & Jo Walker; Midweek Prayer Group – Jackie Tattersall. **LINK** planning meeting. **LF Pastoral Group** meet for prayer today.

Pray for Sue Quantick, Older Person's Ministry Leader.

THURSDAY 6TH Reading Matthew 2:9-12 JOURNEYS

FRONTLINES: Roland Knight, Active retired, Safeguarding Officer, Mission Support Group. **SMALL GROUPS:** Faith & Cake Life Group – Lizzie & Tim Shipman; Abi & Jon Waldock; Kitchener's Life Group – Andrew & Hannah Kitchener.

The Prayer Space team are setting up the Reflective Space at Rush Common School. **THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP:** Chris Bryan (The Abingdon Bridge) is speaking at Thursday Fellowship today. Chris will share the work of The Abingdon Bridge helping young people in our town and his own years of involvement.

Pray for Alex Horlock, John Owen, and Sue Robbins (Prayer Ministry).

FRIDAY 7TH FRONTLINES: Jane Lane, Family, Listening, pastoral and prayer ministries. **MISSION PARTNERS: Pray for Peter and Jane Dunn** (Biglife, Sheffield) ask "Pray for wisdom as we begin to make plans for 2022. May we use our time wisely and well."

FOODBANK open today. **CLOTHES BANK** in the church hall from 11am - 12.45pm.

CONNECT – our big launch event tonight for the term where all young people aged 11-18 are invited to come for games, worship, teaching and prayer.

Pray for Gabrielle Dent & Janice Wenninger (Pastoral Visiting). **Pray for Christine Bell** (Pastoral Prayer Ministry).

SATURDAY 8TH *Pray for our Youth Ministry: for preparations for this new term, for our regular programmes at church but also as they prepare to go into schools again. **The Youth Weekend Away** is fast approaching (18th – 20th February) and Bea, Stephanie and their team would love your prayers for that as they prepare, so that they can facilitate a space where the young people can meet with God and experience His love.*

SUNDAY 9TH At NCR: New adult teaching series “Practising the Way of Jesus”. New NCR service pattern starts today: 9:30am contemporary service with children’s groups and Pathfinders for 11-14s. 11:20am - launch of new congregation. 6:30pm Evening Worship. Children’s groups on both sites start their new series with “Today I declare...I am a Child of God” (Parable of the Good Shepherd).

Readings from “At the Heart of Christmas” 12 days of stories and meditations for Christmas – The Church of England

churchofengland.org/AtTheHeartOfChristmas

