

Temple Methodist Church, Taunton

Pause for Prayer



An invitation to pause daily for prayer.
A scheme to share particular prayers
with others of the congregation.

2nd Edition

December 2013

PAUSE FOR PRAYER

A Guide for each day of the month

We would like you to join us at 10am each morning and spend a moment or two away from the bustle of the day. If you cannot pray with us at that time, just take a moment think of those that need your prayers. (Or alternatively find a more convenient time when you can share these prayers.)

There are topics for prayer for each day of the month – including one Methodist district in Britain, one more local church concern, one or more countries beyond Europe and one in Europe. (except for Day 31 which is for our own Circuit) The pattern is deliberately different from that in the Prayer Handbook in the hope that people will continue to use that in their own prayer time. Each day concludes with a written prayer to make your own.

DAY 1

We bring to God in our prayers:-

People in the Methodist Church in Wales

People in West Somerset circuit

People of Greenland and Iceland

People living in Czech and Slovak Republic

Prayer

O God, we thank You for the world in which You have placed us, for the universe whose vastness is revealed in the blue depths of the sky, whose immensities are lit by shining stars beyond the strength of mind to follow. We thank You for every sacrament of beauty; for the flowers, the songs of birds, the sound of streams and swelling seas and the magnificence of mighty mountains. May we not fear to make this world for a little while our home, since it is Your creation, and we are part of it. Help us to trust its mighty power through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
(W.E.Orchard)

DAY 2

We bring to God in our prayers:-

People in the Bristol district
Members and friends at Pawlett
People of Vietnam and Laos
People living in France

Prayer

O God, We do not ask that we should be protected from all pain and sorrow, from all danger and distress. We ask for the humility to accept whatever comes to us, and for courage, and fortitude, and endurance to come safely through it, to come out on the other side finer in character, and nearer to You. Amen (William Barclay)

DAY 3

We bring to God in our prayers:-

People of the Lancashire district;
All who use the church at Lisieux Way
People of Angola and the Congo
People living in Poland

Prayer

Grant me, Lord, to spread true love in the world. Grant that by me and by your children it may penetrate a little into all circles, all societies, all economic and political systems, all laws, all contracts, all rulings; Grant that it may penetrate into offices, factories, apartment buildings, cinemas, streets; Grant that it may penetrate the hearts of men. May I never forget that the battle for a better world is a battle of love as Jesus loved us all. Amen

DAY 4

We bring to God in our prayers:-

People of the York and Hull district;
Young people and all who work in the youth service.
People of Chile and Paraguay.
People living in Ukraine

Prayer

Our Father, Who has told us to listen to Your voice, give us ears to hear Your lightest whisper. The daily work and the

rush of life around us, and the clamour of our own fears and self concern, make such a noise that it is difficult to be quiet before You, and so we lose the sound of Your voice. Teach us how to be more still. Teach us how to shut the doors around us to all other thoughts, and to make a deep silence in our hearts so we can hear Your voice and be strong to do and follow Your word. Amen

DAY 5

We bring to God in our prayers:-

People in the Northampton district;
Methodist women in Britain - all women
People of Pakistan and Afghanistan
People living in Greece

Prayer

O God, our Father, send out your light and your truth upon us now. Your light that we may see where we ought to go; Your truth that we may know what we ought to do, so that being guided and taught by You we may make no mistakes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (William Barclay)

DAY 6

We bring to God in our prayers:-

People in the Cornwall district
People in the circuit of Plymouth and Devonport
People throughout India, Nepal, and Tibet
People living in the United Kingdom

Prayer

Loving God, you call us to live as your people; to walk each day by your side, seeking your will, pursuing what is right, and showing your love in our attitude towards others. Forgive us that we sometimes make your call so complicated, losing sight of the things you really require. Forgive us that we become preoccupied with the trappings of faith rather than focus on the essentials. Help us to offer you the sort of life you want to see and be the person you would like us become. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
(Nick Fawcett)

DAY 7

We bring to God in our prayers:-

People of the London district
People who serve Church and community
at the Levels in Middlezoy
People in Australia and New Zealand
People living in Portugal.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, Light of the world, give us your light;
Light to help us see the truth;
Light to help us see the way we ought to go;
Light to see ourselves as we are;
Light to see you in all your majesty and love,
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
(William Barclay)

DAY 8

We bring to God in our prayers:-

People in the Plymouth and Exeter district,
Local Preachers,
People of Indonesia and its Islands.
The residents of Ireland

Prayer

O God, There are days when faith falters and affirmations seem unreal. What can be done? When the psalmist found it hard to trust, he fell back on hope and gained the day. Then he said to himself, "Leave it all quietly to God, my soul" Give us the strength to hope and leave it to the love that God has for us. Amen

DAY 9

We bring to God in our prayers:-

People of the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury district;
The many lay workers in the Church.
People of Syria and Lebanon,
People living in Switzerland

Prayer

Let me worship You, O Lord, when the skies are grey and dull, when rain and fog blot out everything save the near and make even that seem menacing; when winds howl round the house of life, dismay the spirit and accentuate loneliness. Then God bring to my mind that You ARE. Let me recall the sunshine and the bird song, the starlight and the dawn so that I may rejoice that You are ever the same, always near me. My guide and my shield throughout my life, for which I worship and adore You. Amen

DAY 10

We bring to God in our prayers:-

People of the Darlington district;
All people using the church premises in our circuit
People of Bolivia and Peru,
People living in Russia.

