

St Catherine's Church,  
Littleton



***Mission Prayer Diary***  
***March - April 2023***

# Welcome

We hope that this prayer diary may help you in focussing your prayers in support of the mission interests of St Catherine's Church family.

Our world is broken; our TVs and phones show us news alerts of the latest tragedies, both man-made and due to natural disasters. But God is at work in the midst of chaos. And through prayer, we can join him in bringing healing to our broken world.

*Lord Jesus Christ,  
Lord of every far horizon  
And of every faithful heart  
Take our small service  
And weave it into your grand purpose,  
For your honour and glory we pray.  
Amen*

John Proctor, *The People's Bible Commentary: Matthew*, BRF Centenary Classics (BRF, 2022)

Please join with us and share in bringing the concerns of our world before God, whose love and compassion know no limits.

#### 5 – 11 March

Focus on: **MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship), with Ben and Esther, Barny and Reuben Brown**

- Pray for Ben and Esther, as they prepare to leave for Arnhem Land, northern Australia on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, and that Barny and Reuben will adjust to all the changes. Give thanks Ben and Esther have managed to secure 100% of their required funding.
- Give thanks that MAF are able to transport 30 secondary school students from around 6 homelands in Arnhem to one school where they are all taught together before being flown home at the end of the week, allowing them to receive education.
- Pray for the new trainees who have begun their studies here in the UK. They will become the MAF aircraft maintenance engineers and pilots of the future.

#### 12-18 March

Focus on: **Open Doors**

- **India** – 2023 has already seen violent attacks on Christians by Hindu extremists. Pray that the Indian authorities will take action to support and protect Christian communities.
- **Somalia** – Violent extremism is on the rise, with the insurgent group al-Shebaab repeatedly expressing its desire to eradicate Christians from the country. Pray that Christians will be surrounded by God's peace and protection.
- As part of Open Doors' *Hope for the Middle East* campaign, 160 Centres of Hope have been established in Syria and 126 in Iraq, providing practical and spiritual help. Praise God for these centres and pray that each one will further spread hope this year.

#### 19-25 March

Focus on: **Chris and Kesia Pain (OMF Japan), Caleb, Jonathan, Carys and Megumi**

- Pray for good fellowship and a real sense of unity within OMF Japan. This month there are 3 members' meetings. Pray that the outcome of discussions will be better partnerships and renewed efforts in church planting for the glory of God and salvation of many.

- Pray for Carys and Megumi's preparation for baptism. The girls also have a piano recital on 30<sup>th</sup> March – please pray for them as they are both feeling stressed about it.
- Pray for several colleagues who have significant health issues, praying for God's healing hand and comfort.

#### 26 March – 1 April

##### Focus on: **Tearfund**

- Pray for Tearfund's local church partner in Aleppo, Syria, responding to the recent devastating earthquake, opening shelters and providing blankets and clothing. Pray for those facing further bereavement, and loss of homes and livelihoods.
- Pray for Tearfund Regional and Country office teams, for God's protection and guidance in their work.
- Praise God the Ebola outbreak has been officially declared over in Uganda, without significant cases occurring in Kampala, where rapid transmission of disease was expected due to overcrowding in slum areas.

#### 2 April – 8 April

##### Focus on: **Bishop Nick and Catherine Drayson, serving in Argentina with CMS**

- Pray for Nick who has recently suffered a heart attack and undergone cardiac bypass surgery in Argentina. Pray for a full recovery and time for rest and recuperation. Pray for Catherine as she supports him.
- Pray for the process of appointing Nick's successor as Bishop of Northern Argentina and also as Primate of the province of South America. A nominating committee has been set up; pray for God's guidance and wisdom.
- As Nick and Catherine prepare to leave Argentina they ask for prayer for the transition of the next few months, the farewells as well as the new things starting up.



### 9 – 15 April

Focus on: **Father Winston Williams, Guyana**

- Continue to pray for health and strength for Winston in his new role in Bartica. Access to more remote settlements can involve walking, getting lifts and travelling by boat.
- Pray for Winston's family who are still living in Jawalla. Winston is only able to visit every few months, so pray for his wife as she maintains the family home and subsistence farming with help from family members.

### 16 – 22 April

Focus on: **Karis Kids (Kampala)**

- Pray for our link church St Paul's and the ministry of the leadership team led by Revd Captain Jackson in the slum area of Okuvu, Kampala. Uphold the nine families supported by the Downs Benefice.
- Praise God that several of the parents in these families have, in a recent Karis prayer meeting, made commitments to follow Jesus. Pray for them in their faith journey.
- Pray for parents needing to make decisions about whether to move their children to different schools because of funding issues due to the increased cost of schooling and falling exchange rate on funds received from UK donors.

### 23 – 29 April

Focus on: **Winchester Organisations**

- **Winchester City Chaplaincy** – Pray for the city centre chaplains who visit staff working in the city at their workplaces, building friendships, listening to and supporting them.
- **Winchester Street Pastors** – Pray for the volunteer street pastors who offer reassurance, safety and support to those working in or enjoying our city's night time economy.
- **Trinity Winchester** – Pray for the 'Big Sleep Out', occurring on 12<sup>th</sup> May, a major fundraiser for Trinity, but also a way of raising awareness of the needs of the homeless in our city.

Contacts:

Tearfund	Carol Ward
MAF	Hilary and Janet Shaw
Open Doors	Carol Ward
The Brickworks	Carol Ward
Guyana	Christine Disher
CMS (Draysons)	Alan Disher
Basics Bank	Carol Ward
Trinity Winchester	Alan Disher
City Chaplaincy	Carol Ward
Winchester Beacon	Carol Ward
Chris and Kesia Pain (OMF Japan)	Carol Ward
Karis Kids	Carol Coleman

“Lord, help us to do whatever  
You ask of us.”