

Fri 1 January:

Thank you Lord for unlocking the door to your unfailing blessings in the New Year 2021.

Sat 2 January:

The Pope sadly gazed over the empty St Peter's Square last April and said "The silence is deafening." At Christmas, the holy silence radiates peace.

Sun 3 January:

At the time of writing this sheet, Canon David Cutts does not know when he may retire from St. Margaret's. After a busy Christmas season, may he find rest and encouragement in his future ministries.

Mon 4 January:

We thank the Lord for the various services we have in our church, made up of age-related groups, affiliation to the school, choral tradition and musical ability.

Tues 5 January:

When Peter asked us to write this prayer sheet the week before lockdown in March 2020, Rev David in his sermon asked us to wonder as did Mary on the message from the angel.

Weds 6 January:

We think of the nativity scene on the occasion of the Epiphany. Frankincense representing prayer, gold symbolising the rod of Jesse and the David's line of royalty, and myrrh symbolising death but hopes in the case of this infant a resurrection beyond the grave.

Thurs 7 January:

The joy of the shepherd in finding his lost sheep is vividly felt when a lost pet is found. May those who steal pets give up their transgressions.

Fri 8 January:

We know Lord that the difficulties of 2020 are behind are and of the past. Help us to look forward to 2021 with hope in our hearts.

Sat 9 January:

Cautiously we need to be reminded when we drive in wet weather, ice and snow. Bless us all as we go about our walking on pavements too in these dark days and evenings.

Sun 10 January:

Dear Lord, we are so thankful for the many blessings we have received from our Vicar Revd David Cutts and our Associate Minister Canon Keith Jones and formerly Revd John Elliston, retired clergy and support from their wives Viola and Helen. May we not put upon them the pressures of the ministry expected on stipendiary incumbents and our present church wardens.

Mon 11 January:

Let us pray for the volunteers and staff at the Winter Night Shelter in Civic Drive, and for the residents. May they be helped to find permanent accommodation soon.

Tues 12 January:

We pray for medical research into those lives affected by this year's flu season and CV19. May the inoculation earlier last autumn combat the illnesses of the of the winter viruses.

Weds 13 January:

Thank You Lord for instructing Noah to build an ark for the animals, for their unique comfort which they give people, and for Your promise in the rainbow.

Thurs 14 January:

When we follow Lord your second command to "love your neighbour as yourself", we ask that You will give us peace flowing into our hearts.

Fri 15 January:

January 2020 was the time when the Coronavirus-19 began spreading from Whuhan province. May there be lessons learnt and the World Health Organisation lead in improving the world's health scene.

Sat 16 January:

We ask Lord for you to bless the managers and staff of all care homes in our area, and give them the strength to care for their residents as if they were their own family member.

Sun 17 January:

In times over the past 12 months when church ministers have felt alone with no supporting congregation, as if in the Lenten wilderness which Christ walked, may they avoid temptation and be given your power of wisdom.

Mon 18 January:

We pray for school teachers, classroom assistants and other staff at our school. May the children they look after, grow in the faith of Christ.

Tues 19 January:

Let us pray for people across the globe suffering from natural disasters and warfare. We pray for those trying to bring about peace within troubled nations, that You will give them Your strength & encouragement to carry on, even in difficult circumstances.

Weds 20 January:

We pray for the US President as he is sworn into office and also for all new elected members of both houses of congress as they get to work for a new term.

Thurs 21 January -

We thank you Lord for the rich musical heritage we have in St Margaret's Church and our musical leaders and ask that we will all be able to join in again soon with singing. (As not permitted at time of writing.)

Fri 22 January:

Let us pray for the work of health workers as they treat sick people from CV19 or other conditions. May small stories of recovery give them hope in challenging days.

Sat 23 January:

Let us remember with joy those countless members of this church who over hundreds of years made St Margaret's what it is today, both spiritually and architecturally.

Sun 24 January:

May world leaders be guided by you, with the great difficulties they face. May their deliberations lead to better co-operation.

Mon 25 January:

Today we remember the conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle. You have caused the light of the Gospel to shine throughout the world from Pauls' work. May we show ourselves thankful to you by following his holy teaching.

Tues 26 January:

Whilst last year we faced "lockdown" twice, we thank you Lord that our hearts have been unlocked and we have come closer to you Lord, and we have found new virtual ways to connect with old friends and make new ones

Weds 27 January:

May the mind of Christ envelope those who have difficulties in expressing themselves due to autism; other learning difficulties; substance misuse; homelessness and mental health issues.

Thurs 28 January:

In the Jewish calendar, today is "New Year of the Trees". Let us be thankful for the trees in our parks and around the Parish.

Fri 29 January:

Have we seen your glory Lord? Yes we do, when we enter Your house of prayer.

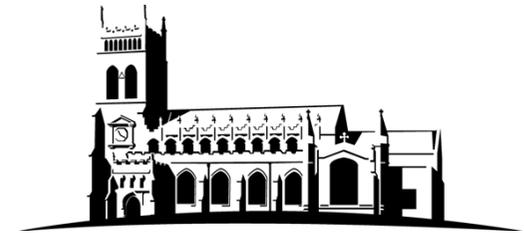
Sat 30 January

Dear Lord, as vets quietly seek ways in their demanding vocation of healing sick animals, may they themselves feel Your refreshing touch.

Sun 31 January

At the end of this first month of 2021, we pray for better weather soon, as the first snowdrops may be seen.

St.Margaret's Church
I P S W I C H



Prayer Diary
January 2021

Prepared by Connie, Mark & Edward Phillips