

PRAY ...

1 st – Spend a moment thanking God.	2 nd ... for your church & community.	3 rd ... for the benefice.	4 th ... for the churches on the peninsula	5 th ... for the bishop & the diocese	6 th ... for all who minister locally	7 th ... for Chris and the Network Youth
8 th ... for Andrea & the Youth Trust	9 th ... for schools, children & young people	10 th ... for families	11 th ... for the lonely	12 th ... for those working	13 th ... for those looking for work	14 th ... for all our local businesses
15 th ... for the farming community	16 th ... for the sick & all who care for them	17 th ... for our country	18 th ... for our politicians	19 th ... for a crisis that upsets	20 th ... for all world leaders	21 st ... for the global church
22 nd ... for persecuted Christians	23 rd ... for God's creation	24 th ... Read a Psalm	25 th ... Read a story Jesus told	26 th ... Read your favourite scripture	27 th ... Listen to your favourite hymn	28 th ... Ask God for an opportunity to serve
29 th ... Sit in silence	30 th ... Look back at this month	31 st ... Look forward to next month				

Dear friends. I had plans for how I had hoped January would begin. And then sadly my mum took ill and I spent a week with her in Belfast. Thankfully she was discharged from hospital and is recovering at home. She is being blessed by a visit this week from our daughter (mum's only grand-daughter) which, I am sure is more a thrill for mum than having to see my 'mug' every day! Thank you for your prayers and messages during the past few weeks.

To me, this is simply another example of how my hopes and dreams can be kicked off centre. The church offers me the opportunity to move back towards the centre. That regular rhythm of daily prayer and looking forward to each Sunday when I am in the company of others. The seasons in a church year can also help with the re-set we sometimes / often need. Christmas does not seem that long ago but we are already thinking about Easter, not least because the season of Lent begins this month.

For those of us who love Him we are called to be faithful and to trust God's plans (Proverbs 3:5-6), which can be difficult when we see the needs of a world that looks broken and we see people who look like they are missing out on the greatest gift imaginable. How do we balance a life that depends totally on God's grace with a life

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following that command at the end of Matthew to go into the world and make disciples?

I'm sure it's a question I've asked before (& will ask againboth of myself and of the church). If you haven't thought about it in some time then please use the 40 days of Lent as a moment to give it thought, to pray & listen, pray & talk maybe even pray & do something, not because you have to or feel pressured to because your love for God is leaping out of your heart. Look out for the opportunities around the benefice to pray in church during Lent.

More T Vicar (10am) & BCP Holy Communion (11am):

St Johns – 11 & 25 Feb St Marys – 4 & 18 Feb

Ash Wednesday Services 18th February

St Marys at 11am

St Johns at 7pm

Lent Morning Prayer at 9.30

Mondays at St Marys (begins 23rd)

Tuesdays at St Johns (begins 24th)

After Easter you may notice some changes to timings with regards some of the services at St Marys. This decision was reached by the PCC after hearing from people in the congregation. Details are still being worked out, so do please hold us in prayer as we seek to do what is best in enabling our Sunday worship.

Have a great month.

Mark