

WEEKLY PRAYER DIARY Week beginning 18th March 2018

SUNDAY – we are called on to pray for those in authority (1 Timothy 2:2), and we are aware that much wisdom is needed in the current world climate. Pray for wisdom and sensitivity for Donald Trump as he prepares to meet with Kim Jong-Un, and also for Theresa May as she seeks to handle the diplomatic crisis with Russia in the right way.

MONDAY – continue to pray for wisdom for leaders, thinking especially about the situation in Syria. The situation is extremely complex, and leaders in the international community need great wisdom and discernment, as well as mercy and compassion, as they consider how to act. Pray that all concerned will be mindful of the basic human needs of ordinary civilians in considering how to act, as well as the particular needs of minority groups such as Christians.

TUESDAY – continue to pray for Syria, and today for aid agencies and Christian organisations seeking to help those in need. They also face the complexities of the situation, and need to be wise to know who they can partner with so that the aid goes to those who actually need it (some groups in Syria take aid and use it for their soldiers and their own families, or sell it at extortionate prices). Pray for Open Doors, Barnabus Fund, Samara Levy (who provide direct aid, and medical help) among Christian groups, and any other aid agencies you know of working there. Ask that aid gets to the people for whom it is intended, and that the love of Christ will be ministered to them at the same time.

WEDNESDAY – pray for our local area, and for the many who don't know Christ. Thank God that we can still speak openly about our faith, and ask that He will help us to use the opportunities we have to do so. Pray for our witness to people over the Easter period, thinking especially of Holy Week: from the concert on Wednesday, through the Passover meal and the Passion Play and other reflections on Good Friday, to Easter Day itself. Ask that the Lord will draw people to these events, and through them, to Himself, and that He will help us prayerfully to invite people we know to one or more event.

THURSDAY – please pray for institutions and organisations in our local area which shape our young people and their view of the world. Pray today for primary schools, secondary schools and colleges, that they will be places which nurture the gifts and talents of young people, instil confidence in them, and help them to find their way in life. Pray that Christianity will keep a voice within all schools, and that Christian schools will maintain their distinctiveness in an increasingly secular world, as well as striving for excellence in education.

FRIDAY – continue to pray for those who have influence on our young people, through youth clubs, sports clubs and other organisations such as scouts and guides. Pray that they will be safe places for young people to be, and that people seeking to abuse them would be kept far from such groups; and also that they will be able to help young people to avoid problems such as knife crime, cyber-bullying, anorexia, stress from pressure to achieve etc. Pray that Christian organisations in particular can show them a path of hope.

SATURDAY – today is the vision day for our young people's work. It's important that we communicate God's good news to this generation (Psalm 78:4), so please pray for wisdom for church leaders as we meet to decide on how we should do that. Ask that they would be ready to scrap cherished ways of doing things, if they aren't in accordance with what God wants for us now, and that they will be open to new ideas, and new ways of working which will help young people to know the Lord.

Events this Easter

**Wednesday
28th March**

- **Stainer's
'Crucifixion'
7.30pm @ St Paul's**

**Maundy Thursday
29th March**

- **Passover Supper
6.30pm**

**Good Friday
30th March**

- **Passion Play
7pm @ St James'
hall**

**Easter Day
1st April**

- **Dawn service
6am @
Furzedown Rec**
- **Holy Communion
10.30am**



**REMEMBER!
CLOCKS GO
FORWARD ON
SUNDAY, 25TH
MARCH!**