

## Prayer Diary – 4th February 2018

**The Collect for today** – Sexagesima Sunday:

*Lord God, you know that we do not put our trust in anything that we do: mercifully defend us by your power against all adversity, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Please pray for...**

*the sick and the bereaved:*

*our mission partners:* Johnny & Ann McClean (UFM in Bangkok) and Kip & Rachel Chelashaw (UFM in Nairobi).

*those serving in the Armed Forces:*

*our local schools:*

The Grange Junior & Senior Schools, and other schools which members of the church are involved in.

Hartford Church of England High School.

For Ofsted to be less aggressive in schools when assessing 'British Values'.

## Notice Sheet for Sunday 4th February 2018

All services are in **St John's Church** unless stated otherwise.

**8am Holy Communion**

**9.30am Prayer Meeting** in the Eddowes Room

**10am Morning Prayer** – Exodus 20:7; *The Third Commandment*

**6.30pm Evening Prayer** – 1 Corinthians 7:17-24; *Stay where you are!*

**8pm Crossover** meet at Kevin & Emily Dean's home

### **A Better Story: Easter Mission 2018 (25th March - 2nd April)**

This Easter we would love our friends, family and colleagues to hear a better story - a good news story of how our lives have a place within God's great unfolding story. We're hoping that each group from within church might put on an event that they feel they can invite friends, family or colleagues along to. If the group you are part of hasn't yet submitted an idea for the event you would like to run, then please email Alec. The deadline (due to arranging publicity for the week) will be **Thursday 8th February**. You don't need to know all the details of the event, but a name and brief description of the activity are required. *Alec*.

### **Time to pray**

In the run-up to Easter and the 'Better Story' mission, we have set up times to meet and pray on each day of the week. Most meetings are for 20 minutes and the aim has been to choose times that will suit everyone. The meetings will start promptly and end on time. All the prayer meetings are in the Eddowes Room in the church unless stated otherwise. Please enter directly using the vestry door opposite the vicarage, except for Sunday when the church is open. **Monday** - 4pm; **Tuesday** - 9.10am; **Wednesday** - 8pm (Prayer Fellowship or Housegroup Meeting) - no meeting in the Eddowes Room; **Thursday** - 9.30pm; **Friday** - 6.30am; **Saturday** - a virtual prayer meeting using a Facebook or Twitter post published at 8am - no meeting in the Eddowes Room; **Sunday** - 9.30am. The meetings will begin on Monday 5th February and continue up to Easter. All are welcome and, if you have any questions, please contact the Church Office.

### **Prayer request from the Chelashaw family**

Bethany Chelashaw, Kip and Rachel's youngest child, was discovered to have severe anaemia and a low platelet count early last week. On Tuesday, she received some donated platelets but the sad news is that the doctors now think she has Leukaemia. They took the decision to come to the UK for treatment, and Bethany and Rachel were in hospital here by Thursday. "We are perplexed but not driven to despair, struck down but not destroyed. Please pray for healing, wise decision-making, grace for all and that through this, His power would be made perfect in our weakness." *Kip Chelashaw*.

### **Sex & Relationship Education in schools**

The Government is running a consultation on changes to the teaching of Sex & Relationship Education. If you wish to respond, this is the website ([www.bit.ly/RES-EVIDENCE](http://www.bit.ly/RES-EVIDENCE)). You can complete it as a parent, Governor or teacher. **Young people under 19 can also respond** at the same website address but the closing date for all comments is **12th February**.

### **Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Prayer meeting**

Following the closure of the CAP Debt Centre at the end of September there will be a prayer meeting on Tuesday 6th February particularly to pray for the continuation of the debt help work of CAP in our area. We will also be praying about the work of CAP more widely. The meeting will be in Christ Church, starting at 8pm, and lasts for just one hour. All are welcome. *Danny Greaves*.

### **‘Praise Be’ art installation**

If anyone has not had a template of their hand taken for inclusion in the art installation ‘Praise Be’ but would like to do so, please contact Dee as soon as possible. Dee is keen to give everybody the chance to be included but the project is nearing completion.

### **Ladies’ Meal at The Bulls Head**

The next ladies’ meal will be on Thursday 15th February, 7.30pm, at The Bulls Head in Davenham. This is a great way to meet together informally and bring some friends along. Please contact Sarah Farmer (ladies@stjohnshartford.org) by Monday 12th February to book a place.

