

Prayer Focus

JANUARY

Please continue to pray for each other, particularly for:

- those unable to attend church at present;
- those who have health problems, who are ill in hospital or at home, or receiving or waiting for treatment, and for their family members who are caring for them.

Also please remember in your prayers the older and frailer members of our congregation in these winter months when it is harder for them to keep warm and get out and about safely.

As we begin a new year, give thanks for the blessings we have received as a church in the past year, especially for the new people who have joined our congregation or been received into membership, and for those who witnessed to their faith in baptism during the year.

As we look to the future, please pray:

- for continued guidance and wisdom for Michael and the members of our leadership team;
- for our worship team and all who are involved in planning and leading services week by week;
- for Clare and all involved with the children's work on Sunday and in Messy Church;
- for Mark and Louise and their work with young people;

Pray that as we gather together for worship or in small groups, we may grow in our love for each other, in our faith and commitment, in the depth of our prayer and in our knowledge of God and his word. Pray too that we may be able to share the gospel effectively with others and see new people come to faith and join the church.

18th – 25th January is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Please pray:

- for Rev Luke Larner and the fellowship at St Andrew's Church, that we may be able to build closer relationships and find ways of working together to serve and witness in the local community;

- for Churches Together in Luton, that the different denominations and churches in the town may together be an effective witness to the people of Luton;
- for the Church of England at this difficult time and for Rev Stephen Cotterell as he takes over the role of Archbishop of Canterbury;
- that wherever there is discord or conflict within the church, there will be a renewed determination to overcome differences and difficulties with dialogue, humility and sacrificial love, that the world will be able to see how much Christians love each other.
- the U.S.A as a new president takes office, that it will be a force for good in the world;
- for countries that have experienced political upheaval and uncertainty in recent months, for the restoration of stability and good government;
- for freedom for those living under oppressive regimes;
- for peace where there is conflict.

Pray that all the nations of the world may be governed well so that all peoples may live in freedom, justice and peace.

Pray for:

- those who have taken power in Syria, that they may have wisdom and make the right decisions to establish peace and security and ensure that all groups are able to live together in harmony and play a part in re-building the country;