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**St James Bible Reading and Prayer Diary August - December 2020**

**Daily Bible Reading:** Through August we will read a few more of Paul’s letters to the early church, then in the autumn term we will be looking a different characters in the bible. In our home groups we will then follow up with studies on these characters. If you have not yet been along to a home group, but would like to join you would be most welcome. They are on a Tuesday or Wednesday evening. Please contact Heather for more details.

**Prayer:** Each day there is a suggested topic for your prayers as well as a prayer you can use if it is helpful.

**Sunday Services:** On Sundays in the Autumn term we will be looking at the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus addressed issues that are still so relevant to us today, like how to deal with anger, money and difficult people. As we seek to be living God’s love, Jesus’s words in this Sermon are as relevant and as challenging today as they were 2,000 years ago.

We will also be learning lessons from some of the characters In the bible in our Family services on the first Sunday of the month.

**Mon 3rd August** *Philippians 1: 1-11*

*Pray For*: The One Can Trust supporting families with food parcels

Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father. Amen

**Tues 4th August** *Philippians 1: 12-30*

*Pray For*: Opportunities for loving our colleagues and friends at work and at home

Living God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in all his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

**Weds 5th August** *Philippians 2: 1-18*

*Pray For*: The Heights Nursing Home

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father’s sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father. Amen

**Thurs 6th August** *Philippians 2: 19-30*

*Pray For*: Those who come along to our Thursday pop in, many of whom are vulnerable to illness.

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Fri 7th August** *Philippians 3: 1-21*

*Pray For*: Azalea High Wycombe working with women who have been trafficked or find themselves trapped in commercial sexual exploitation.

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

**Sat 8th August** *Philippians 4: 1-9*

*Pray For*: Refugees across the world fleeing from war and persecution

Almighty and merciful God, whose Son became a refugee and had no place to call his own; look with mercy on those who today are fleeing from danger, homeless and hungry. Bless those who work to bring them relief; inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts; and guide the nations of the world towards that day when all will rejoice in your Kingdom of justice and of peace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sunday 9th August Philippians –** *Philippians 12-30*

**Mon 10th August** *Philippians 4: 10-23*

*Pray For*: Marriages of those in our church and community, that you would bless those relationships and help any who are going through difficult times at present.

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

**Tues 11th August** *Colossians 1: 1-14*

*Pray For*: Wisdom, integrity, energy and strength for our MP Steve Baker as he seeks to serve our town and wider area.

Risen Christ, you have raised our human nature to the throne of heaven: help us to seek and serve you, that we may join you at the Father’s side, where you reign with the Spirit in glory, now and for ever. Amen

**Weds 12th August** *Colossians 1: 15-29*

*Pray For*: Wycombe Homeless Connection as they seek to support people in difficult circumstances

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Thurs 13th August** *Colossians 2:1-15*

*Pray For*: Phil Graham and others who help with the technical support for our services. Pray for wisdom and resources as we explore new ways of communicating with our community and beyond.

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, ignite in us your holy fire; strengthen your children with the gift of faith, revive your Church with the breath of love, and renew the face of the earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Fri 14th August** *Colossians 2:16-23*

*Pray For*: Our government and local government seeking to make good decisions at this time.

Faithful God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal: open our lips by your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Sat 15th August** *Colossians 3:1-17*

*Pray For*: Scientists working to find a vaccine to safely prevent coronavirus

God of truth, help us to keep your law of love and to walk in ways of wisdom, that we may find true life in Jesus Christ your Son. Amen

**Sunday 16th August Colossians** *Colossians 1:1-14*

**Mon 17th August** *Colossians 3:18-25*

*Pray For*: The continued improvement work in our church and hall, giving thanks for all that has been done, and especially for the vision and work of Mike Jacobs, and praying for physical and financial resources to continue to improve and maintain our buildings.

Faithful Creator, whose mercy never fails: deepen our faithfulness to you and to your living Word, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Tues 18th August** *Colossians 4: 1-18*

*Pray For*: The Buckinghamshire Council making decisions about our local services and especially for wisdom for Paul Turner as he represents Downley ward

God our saviour, look on this wounded world in pity and in power; hold us fast to your promises of peace won for us by your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

**Weds 19th August** *1 Thessalonians 1:1-10*

*Pray For*: World Humanitarian Day – pray for people who are suffering injustice, or in crisis due to illness, famine or natural disaster and for all the agencies who are working with them, especially for funding at this difficult economic time.