### **Thank you from the Gibson family**

Thank you very much for praying for our nephew, Blair. We are so grateful for people's support over the course of his treatment. Although there was a very long wait for the operation, everything went much better than his parents had hoped and he is now at home healing nicely.  
*Fiona Gibson.*

### **Biblical Counselling UK - conference**

Biblical Counselling UK are having a residential conference at Swanwick, in Derbyshire, 21 - 23 February. The theme is 'Anger: Being Cross - Being Christlike' and explores a biblical theology of anger, practically applied to life and ministry. Seminars addressing the practical implications of this teaching include: Domestic Abuse, Anger Management & Reconciliation, and Grumbling & Complaining. For more details, please visit [www.biblicalcounselling.org.uk/conferences](http://www.biblicalcounselling.org.uk/conferences).

### **‘Take-them-a-meal’**

Occasionally there are members of our church family who really benefit from having meals made and brought to them for a short period while they may be ill or recovering from surgery, for example. If you would be willing to go on a list of people to make and deliver the occasional meal, please pass on your email address to Mary Shorter or contact the Church Office. Thank you.

### **A plea for help – The Buzz@Smallwood Manor**

The Buzz, which is run by Sound Holidays for 8-11s, during May half term (28th May-1st June), are still lacking a head cook to lead their catering team. If you are gifted in this area (or know someone who is) and would be willing to give up your time to serve the leaders and the children, they would be very grateful. If you don't know of anyone, please join them in praying that God would provide the right person. If you think you might be able to help, please talk to Nathan.

### **Crewe Church Plant - update**

Those of you who heard Matt Guest a few months ago at an evening service, will remember him talking about the Crewe Church Plant. They now have a website ([www.preparingtoplantcrewe.com](http://www.preparingtoplantcrewe.com)) and have started meeting monthly to pray. All are welcome and this is for anyone who wants to pray for the plant, not just those who may be considering becoming involved.

### **Can you help the Thursday Café?**

Sarah Farmer is putting together the rota for this term so, if you would like to offer your services, please contact her as soon as possible. The Thursday Cafe is still in urgent need of more helpers, particularly to work in the kitchen, but also for setting up, working in the cafe and giving lifts to customers that wouldn't otherwise be able to attend.

### **Counselling services**

Dee Rollinson (who used to be our in-house therapeutic counsellor) acts as a counselling advisor for St John's. If you would like to discuss or explore counselling options, please contact Dee ([dee@stjohnshartford.org](mailto:dee@stjohnshartford.org)). We also have direct access to Chester Diocese's Counselling Service; contact Jane Knight (01270 652034 or 07918 732806).

## **Church Diary – 4th February 2018**

### **Monday 5th February** *Readings: Genesis 38, Mark 8, Job 4, Romans 8*

Teresa taking a whole school assembly at Hartford Manor Primary School (2.45pm)

9.30am-5pm Church Office open in the Church Centre (Monday-Thursday)

10.30am Staff meeting

11am Funeral in St John's (Alec)

8pm PCC meet in the Church Centre

### **Tuesday 6th February** *Readings: Genesis 39, Mark 9, Job 5, Romans 9*

Nathan attending a NWP Youth Workers' Lunch in Leyland (10.30am-1.30pm)

Michael Field leading a 'Walk Through the Bible' session at Charles Darwin Primary School (2pm)

10am Jigsaw meet in the Church Centre

8pm God's Big Picture course in the Church Centre

8pm CAP prayer meeting at Christ Church

### **Wednesday 7th February** *Readings: Genesis 40 Mark 10, Job 6, Romans 10*

Teresa's day off

Phil at Hartford Church of England High School Christian Union (1-1.45pm)

10am Tots and Tinies meet in the Church Centre

2pm Ladies' Fellowship meet in the Church Centre – Linda Sharps (Age Concern)

8pm Housegroups meet for Acts study 2

### **Thursday 8th February** *Readings: Genesis 41, Mark 11, Job 7, Romans 11*

Alec attending a Curates' Retreat at Foxhill (Thursday-Friday)

11.45am Thursday Café in the Church Centre

7.30pm Growing in Christ course at Christ Church, Wharton

### **Friday 9th February** *Readings: Genesis 42, Mark 12, Job 8, Romans 12*

Ministry team taking Hartford Church of England High School Chapel Services (2.55pm)

10.30am-3pm Church Office open in the Church Centre

7.30pm Pathfinders meet in the Church Centre

### **Saturday 10th February** *Readings: Genesis 43, Mark 13, Job 9, Romans 13*

Mike's, Nathan's and Alec's day off

2-4pm Koinonia Cheese & Wine Tasting at Margaret Ekserdjian's home

### **Sunday 11th February** *Readings: Genesis 44, Mark 14, Job 10, Romans 14*

8am Holy Communion in St John's

10am Morning Prayer in St John's (Exodus 20:8-11)

6.30pm Holy Communion in St John's (1 Corinthians 7:25-40)

8pm Crossover meet at Kevin & Emily Dean's home

8pm After 8s meet at Rob & Kathryn Payne's home

*For more details about the daily Bible reading plan, including online readings, please visit our website*