

Monthly Prayer Gathering for February



Psalm 55

For the director of music. With stringed instruments. A maskil of David.

¹ Listen to my prayer, O God,
do not ignore my plea;
² hear me and answer me.
My thoughts trouble me and I am distraught
³ because of what my enemy is saying,
because of the threats of the wicked;
for they bring down suffering on me
and assail me in their anger.
⁴ My heart is in anguish within me;
the terrors of death have fallen on me.
⁵ Fear and trembling have beset me;
horror has overwhelmed me.
⁶ I said, 'Oh, that I had the wings of a dove!
I would fly away and be at rest.
⁷ I would flee far away
and stay in the desert^[a];
⁸ I would hurry to my place of shelter,
far from the tempest and storm.'
⁹ Lord, confuse the wicked, confound their
words,
for I see violence and strife in the city.
¹⁰ Day and night they prowl about on its walls;
malice and abuse are within it.
¹¹ Destructive forces are at work in the city;
threats and lies never leave its streets.
¹² If an enemy were insulting me,
I could endure it;
if a foe were rising against me,
I could hide.
¹³ But it is you, a man like myself,
my companion, my close friend,
¹⁴ with whom I once enjoyed sweet fellowship
at the house of God,

as we walked about
among the worshippers.
¹⁵ Let death take my enemies by surprise;
let them go down alive to the realm of the
dead,
for evil finds lodging among them.
¹⁶ As for me, I call to God,
and the Lord saves me.
¹⁷ Evening, morning and noon
I cry out in distress,
and he hears my voice.
¹⁸ He rescues me unharmed
from the battle waged against me,
even though many oppose me.
¹⁹ God, who is enthroned from of old,
who does not change –
he will hear them and humble them,
because they have no fear of God.
²⁰ My companion attacks his friends;
he violates his covenant.
²¹ His talk is smooth as butter,
yet war is in his heart;
his words are more soothing than oil,
yet they are drawn swords.
²² Cast your cares on the Lord
and he will sustain you;
he will never let
the righteous be shaken.
²³ But you, God, will bring down the wicked
into the pit of decay;
the bloodthirsty and deceitful
will not live out half their days.
But as for me, I trust in you.

A Time of Sharing

What can we thank God for in our lives and in our church?

How have we seen God at work in our lives and in our church in the last month?

Praying for our 2025-2028 Vision

Bible teaching and prayer at the heart of every part of Church life

- Give thanks for the recent 321 course.
- Pray for our Sunday services and our current sermon series in 1 Thessalonians.
- Pray for our church prayer life that we would be marked by dependence on God. Pray for increasing opportunities for informal prayer.

- Pray for each of our midweek groups.
- Pray for our ministry in Sunday Club, Impact, Glow Club and Roots.

A church where everyone can use and develop their gifts to serve God.

- Give thanks for our preaching ALMs (David Clover, Alan Freeman and Ben Master Stevens).
- Give thanks all who serve and volunteer across the life of the church.
- Pray for Lord to send people to help lead two new discipleship groups in September.

A whole church approach to pastoral care

- Pray for housebound members of our church especially Diana Aidam, Dorothy Aimes, Vi Chambers, Thelma Fogarty, Frances Ross, Rob Thurgood, Freda Tuke and Frances Watson.
- Pray for the family and friends of James McKinnon and for the preparation for his funeral on 7 March at St Matthews.
- Pray for those unwell and struggling with long term illness.
- Pray for those in our church who are caring for a friend or a member of their family.
- Pray for the upcoming review of our men's ministry.

Outreach and evangelism to our local community

- Pray for our upcoming Holiday Club. Give thanks that 43 of the current 44 spaces are booked. Pray for Nicky and the leader team and for all the children who are coming.
- Pray for the relationship with our neighbours as we face ongoing anti-social behaviour in the church grounds.
- Pray for Biffa as they consider our application for a £50k grant to refurbish the church hall.

Praying for St Ethelburga's Church

- Give thanks for the good numbers at the last Messy Church. Pray for the next Messy Church which will focus on Jesus raising Jairus' daughter from the dead.
- Give thanks for the recent offer from someone to buy the St Leonard's Church site. Please pray for this person as they carry out site investigations.
- Pray for the PCC meeting on Monday 10 February.
- Pray for their joint afternoon social event with the West St Leonards Forum on 15 February.
- Please pray for recruitment of a new Families and Children's Worker.

Praying for our Country and World

- Pray for the cease fire to hold in Gaza and for the long term future.
- Pray for areas of conflict in the world especially Yemen and Ukraine.
- Pray for wisdom and discernment for all world leaders.
- Pray for our MPs, our cabinet ministers and the Prime Minister. Pray especially for Christian MPs in parliament.