Gracious Father, by the obedience of Jesus you brought salvation to our wayward world: draw us into harmony with your will,that we may find all things restored in him, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

**Thurs 20th August** *1 Thessalonians 2:1-20*

*Pray For*: Housing associations working in this area and all those in need of housing.

Eternal God, comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken, you have fed us at the table of life and hope: teach us the ways of gentleness and peace, that all the world may acknowledge the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Fri 21st August** *1 Thessalonians 3:1-13*

*Pray For*: Unity between churches in Downley and across Wycombe, that we would work together to spread the gospel in word and in deed across our town*.*

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples, ‘I am with you always’. Be with me today, as I offer myself to you. Hear my prayers for others and for myself, and keep me in your care. Amen

**Sat 22nd August** *1 Thessalonians 4:1-18*

*Pray For*: Doctors, nurses and all the people involved in maintaining our health and curing the sick

Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me. Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger. Amen

**Sunday 23rd August 1 Thessalonians** *1 Thessalonians 3*

**Mon 24th August** *1 Thessalonians 5:1-28*

*Pray For*: All those working in prisons, remembering particularly Charlotte Nohavicka

I am giving you worship with all my life, I am giving you obedience with all my power, I am giving you praise with all my strength, I am giving you honour with all my speech. I am giving you love with all my heart, I am giving you affection with all my sense, I am giving you my being with all my mind, I am giving you my soul, O most high and holy God. Praise to the Father, Praise to the Son, Praise to the Spirit, The Three in One. Amen

**Tues 25th August** *2 Thessalonians 1:1-12*

*Pray For*: All those who have been bereaved in recent months, especially those who were not able to have the services they would have wanted to.

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not our hold on things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Weds 26th August** *2 Thessalonians 2:1-17*

*Pray For*: All those who struggle with mental health problems in our church and community

Be with us, Lord, in all our prayers, and direct our way toward the attainment of salvation, that among the changes and chances of this mortal life, we may always be defended by your gracious help, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Thurs 27th August** *2 Thessalonians 3:1-18*

*Pray For:* A country in our World that really needs prayer – commit to pray for this country regularly.

O gracious and holy Father, give us wisdom to perceive you, diligence to seek you, patience to wait for you, eyes to behold you, a heart to meditate upon you, and a life to proclaim you, through the power of the spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Fri 28th August** *1 Timothy 1: 1-11*

*Pray For*: Those who are struggling financially due to coronavirus

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

**Sat 29th August** *1 Timothy 1: 12-20*

*Pray For*: All those in our church and community who are single or on their own, that you would give them good friendships and a good support network and help us to be mindful of their needs.

God of our salvation, help us to turn away from those habits which harm our bodies and poison our minds and to choose again your gift of life, revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Sunday 30th August**

**Sermon on the Mount 1 *Introduction***

**Mon 31st August** *1 Timothy 2*

*Pray For*: Our Police force remembering especially Emma Lipinski

Lord of the hosts of heaven, our salvation and our strength, without you we are lost: guard us from all that harms or hurts and raise us when we fall; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Tues 1st September** *1 Timothy 3*

*Pray For*: Bruce and Helen Bradley as they look after our church grounds and also Janet and others who do our lovely flower arrangements.

Go before us, Lord, in all we do with your most gracious favour, and guide us with your continual help, that in all our works begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally by your mercy receive everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Weds 2nd September** *Jonah 1*

*Pray For*: Our government and other governments across the world for wisdom in their decision making

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. Amen

**Thurs 3rd September** *Jonah 2*

*Pray For*: South Bucks Hospice and all those involved in giving palliative care.

Almighty God, give us reverence for all creation and respect for every person, that we may mirror your likeness in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Fri 4th September** *Jonah 3*

*Pray For*: Children who come along to St James, that they would feel welcomed and we would be able to help them to grow in faith, and for Helen Lipinski heading up our childrens’ activities on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

Holy God, faithful and unchanging: enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth, and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love, that we may truly worship you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

**Sat 5th September** *Jonah 4*

*Pray For*: All those starting new schools this term, thinking especially of James and Joshua.

