



Prayer Diary - Dec '23

"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective"
James 5:16

Fri 1 December is a busy month. May we take time to know Jesus and share His love.

Sat 2 Pray that Scripture Union Christmas Workshops in Special schools and Learning Support Units shine God's light into minds and hearts.

As Jax McCallum, E3 Schools worker, gets to know schools, churches and volunteers in East Belfast, pray that she will know the Lord's favour, wisdom and direction.

Sun 3 Pray for Frank as he preaches on 'The last words of David' (2 Samuel 23, 1 Kings 2). Then for Stephen as he leads in the evening on 'Jesus: better object of our faith' (Hebrews 11:1-39). May we focus on the ultimate sacrifice Jesus made as we share in Communion.

Mon 4 Let's pray for our BB's evening of Carols and mince pies. Pray for all those who will take part and attend.

Tues 5 Praise God for Coffee Club and pray for those who will enjoy time together.

Presbytery meets in Mountpottinger at 7.30pm, ask for God's guidance as decisions are reached.

Pray for East Belfast Men's Prayer Walk which takes place at 7.30pm tonight from Skianos. Pray for the men taking part as they walk the community praying for a harvest of souls for Christ.

Wed 6 Praise God for Samaritans Purse Shoe Box appeal **which shares God's love with children worldwide.**

Thurs 7 Ladies, join our PW celebration of Christmas as we hear about Christmas in different lands, do some craft and rejoice together in the birth of our Saviour.

Fri 8 Please pray that families will be able to cope in the face of rising fuel and food prices. Thank God for the work and witness of Store House and the Larder in fighting food poverty.

Sat 9 Charis Christmas party this morning. We ask God for a wonderful morning for Charis families.

Gentle and Quiet Service at 3pm. May those who attend sense God's comfort and love and be reminded 'The Lord is close to the broken hearted'.

Sun 10 Pray for Kidzone All age service. May families hear God's message and open their hearts to Jesus. Pray for Frank as he leads our evening service 'Jesus: better motive for holiness' (Hebrews 12:1-17).

Mon 11 Remember to thank God for all His goodness to us in so many ways, 'God is good'.

Tues 12 Karen and Pete continue to be thankful for the opportunity to be at Union and for the friendship and fellowship amongst their year group. There is a heavy workload between now and the end of term with another Greek exam on 13th December and final assignment for the semester due on 15 December. They ask for stamina to make it through and also that they wouldn't simply be absorbing head knowledge, but rather experience heart transformation as they learn.

Wed 13 May Jolly Tots families have a good party as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Community Carols at Walkway at 7.30pm. Pray for a good attendance and witness.

Thurs 14 Thank God that the position of Community Support Officer at Walkway was successfully filled. Pray that people with the requisite skills would join Walkway's Management Committee.

Fri 15 Pray for Jack McQuillan, Tullycarnet's community outreach worker, as he makes new and important contacts with other community leaders. Please pray for special Christmas events.

Sat 16 Pray that the recent "Poverty on Your Doorstep" conference would enable churches in East Belfast to present a strong witness of Christ's love and care to their communities.

Sun 17 Stephen preaches this morning on 'The throne of His father David' (Luke 1:26-28).

Carols by Candlelight service this evening. Pray for Frank as he leads, for the choir and worship band and for visitors who will come to the service.

Mon 18 May the right people give prayerful thought to applying for the PCI Accredited Preacher Scheme.

Tues 19 Our Soup Club Christmas party. Pray that those who attend will feel blessed and cared for.

Wed 20 Pray for those who are on their own at Christmas and for whom the season is not full of joy. Remember those who are lonely, suffering from ill health or hurting from the loss of a loved one. Make us mindful of the need for pastoral care and our duty and privilege to love and serve one another.

Thurs 21 Remember Frank as he speaks at Strandtown Primary School Assemblies this morning.

Fri 22 Remember all those who will be travelling over the festive period. Pray for safety and that God will bless time spent together reconnecting with family and friends.

Sat 23 Pray for the parents in our Charis family who are looking to the future when they may have to seek help to care for their grown-up children who have additional needs. Give them wisdom as they consider the options available to them and give them peace, knowing that their children are in your loving hands.

Sun 24 Pray for Frank as he leads the Christmas Eve service 'The house and line of David' (Luke 2:1-7). We pray for families who bring their children for baptism.

Mon 25 We celebrate the birth of Jesus at 10.30am as Frank preaches on 'The town of David' (Luke 2:8-20). Again, pray for visitors attending church today who wouldn't normally come. Our Christmas Day offering will be given to the PCI World Development project which this year is called 'Starting from scratch. Hope for the displaced', with focus on people in Sierra Leone and Bangladesh. May our congregation give generously.

Tues 26 December prayer points from 'Jews for Jesus':

'Pray for peace and God's protection over our staff who are on the front lines of the war. Pray for Israeli and Palestinian believers throughout the land to shine the gospel at this dark time. Ask for grace and strength for Jewish believers. Spiritual break throughs and protection for our staff in the midst of the war Ukraine. Spiritual growth for children who prayed to receive Jesus at our summer camp in Moscow'.

Wed 27 Pray that imprisoned Christians and their families will be sustained by God's grace, presence, love and power. We continue to remember our brothers and sisters in Afghanistan, Eritrea, Nigeria, North Korea and across the globe.

Thurs 28 Pray for our young people returning to university, may they settle quickly.

Fri 29 We lift up our Elders before God in prayer. May He guide and direct them in their numerous roles and may we as a congregation support them.

Sat 30 As we approach the new year ask God for a hunger and vision to pray to rise up within BPC family and for an out pouring of the Holy Spirit.

Sun 31 Pray for Stephen as He leads our morning service 'King David's greater Son, filled with wisdom and grace' (Hebrews 13). Pray for our Welcome in the New Year Watchnight service at 11pm. May there be a good attendance and may Jesus be our focus for 2024. Help us to be mindful of those for whom the new year is going to be difficult for whatever reason. May we uphold them in prayer and care for them.