Prayer

Give us O God, The hearing ear; The understanding mind;
The resolute will, that we may be, willing to listen to your word; able to grasp its meaning for us; and strong to do it throughout the days of the week: through Jesus Christ
Amen.

DAY 11

We bring to God in our prayers:-

People of the Channel Islands district;
All who serve in the police and fire brigade.
People of the USA and Canada,
People living in Montenegro and Macedonia.

Prayer

I confess to you, O God, the chaos, doubt and strife, within my own heart. Your Holy Spirit has ever sought to bring from chaos calm, from doubt assurance, and from strife peace. Let "me and mine" give place now to "You and Yours" and as a calm and lovely dawn follows a black night of terror and despair. Let Your Holy Spirit bring healing and peace. Amen

DAY 12

We bring to God in our prayers:-

People of the Shetlands district;
People of the Teignbridge circuit,
People of Japan
People living in Albania

Prayer

O Lord, we pray Your blessing on those with influence in our communities. We pray for all involved in the media, that they will publish true records of events. For those in the sport and leisure industry. We pray that you will shine through them, using them to bring joy and encouragement to those they interact with. Let Your love be seen and known through our lives. Amen

DAY 13

We bring to God in our prayers:-

People of the Scotland district;
People of the Rowbarton church and
those who work and live nearby.
People of Mexico and Panama.
People living in Croatia and Bosnia Herzegovina

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you tell us not to hide our lamp under a bushel basket, yet we do it all the time. Instead of sharing what you have done for us, we keep it to ourselves. Instead of looking to the interests of others, we focus on our own. Instead of reaching out to those in need, we shut our minds to their plight. Repeatedly, our words say one thing and our lives another. Forgive us our failure to honour your calling, fill our hearts once more with the joy of knowing you. Amen

DAY 14

We bring to God in our prayers:-

People of the Southampton district.
People of the Plymouth mission.
People of Thailand and Cambodia.
People living in Germany.

Prayer

O God, bless those places in the world where the name of

Jesus is not known, or where it is rejected. Strengthen and uphold all missionaries in the peril and the loneliness of their task; and bring quickly the day when all people will know and love Jesus Christ as He knows and loves us. Amen

DAY 15

We bring to God in our prayers:-

People of the South East district.

All presbyter ministers, superintendents and supernumerary
ministers

People of North and South Korea

People living in Spain and Gibraltar.

Prayer

O Lord, I pray for those in my neighbourhood who feel lonely, whether because they live alone, or because they feel isolated and misunderstood in their own families. Please give me an opportunity to show friendship, so they know they are not forgotten. Please bring down the walls of separation which stop us getting to know others, both in our neighbourhood and in the world. Through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

DAY 16

We bring to God in our prayers:-

People of the Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire district;

People in the Exeter, coast and country circuit.

Peoples of China and Mongolia

People living in Italy

Prayer

Jesus, led by you to thankfulness, life and truth, let this day resound with new songs and our lives ring with joy for you are indeed Emmanuel, God-with-us, yesterday, today and for ever, Let us truly be thankful. Amen

DAY 17

We bring to God in our prayers:-

People of the Birmingham district;

the members and friends in North Curry and Curland;

People living in Iran and Iraq

People living in Turkey

Prayer

Give us, O Lord, the courage to dream dreams, to have a vision of the future, for ourselves, our church, and all the world. Give us faith to see life in a new light, a different way, and from a wider perspective, so that we may work towards the vision of your kingdom here on earth. Amen

DAY 18

We bring to God in our prayers:-

The people of the Chester and Stoke on Trent district;
the President and Vice-President of Conference
and all who attend conference.

People of Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda,
People living in Sweden and Finland.

Prayer

Loving God, you have called us to go out into the world in your service, to proclaim the Gospel, to make disciples, to share your love, and to work towards the fulfilment of your purpose. Lord God you are calling us now, let us go forth with joy to do your will. Amen

DAY 19

We bring to God in our prayers:-

People of the Liverpool district;
Members of the South Devon circuit;
People of Zimbabwe and Botswana
People living in Hungary

Prayer

Lord, help us to follow you faithfully, reflecting your love, demonstrating your compassion and responding to your guidance. Touch our hearts and strengthen our faith, so that in the days ahead we may live and work for you, and bring glory to your holy name. Amen

DAY 20

We bring to God in our prayers:-

People of the Leeds district;
People in the Bude and Holsworthy circuit;
People of Argentina and Uruguay
People living in Lithuania and Belarus.

