

November 2021

PRAYER DIARY

Derek & Audrey Newton

GREETINGS TO EVERYONE AT CHRIST CHURCH & ST SAVIOUR'S

Thanks for asking us to give an update on what and how we're doing, and also for the opportunity to tell you our points for praise and prayer. Rather than present lists, we will give a short account of the last 12 months from which you'll be able to pick up some of our praise and prayer points.



Life has been far from 'normal' for any of us recently but it's great to know that God is still on the throne! We understand that your new vicar, Ben, is getting settled and that the churches within his care seem to be in good heart these days. Our hope and prayer is that the Covid crises in your area will be resolved, and church life and witness in the communities there will soon be fully restored. All of us need the friendship, fellowship, mutual support and encouragement that comes within the church family context, something so many of us have missed for such a long time. We certainly have!

When the Covid crisis began in March 2020 we created a family 'bubble' primarily to share in the care for our 7yr old granddaughter and to help 'shield' her seriously disabled little sister. All other support and respite had vanished overnight at the onset of 'lockdown'. During the same period, Audrey's aunt died from Covid just weeks after being admitted to a care home. The challenges continued when the landlord of our temporary accommodation decided to live in his property. The hunt for a new place to live began in earnest – could be 'fun' at other times, but super-challenging during lockdown while trying to 'shield' as a family 'bubble'! But, as one of our great friends said in a recent email '...it is good that we have a God of all the earth for whom complexity is his bread and butter'! We needed to hear that because, looking back, things got even more complicated!

A house was found (phew!), papers signed (thank you, Lord) and (as Covid restrictions were reduced during October 2020), our 'bubble' travelled to the Lake District for a short break.

Four days into this, Audrey became ill, was admitted to Cumbria Infirmary for 2 weeks and follow-up (by a neurosurgeon) is still ongoing here in Edinburgh. The house move went ahead 3 weeks after discharge from hospital in Carlisle – a great blessing.

In the Spring of this year ('21), our little disabled granddaughter (aged 3.5yrs) had more major surgery and in June the most major so far – open heart (all done in Glasgow as the new Children's Hospital in Edinburgh was not fully up and running yet). Fast forward to the other day when her daddy (our son) brought her round to our house to let us see what she can do with her newly acquired disability 'walker' - just to encourage Grandma in her recovery from recent major kidney surgery (unrelated to the neurosurgical issue above!). We continue to pray she will walk – and also that her cochlear implants (inserted as a 1yr old) will function really well (and stop falling off!!). Life can be confusing and complicated for a little disabled deaf girl growing up in a bilingual family (French mummy). We are all trying to learn sign language!

Within the joys, complexities, highs and lows of everyday life, Derek has continued to teach at 2 colleges and has also prepared a pretty comprehensive study on the book of Revelation for the 'Preachers Conferences' with which we've been involved for the past few years. These gatherings are about to resume in November 2021. We both continue to do what we can for the family – it is, after all, the reason we moved from Glasgow to Edinburgh in the first place!

But the house move (from one community to another during lockdown) has thrown up the important issue of finding a new church family, something we are still trying to resolve. So, at this new crossroads in our lives, your continued support, prayers and updates function as a reminder to us that we are all part of God's family, whether serving here in Scotland or there in Oldham.

In fact, as we write, it's pretty humbling to know that over many years, the good folks of CC/SS have continued to support us through the many chapters of our lives: the challenges and concerns we have faced while living and working in Asia; the multiple ministry trips to Asia while teaching in Glasgow; the countless drives up and down the A1 and M74/M6 and the thousands of hours spent in preparation and teaching in various colleges, seminaries and church settings both in UK and the Far East. And, of course, like most, we've experienced the many ups and downs of family life too.

But there is nothing like the challenges of life to give better insight and understanding into the plight of others in a world where confusion, complexities and suffering are all part of the experience of so many. Sometimes life is just plain tough – but interestingly, and providentially, God uses difficult experiences to give us a little more insight into the daily experiences, and sufferings, in the troubled world of today.

So, again, thanks for your consistent prayers and support over the years. A big thank you to those who have kept in touch with us, especially over the last few challenging, and often confusing, episodes of our lives. As ever, we'd be grateful for your continued prayers please, and look forward to hearing your news too.

