



A NEW YEAR OF LIFE

As you read this, some of you will be reflecting that you have had a great Christmas and others might want to say 'moving on'... and many of us will be experiencing or anticipating the January blues! All of these responses are part of us just being human, but is there anything that our Christian faith and our Lord can teach us in this new start to another year?

Psalm 90:12 says 'teach us to 'number your days that we might gain a heart of wisdom.' I have since my early days as a Christian understood this phrase to mean three things. First, that our lives are a wonderful gift. We can sometimes think that life and or our Maker owe us something rather than thanking the Lord for His mercy and love even if in a season of challenge we have to work harder to remind ourselves of His goodness. Second, it means our days are 'numbered'! Goodness does that mean that we can't assume we will live long or even be happy all the time?! I think it does and reminds us of this phrase from Psalm 139: 16 'all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be'! Third, we must live carefully knowing that one day we will be held to account for how we have lived.

So... how can we respond positively to this challenge? Here is a suggestion. Review 2025 and pray to the Lord that by His Spirit He might help you discern what you should leave behind, what you should celebrate and take with you into 2026 and what might the Lord want to give you in 2026 and what are you asking Him for. Finally, remember this, we are only pilgrims here on earth and we look forward to being with our Lord in paradise! In the mean time may we honour the Lord and say 'what a wonderful world'!

Saturday 3rd January 10am WHOLE CHURCH PRAYER EVENT

"From the very, very young to the very, very old, everybody say Amen!"

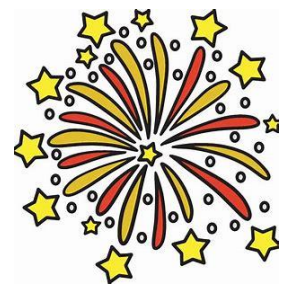
We've been flagging this prayer event **since last year** AND delayed restarting the Ladies breakfast - because the leaders want to ensure that the slipway is clear to launch into 2026. So, we are **all** invited. Remember the Kononia cake that we all had a hand in making? Think of it as a metaphor for the prayer event - we are all part of it, regardless of age, confidence or ability as we seek God's will and purpose for us. The plan is to make it accessible for everyone, with a chance to share some breakfast (and some cake) and a variety of prayer focussed activities.



January 2026 News

Notice Board (things that happen regularly in church)

If you want further information, get in touch via our online contacts below - A Church Near You, Facebook or Bushbury Team Ministry website.



Sunday Services revert to the normal schedule of 11am every Sunday. Holy Communion will be celebrated on January 4th and 18th

- ♥ **Over 50s**, an easy-going friendship and support group, held on alternate Mondays at 2pm. January 5th and 19th. See Pat for details.
- ♥ **Praying for our Nation** is every Thursday during school term time, 10am at Lyn and Dave's. Contact us for details.
- ♥ **Coffee Morning**; Drop in any Friday morning 10 - 12. All are welcome to drop in for a cuppa and a natter - and expertly crafted toasties (with not even a whiff of turkey or Christmas pud)!
- ♥ **Bushbury Youth Group** for 11 - 14-year-olds continues weekly on Fridays during the school term, 7.15pm in St Mary's church hall. Restart January 9th 2026
- ♥ **Waking the Dawn** is every Saturday, 8am - 9am. All are welcome to come and pray.

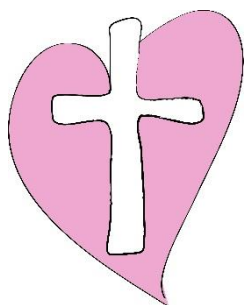
Parish activities and beyond



Ladies Breakfast continues on the first Saturday of every month, recommencing 10am, on **2nd February** (due to the Good Shepherd prayer event in January)

Please, do come and join the conversation and enjoy a continental style breakfast. There is no charge but donations are invited.

- **City Wide Prayer** Thursday 15th January 7 - 8pm at Life City Church, Westbury Street WV1 1JD
- **Men's Breakfast** Saturday 17th January 10 - 11.30 am in the parish hall at St Mary's.
- **Follow-up discussion developing vision and strategy** 10am



Church Prayer - Wednesday 21st to Friday 23rd January, 6 - 7pm As part of a national initiative to pray for our nation, we will be holding a prayer meeting each evening from 6 - 7 pm. The main aim of this season of prayer is to pray for the Church to be revived, so that lives and society are transformed. More specific details to follow closer to the dates.



If you need to contact Rev Taiwo Olumuyiwa, please in the first instance speak to the **Parish Office**: 01902 782226

We can also be found on: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com> (enter The Good Shepherd, Low Hill).

<https://bushburyteamministry.co.uk/church-of-the-good-shepherd> or find us on facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CHURCH.COGS>