Father, I pray for the place where I live. May your Kingdom come and your will be done here in my community. Please come in your power and set the captives free; bring freedom for those imprisoned in sickness, addiction and poverty, and release those oppressed by their circumstances. Amen

DAY 21

We bring to God in our prayers:-

People in the East Anglia district;
People of the Tavistock circuit;
People of Saudi Arabia and Jordan,
People living in Cyprus and Malta

Prayer

Lord of life, we celebrate your countless gifts, in day and night, in rainbows and rain, in touch, dreams and smiles. In partners who love, in kids who cuddle, in grannies who listen, in friends who care, in food on the table, yet above all, in your coming among us, walking our roads, calling our names, Amen

DAY 22

We bring to God in our prayers:-

People of the Nottingham and Derby district;
Children and staff in schools and Sunday schools.;
People in Israel and Palestine;
People living in Austria.

Prayer

Loving God, through Christ you demonstrate the wonder of your grace, living among us, sharing our humanity and giving freely of yourself. You didn't just speak of love, you showed it in action. Forgive us for so rarely doing the same. Grant that our words and deeds may be one, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

DAY 23

We bring to God in our prayers:-

People of the Manchester and Stockport district;
People involved with prisons and the law,
People of Tanzania and Zambia,
People living in Norway

Lord make me an instrument of thy peace,
Where there is hatred let me sow love; Where there is injury,
pardon; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair,
hope; Where there is darkness, light; Where there is
sadness, joy. Amen. (St. Francis of Assisi)

DAY 24

We bring to God in our prayers:-

People of the Lincoln and Grimsby district;

People of the Torbay circuit;

People of Egypt and Libya,

People living in the Netherlands and Belgium.

Prayer

Heavenly maker, you sent Jesus, the word made flesh,
to give us life. Not just any life but life to the full Holy Spirit-
style. Help us to explore it, grapple with it, embrace it, so
that our hearts may overflow with your grace, your hope,
your love. Amen.

DAY 25

We bring to God in our prayers:-

People of the West Yorkshire district;

All involved with overseas missions and world development

People of Mali, Niger and Chad,

People living in Estonia and Latvia

Prayer

Grant us, O God, gratitude for all your gifts; Sorrow for all
our sins; Trust in your power and will to help.

Grant forgiveness for the past; Strength for the present;

Confidence that the future can bring nothing that in your
strength we cannot meet; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

DAY 26

We bring to God in our prayers:-

People of the Sheffield district;

People involved with the Medical services.

People who struggle in Ethiopia and Somalia.

People living in Denmark.

Lord of every mountain top, give me strength and courage to be a risk-taker, willing to take the unexpected path, turn the corner into the unknown in the knowledge that you are always with me. Amen

DAY 27

We bring to God in our prayers:-
People of the Bolton and Rochdale district;
All chairs and officers of districts;
People of Mozambique and Namibia
People living in Romania and Moldova.

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, we like to think that faith is enough to save us, for we know that our deeds are poor and our witness weak, incapable in themselves of earning salvation. We thank you that you see beyond our failures to our underlying intentions, and that, when we acknowledge our faults, you are always willing to have mercy. Thank you for your love and understanding. Amen

DAY 28

We bring to God in our prayers:-
People of the Cumbria district;-
Street Pastors and Samaritans;
People of Brazil and Ecuador'
People living in Bulgaria.

Prayer

Help us ,O Lord, to appreciate the wonder of what you have done, to receive the new life you offer, to gladly and reverently approach your throne of grace and know you for ourselves, the living God made flesh. Merciful God, Hear our prayers and draw near to us, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

DAY 29

We bring to God in our prayers:-
People of the Isle of Man district;
All missionaries and chaplains
People of Guyana and the West Indies,
People living in Serbia and Slovenia.

Loving God, hear our prayer for the have-nots of this world: those who have no homes, living as refugees or rough on our streets; those who have no food, their crops having failed, their economies burdened by debt, or their labours not fairly rewarded; those who have no fresh water, daily facing the threat of disease and the nightmare of drought; Challenge all who have plenty to respond to those who have little, so that all may share in the riches of your creation. Amen

DAY 30

We bring to God in our prayers:-

People of the Newcastle upon Tyne district;
People of the Tiverton and Wellington circuit;
People of Columbia and Venezuela
People living in Georgia and Armenia

Prayer

Loving God, forgive us that we have so often failed in your calling to go out into the world, that we are happy to come to Christ but unwilling to go out in His name. Forgive us that we are eager to receive but reluctant to give, all too easily turning our faith into something for self and not for others. Lord God you are calling us now, show us how to willingly hear your call. Amen

DAY 31

We bring to God in our prayers:-

The Taunton Deane and South Sedgemoor Circuit
People in the Circuit Leadership team,
People holding other offices in Circuit or local churches
People seeking to find new ways to move forward in

mission

Prayer

Let us take time today to pray for ourselves, sharing with our Father our hopes and fears for the coming months and years. Let us ask Him to help us bear fruit in every good work, be strengthened with all power, so that we may be people of hope in our communities. Amen