Daily prayers for November

- 01 Mon For the new Bible study groups as they begin this week. Pray that the members will soon get to know each other and support each other in our walk with God.
- 02 Tues Cop 26 Conference 31 Oct – 12 Nov. For guidance and wisdom in decisions.
- 03 Wed Cake and Chat lunch. For renewed fellowships.
- 04 Thurs Wardens Margaret, Dave, Steve, Richard.
- 05 Fri Admin Team Cathy and Carol.
- 06 Sat Derek and Audrey Newton See details on front page
- 07 Sun Memorial service for people who have lost loved ones. 3pm at Christ Church
- 08 Mon Noah's Ark stay & play group meeting at St Saviour's as it reopens today. For safety for all who attend.
- 09 Tues Operation Christmas Child. That the children receiving the boxes will know Christ's love.
- 10 Wed Rainbows, Brownies and Guides as they begin to meet face to face again.
- 11 Thurs Finance team Margaret, Steve B., Phil, Eric and Dave
- 12 Fri Footprints For wisdom in when to reopen.
- 13 Sat Mike and Helen Parker. For their work in Scotland and their support for those working in the Middle East.
- 14 Sun Ben as he leads our three parishes in a new partnership.
- 15 Mon King's Kitchen. That those who come for help will find Jesus.
- 16 Tues Christ Church School Debra, staff and governors, and for the school assembly team Ben, Margaret and Elizabeth
- 17 Wed Northwest Gospel Partnership and all the churches involved. Especially this month for Redeemer, Manchester.
- 18 Thurs Crossley Coffee Morning for wisdom in knowing when to start again.
- 19 Fri Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship. For strong leadership for the parishes involved.
- 20 Sat Bishop Abelino and Patti. For Abelino's responsibilities in the diocese and their joint work in the local area.
- 21 Sun Sunday Schools. SORTED, and our young adults. For enough leaders.
- 22 Mon Bishop Rod, David Banting, Bishop David, Archdeacon David, and area dean Daniel Ramble, that God would help them to lead wisely and be faithful to him.
- 23 Tues Our Advent preaching series on "The Coming King"
- 24 Wed Daniel and Joy Ernst, John and Gillian Statter, Rob and Alison Brewis. Phil and Ali Beswick David Wood, Katie Benjamin, Vicky Parsons, Lydia Taylor.
- 25 Thurs Tony and Denise Ford in Barrow, Chris and Joy Evans in Gateshead, Dave and Irene Hanson in Preston.
- 26 Fri Daniel and Mei Whetham. For their work reaching people from South East Asia.
- 27 Sat Women's breakfast at St Mary's 9am
- 28 Sun Our preparation for our Christmas outreach activities
- 29 Mon PCC For wisdom in decision making in our church life and witness.
- 30 Tues The school for the deaf in Nekempte. That their needs will be met.

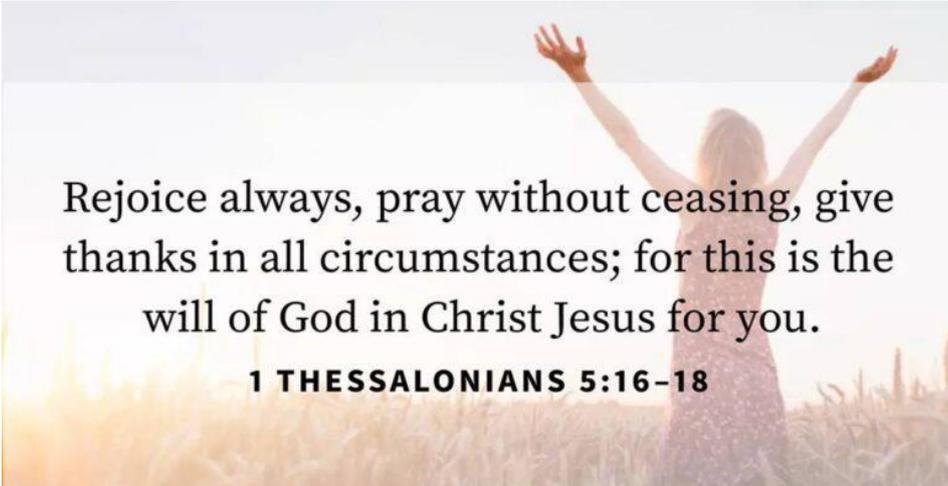
YOUR PERSONAL PRAYER DIARY

REASONS TO GIVE THANKS AND PRAISE

ANSWERS TO PRAYER

NEW PRAYER REQUESTS

ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS



Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18