**Bromsgrove Parish Prayer Diary for January**

*For there is not a word on my tongue, but you, O Lord, know it altogether*

*Psalm 139.v3*

**Friday 1st January -New Year’s Day**

A new day, a new year and a new hope that the promised vaccines will bring the world back to some sort of normality, and we also pray that Brexit happens with the minimum of fuss and disruption to our daily lives.

**Saturday 2nd January – Christ Church Catshill**

We give thanks that members of the congregation are again able to come to this much-loved building and resume their worship to our Lord and saviour and

**Sunday 3rd January – Those who keep our community functioning**

We ask God to bless all those who have to work at this time for the good of the whole community.  Especially we remember those who deliver milk or post and those who collect our rubbish and our recycling materials.   We remember the lorry drivers and van drivers especially those who were caught up in the hold ups at Dover over the Christmas holiday, and who keep our supermarkets and homes stocked with essential goods. May they realise how we value their work. Thank you for those who have continued to work to stock supermarket shelves, serve on deli counters, work on the tills and generally help around the stores. Without their selfless attitude and commitment to turning up to work in conditions that see them exposed to the Corona Virus to a greater degree than any of us, with the exception of the NHS, we would not have the ability to feed ourselves and our families.

**Monday 4th January – Children and young people.**

Today we pray for our young people, that they and their teachers have had an enjoyable break from the school routine, and that they are allowed to return to school

**Tuesday 5th January Pharmacies/Doctor’s surgeries**

We thank you, Lord, for all the people working on the front line in pharmacies and surgeries.   We pray for their safety as they serve others and for their anxious families at home.  We pray that the people who visit these places seeking help will be responsible and avoid putting these dedicated people at risk.  May their religious faith sustain and inspire them

**Wednesday 6th January–** **Epiphany**

Today we celebrate the beginning of the season of Epiphany when Jesus was revealed to us Gentiles in the shape of the Wise men

**Thursday 7th January – Food banks**

An increasing number of people have come to rely on these establishments as we have had to come to terms with the period of austerity that the country has had to live through. Please ensure these priceless community assets continue to receive the support that is vital to the work they do. We also give thanks for those who have been moved by the plight of people struggling and have contributed financially or by providing items of food.

**Friday 8th January St John’s and St Andrew’s**

We give thanks that members of the congregation are again able to come to this much-loved building and resume their worship to our Lord and saviour

**Saturday 9th January – Finances**

Over the coming indefinite period money will continue to be an issue. On a personal level jobs will be lost incomes will be lost or at best reduced. Churches and the Diocese of Worcester will not be immune to this, and we pray that severe hardship in all areas can be avoided.

**Sunday 10th January- The Baptism of Jesus**

Today we think of and pray for all baptism families, especially those families whose plans for this special celebration have been put on while we suffer through this pandemic

**Monday 11th January – Dodford**

We give thanks that members of the congregation are again able to come to this much-loved building and resume their worship our Lord and

**Tuesday 12th January – PCC Governance subcommittee**

This important meeting takes place today and will help shape the way in which the parish will proceed. We pray for your guidance regarding any decisions that are taken.

**Wednesday 13th January – Catshill and North Marlbrook**

Pray for all people in Catshill and North Marlbrook that they will remain calm and secure during this time of national emergency, and that a loving caring community will evolve

**Thursday 14th January – Charford**

Pray for all people in Charford that they will remain calm and secure during this time of national emergency, and that a loving caring community will evolve.

**Friday 15th January – Farmers**

We give thanks for those who continue to work tirelessly to produce food that makes its way onto our supermarket shelves. Once again this is a group of people who we have tended to take for granted because somehow the food we eat continues to arrive on our table. Once we are through this time of struggle lets ensure that we place buying from our own farmers ours, and this country’s priority. Please ensure that there are sufficient hands to pick all the produce that needs to be harvested.

**Saturday 16th January – Sidemoor**

Pray for all people in Sidemoor that they will remain calm and secure during this time of national emergency, and that a loving caring community will evolve

**Sunday 17th January– Lickey End**

Pray for all people in Lickey End that they will remain calm and secure during this time of national emergency, and that a loving caring community will evolve

**Monday 18th January – St Godwald’s**

We give thanks that members of the congregation are again able to come to this much-loved building and resume their worship to our Lord and saviour. In addition, we pray for members of the DCC as they meet to discuss the way forward for the church

**Tuesday 19th January– Funeral Directors**

This is such a painful time for those who lose not only loved ones to this dreadful disease but also those who lose their lives in other circumstances no less painful. Please be with our local funeral directors as they navigate the paths to ensure that those people receive a caring, respectful and loving journey to be with you. We look to the day when we can have times of memorial to remember those people who are no longer with us.

**Wednesday 20th January– High Street shops bars restaurants and cafes**

For so long we have taken for granted our ability to shop, eat and drink where we like at almost any time we want. These establishments are facing unprecedented strains on their ability to survive this storm. Perhaps we can take this time to appreciate what we have, cherish it and invest our money in these businesses to help in their recovery. We give thanks that our high street shops are back trading in somewhat restricted circumstances and look forward to a time when all high street businesses can operate fully.

**Thursday 21st January – Those living alone**

Lord we think today and pray for those people who have had to self-isolate and who hunger for the touch of a hand or to see a friendly face in their homes. We pray that there will be people who will give some solace by making a phone call or some form of social media to let them know they have not been forgotten. Thank you for the kind generous souls who have volunteered to shop for essential food items.

**Friday 22nd January – Sidemoor**

Pray for all people in Sidemoor that they will remain calm and secure during this time of national emergency, and that a loving caring community will evolve

**Saturday 23rd January– Rock Hill**

Pray for all people in Rock Hill that they will remain calm and secure during this time of national emergency, and a loving caring community will evolve

**Sunday 24th January – Local Hospitals**

For the sacrifice and work undertaken by Nursing staff, paramedics, porters, cleaners, catering staff. Keep them safe and make sure they have all the protective equipment they need and give thanks that they are working to keep us all safe.

**Monday 25th January- All Saint’s**

We give thanks that members of the congregation are again able to come to this much-loved building and resume their worship to our Lord and saviour. In addition, we pray for members of the DCC as they meet to discuss the way forward for the church

**Tuesday 26th January- Clergy**

Father we pray for our clergy at this trying time as they attempt to keep the parish working and worshipping. We give thanks for the work they continue to do to ensure we have online and face to face services.

**Wednesday 27th January – PCC**

Today is a meeting of the PCC who are meeting to discuss how we can best function as a parish to spread the word of God’s kingdom in Bromsgrove. We pray for enlightenment and for the Holy Spirit to be present in their deliberations.

**Thursday 28th January - Aston Field**

Pray for all people in Aston fields that they will remain calm and secure during this time of national emergency, and that a loving caring community will evolve

**Friday 29th January– Cancer sufferers**

During this pandemic we think of those who are struggling to receive follow up care for their cancers, also we pray for those people for whom there is no cure for the cancer for which they are suffering, and are receiving palliative care.

**Saturday 30th January – Refugees**

Our community is assisting the work done by a local charity to provide much needed clothing and toiletries etc to this group of people, strangers to this country, a number of which are fellow Christians. They are hosted at St Luke’s once a month and we pray that people in the community will be able to help with the supply of such materials.

**Sunday 31st January– Care Homes**

There are a number of care homes throughout the parish for which we would ask you that you wrap your arms around. Enable the carers in those places to have sufficient protection to be able to provide the level of care that is needed to ensure the residents maintain a level of physical and emotional wellbeing.