**Bromsgrove Parish Prayer Diary for February**

*God is our refuge and strength,
    an ever-present help in trouble. Psalm 46.1*

**Monday 1st February -16-50 Group**

We pray this day for the 16-50 group who are having an evening meeting for a Lockdown catch up.

**Tuesday 2nd February -Candlemas**

Today we celebrate the presentation of Christ in the Temple especially remembering the example of Simeon and Anna and we give thanks for the wisdom of elders in our communities.

**Wednesday 3rd February – Churchwardens**

Please remember in your prayers the work that our Churchwardens do especially today as they meet online to discuss matters that are affecting the life of the Parish.

**Thursday 4th February – – Christ Church Catshill**

In these trying times we give thanks for ways that the church family can worship now that we cannot meet to worship together in person.

**Friday 5th February - 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?

**Saturday 6th February–** **Those who keep our community functioning.**

We ask God to bless all those who must 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 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, except for the NHS, we would not have the ability to feed ourselves and our families.

**Sunday 7th February – 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.

**Monday 8th February - Parish meeting**

Today we pray for the Reach out Bromsgrove (Our Youth Management Committee) who are meeting to discuss the work that is going on to support our young people.

**Tuesday 9th February – 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.

**Wednesday 10th February-Redditch and Bromsgrove Deanery Synod**

Today sees the first meeting of the proposed new Deanery set up. We pray for the wisdom of all involved in finding a way that we can work together.

**Thursday 11th February – Dodford**

In these trying times we give thanks for ways that the church family can worship now that we cannot meet to worship together in person.

**Friday 12th February – 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 13th February – 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.

**Sunday 14th February – 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.

**Monday 15th February – David**

Today we mark the fact that David begins his somewhat truncated Sabbatical. We pray that he will find this a time of restoration and fulfilment. At the least it gets him a break from the rest of us.

**Tuesday 16th February – 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.

**Wednesday 17th February– Ash Wednesday**

Today we begin the journey to the foot of the cross. We pray that we will manage to find a way to mark this Lent, and place this in the hands of our Lord and Saviour.

**Thursday 18th February – St Godwald’s**

In these trying times we give thanks for ways that the church family can worship now that we cannot meet to worship together in person.

**Friday 19th February– Care Homes**

There are a few 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.

**Saturday 20th February– 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.

**Sunday 21st February – 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.

**Monday 22nd February – 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.

**Tuesday 23rd February– 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.

**Wednesday 24th February – 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.

**Thursday 25th February- All Saint’s**

In these trying times we give thanks for ways that the church family can worship now that we cannot meet to worship together in person.

**Friday 26th February- 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 services.

**Saturday 27th February St John’s and St Andrew’s**

In these trying times we give thanks for ways that the church family can worship now that we cannot meet to worship together in person.

**Sunday 28th February - 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.