

Bible Reflection – Psalm 118:1,29

Song – Forever

Praise and Thanksgiving



1. Our Church Family

Knowing God Better: Responding to God's Word

- Pray that we would be hearing and responding to what God has to say to us through John 7-11 this term.
- Pray for God's help and leading for all those preaching.
- Pray our small groups would help us to apply God's word to our lives and be faithful in prayer.
- Pray for the development of discipleship ministries at OPC.

Those in Leadership Positions

- Anna De Castro (Minister for Children, Youth & Families), Michael Nicholson (Associate Vicar), Chris Tufnell (Vicar)
- The PCC and Wardens.
- Pray for our various ministry teams and their leaders, serving diligently and often in the background.
 - Spotlight – Sunday Club leaders.

Evening Service

- Pray this would be used by the Lord to strengthen his people and to reach more in our parish.
- Pray for wisdom in how we best use this opportunity to gather together and reach out.

Safeguarding

- Pray that we would be a caring church community that reflects his goodness and love especially for the vulnerable.

2. Our Local Mission

Coumes Brook Residential Care Home

- Pray for the team who hold Sunday afternoon services for residents. Next service: 16th March.
- Pray for the ability to communicate the love of God from the Bible in an accessible way.

Our Welcome

- Give thanks for non-Christians who join us most Sundays. Pray for help to welcome them well.
- Pray for our community-facing groups to be a pathway towards faith in Jesus (e.g. toddler group, baby group, men's forum, dads club, café)

St Matthias Stocksbridge

- Pray for the appointment of a Planting Curate.
- Pray for provision of funding following a substantial request for support from the Church of England.

Easter Opportunities

- Give thanks for opportunities to share the good news of Jesus as we celebrate Easter.
- Pray that many in our community would hear and respond to the news of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Those who are unwell or grieving

- Unwell: Roy Womack, Doreen Brook, Evelyn Coulson, Olwyn Scarffe, Di Elliot, Dave Elliott, Brenda Birks, Andy Overton, Pam Dewsbury, Brian Tomlinson, Diane Mallinson, Graham Calderbank, Janet Calderbank.
- Any others known to you who are unwell or grieving.

University Students

- Pray for the university students in our church family, that they would be growing in maturity as disciples of Jesus.
- Pray for students to make the most of the unique opportunities they have for evangelism.

Children, Youth & Families

- Pray for our Sunday Club and Creche teams to skillfully use every opportunity with the children for the Gospel. Pray for more volunteers to join these teams and for God to provide enough leaders to start a third group.
- Pray for our two Youth Small Groups – that the Lord would continue to create meaningful gospel friendships and deepen their love for Jesus as they open up His Word.
- Pray for Youth Extra – that it would be a great time together, growing in their desire to be living for Jesus.
- Pray for our youth to grow in their faith and love for Jesus as they get stuck in with serving at church.
- Pray for Phil Hobbs and the team as they launch a new Kids Club on 12th March. Pray for children to be reached with the gospel.

Your Mission

- Pray for one person you are seeking to bring to the Lord.

321 Course

- Pray for this course (running on Sunday afternoons in May), for a team of leaders, for the Lord to bring people along and ultimately bring them to know Jesus.

School Links

- Give thanks for the regular opportunity to lead assemblies at OPS. Next visit: 15th April.
- Pray these would be fun, engaging and clear.
- Pray for links with other local schools to grow.

Local Church – St John's Chapeltown

- Pray for their Christianity Explored course, which includes six non-believers.
- Pray for someone to step forward to serve as a new Churchwarden.
- Pray for grace and courage following some people leaving the church due to St John's faithful teaching on marriage and sexuality.
- Pray for wisdom and financial provision as their buildings need significant repair.

3. Our Country and the CofE

- Pray for our government to use their power in the service of others and to protect the most vulnerable.
- Pray that the government would preserve the freedom for Christians to practice and share their faith.
- Pray for Christian politicians of all parties to be faithful ambassadors for Christ.
- Pray for the selection of the next Archbishop of Canterbury and Bishop of Doncaster.
- Pray for the work of The Alliance and CEEC (Church of England Evangelical Council) as they represent orthodox churches in responding to the proposed 'Prayers of Love and Faith'.
- Pray that the House of Bishops would pull back from forcing a split in the CofE.
- Pray that Bishop Pete (Sheffield), Anna De Castro (General Synod) and others would be strong in contending against these developments.

4. Ukraine & Russia, Israel & Gaza

- Lament over the evil of war and the lives that have been lost or devastated. Ask the Lord to bring peace.
- Pray for all affected by war to find a spiritual peace through the gospel and faith in Jesus.
- Pray for churches as they seek to minister to people in a time of war with the message of hope.
- Pray for wisdom for leaders in the international community as they seek to provide support.
- Pray for the ceasefire in Gaza to hold and for it to lead to lasting peace.
- Pray for God's help for those returning to destroyed homes and communities in Gaza.

5. God's Global Mission

Pray for Galeed House, working cross-culturally in Darnall.

- Pray for God to direct everything the staff and volunteers do at Galeed House.
- Pray for their new satellite site in Firth Park—for the Lord to bless the new ministry there, currently including a 'safe space' for women from many different cultures to make new friends and learn English.
- Pray for Outreach Worker, Amer. Give thanks for relationships he has seen growing. Pray for ongoing positive contact with local mosques.
- Give thanks for the increase in regular attendees at the men's English classes.
- Pray for visits to local schools with Open the Book – for children to engage with the stories about Jesus.
- Give thanks for the interest in the homework club. Pray for relationships to grow with the local families who regularly bring their children for homework help.

Pray for Panshak Panbish, his wife Esther and their children.

Panshak works in the Bishop's office in Jos, Nigeria.

- Give thanks to God with Panshak and his family as they see God at work in their lives each day.
- Pray for Gracious and Sunday, two men OPC are funding through ordination training.
- Pray for the new Bishop of Jos, Ephraim Gongden, to lead with a heart for God and the Gospel.
- Pray for protection for God's people facing persecution in Nigeria. Pray for courage and boldness to continue proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus.
- Pray for the growth and success of the national 'Jesus-Focused Youth Ministry' youth leader training.

Pray for Mark and Rebekah, training in Southeast Asia with a mission agency for cross-cultural work.

- Give thanks for God's financial provision for them.
- Pray that they pursue godliness as they study and relate to others at the Language Learning Centre.
- Pray for the children who came to a Christmas event and who now attend regularly, that they would be drawn to Jesus.
- Pray for people to come to lead the children's work at their planned annual conference in the summer.
- Pray for Mark's family with upcoming changes in care for Mark's parents.

Pray for Eleanor Brook, working for one year as an intern at Highfields Church, Cardiff.

- Give thanks for her enjoyment of learning in the weekly Bible teaching.
- Give thanks for encouragement from the children's 'Equip' group studying Ezekiel, as they and Eleanor have grown in knowledge, love and understanding of God.
- Pray for Nexus, the student Bible study, as they continue to study the book of Daniel this term.
- Pray for a parent from the toddler group who has been attending the Christianity Explored course.
- Pray for the 9-week Pastoral Care Course that Eleanor is attending.
- Pray for God's guidance and peace as Eleanor applies for different Physio roles to begin in September.

Song – Christ Our Hope in Life and Death

Please note: The next Church Family Prayer will be 7th May, meeting in the Parish Centre.