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

**Sunday 6th September**

**Old Testament Characters: Jonah**

**Mon 7th September** *Genesis 12*

*Pray For*: Those across the world who are suffering from famine, drought and natural disasters

God our Father, As we celebrate the beauty and diversity of your creation, we are truly sorry for our consumerism and wastefulness. Have mercy on us for contaminating the Earth with billions of tons of plastic waste. Please give each one of us the desire and the means to put things right; no longer trusting in ourselves but in your grace and wisdom alone. Through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour, Amen

**Tues 8th September** *Genesis 13*

*Pray For*: those with the responsibility and authority to reduce the destruction of the rain forests across the world

Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

**Weds 9th September** *Genesis 14*

*Pray For*: Hilary Perowne as she manages our Church Hall, and for all those who hire it regularly and occasionally.

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father. Amen

**Thurs 10th September** *Genesis 15*

*Pray For*: Our Home groups meeting weekly to nurture and support each other and to study the bible together and for wisdom and energy for our Home Group leaders.

Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father. Amen

**Fri 11th September** *Genesis 16*

*Pray For*: The One Can Trust supporting families with food parcels

Living God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in all his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

**Sat 12th September** *Genesis 17*

*Pray For*: The Heights Nursing Home

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father’s sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father. Amen

**Sunday 13th September**

**Sermon on the Mount 2 *Blessed are the poor in spirit***

**Mon 14th September** *Genesis 18*

*Pray For*: Those who usually go to the Coffee Stop on a Monday in the church hall, for Janet Durkin and the team who run this and keep in touch with members

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Tues 15th September** *Genesis 19*

*Pray For*: all members of St James’ church and thank God for the fellowship that we cherish

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

**Weds 16th September** *Genesis 20*

*Pray For*: Our church wardens, Paul and Collis and their families

Risen Christ, by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples: help your Church to obey your command and draw the nations to the fire of your love, to the glory of God the Father. Amen

**Thur 17th September** *Genesis 21*

*Pray For*: Those who are struggling financially in our community

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

**Fri 18th September** *Genesis 22*

*Pray For*: All those who have been bereaved in recent months, especially those who were not able to have the services they would have wanted to.

Eternal God, comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken, you have fed us at the table of life and hope: teach us the ways of gentleness and peace, that all the world may acknowledge the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Sat 19th September** *Genesis 23*

*Pray For*: Wycombe Homeless Connection as they seek to support people in difficult circumstances

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Sunday 20th September**

**Sermon on the Mount 3 *Blessed are those who mourn***

**Mon 21st September** *Numbers 13:17-33*

*Pray For*: Our PCC members for wisdom in all decision making

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, ignite in us your holy fire; strengthen your children with the gift of faith, revive your Church with the breath of love, and renew the face of the earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Tues 22nd September** *Numbers 14: 1-25*

*Pray For:* Downley School, for all the staff and pupils, especially dealing with new ways of working at present.

Faithful God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal: open our lips by your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Weds 23rd September** *Numbers 14: 26-45*

*Pray For*: Scientists working to find a vaccine to safely prevent coronavirus

God of truth, help us to keep your law of love and to walk in ways of wisdom, that we may find true life in Jesus Christ your Son. Amen

**Thurs 24th September** *Joshua 1*

*Pray For*: Charities across the country struggling with less funds

Faithful Creator, whose mercy never fails: deepen our faithfulness to you and to your living Word, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Fri 25th September** *Joshua 2*

*Pray For:* Adoption and fostering agencies seeking to provide children with long term loving and stable homes. Thinking especially of the work of PACT which is led by Jan Fishwick.

God our Saviour, look on this wounded world in pity and in power; hold us fast to your promises of peace won for us by your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

**Sat 26th September** *Joshua 3*

*Pray For*: the people of Syria now dealing with the virus on top of the years of war and hardship

Gracious Father, by the obedience of Jesus you brought salvation to our wayward world: draw us into harmony with your will,that we may find all things restored in him, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

**Sunday 27th September**

**Sermon on the Mount 4 *Blessed are the meek***

**Mon 28th September** *Joshua 4*

*Pray For*: The Buckinghamshire Council making decisions about our local services and especially for wisdom for Paul Turner as he represents Downley ward

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples, ‘I am with you always’. Be with me today, as I offer myself to you. Hear my prayers for others and for myself, and keep me in your care. Amen

**Tues 29th September** *Joshua 5*

*Pray For*: Doctors, nurses and all the people involved in maintaining our health and curing the sick

Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me. Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger. Amen

**Weds 30th September** *Joshua 6*

*Pray For*: All those working in prisons, remembering particularly Charlotte Nohavicka

I am giving you worship with all my life, I am giving you obedience with all my power, I am giving you praise with all my strength, I am giving you honour with all my speech. I am giving you love with all my heart, I am giving you affection with all my sense, I am giving you my being with all my mind, I am giving you my soul, O most high and holy God. Praise to the Father, Praise to the Son, Praise to the Spirit, The Three in One. Amen

**Thurs 1st October** *Joshua 7*

*Pray For*: Our Hospitality and Sides teams as they welcome people into the church on Sunday and care for them

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not our hold on things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Fri 2nd October** *Joshua 8*

*Pray For*: All those who struggle with mental health problems in our church and community

Be with us, Lord, in all our prayers, and direct our way toward the attainment of salvation, that among the changes and chances of this mortal life, we may always be defended by your gracious help, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Sat 3rd October**  *Joshua 9*

*Pray For*: The Disraeli School, for all the staff and pupils, especially dealing with new ways of working at present.

O gracious and holy Father, give us wisdom to perceive you, diligence to seek you, patience to wait for you, eyes to behold you, a heart to meditate upon you, and a life to proclaim you, through the power of the spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Sunday 4th October**

**Old Testament Characters: *Joshua***

**Mon 5th October** *Joshua 10*

*Pray For*: *Pray For:* Those who are struggling with addictions that are affecting their lives, their health, their families.

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

**Tues 6th October**  *Joshua 11*

*Pray For*: Cathy Piercy running the Moor lane preschool and all the staff and children

God of our salvation, help us to turn away from those habits which harm our bodies and poison our minds and to choose again your gift of life, revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Weds 7th October** *1 Samuel 1*

*Pray For*: Our Police force, remembering especially Emma Lipinski

Lord of the hosts of heaven, our salvation and our strength, without you we are lost: guard us from all that harms or hurts and raise us when we fall; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Thurs 8th October** *1 Samuel 2*

*Pray For*: *Pray For:* Newcomers to the church to feel welcomed and become integrated quickly into the church family.

Go before us, Lord, in all we do with your most gracious favour, and guide us with your continual help, that in all our works begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally by your mercy receive everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Fri 9th October** *1 Samuel 3*

*Pray For*: All those in our church and community who are long term Carers for family and friends.

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. Amen

**Sat 10th October** *1 Samuel 4*

*Pray For*: Newcomers to the church to feel welcomed and become integrated quickly into the church family.

Almighty God, give us reverence for all creation and respect for every person, that we may mirror your likeness in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Sunday 11th October**

**Sermon on the Mount 5**

***Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness***

**Mon 12th October** *1 Samuel 5*

*Pray For*: Bruce and Helen Bradley as they look after our church grounds and also Janet and others who do our lovely flower arrangements.

Holy God, faithful and unchanging: enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth, and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love, that we may truly worship you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

**Tues 13th October** *1 Samuel 6*

*Pray For*: Hilary Perowne as she manages our Church Hall, and for all those who hire it regularly and occasionally.

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

**Weds 14th October** *1 Samuel 7*

*Pray For*: Those across the world who are suffering from famine, drought and natural disasters

Creator God, Thank you for the waters of the earth, for the life-sustaining rains, lakes, and deep oceans. Keep us mindful of how precious these are, and how vulnerable they are. Help us to work together for clean water, and for the sharing of it with those who have need of it today. Amen.

**Thurs 15th October** *1 Samuel 8*

*Pray For*: Christians across the world who are being persecuted for their faith

Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred: open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace, to the praise of God the Father. Amen

**Fri 16th October** *1 Samuel 9*

*Pray For*: those with the responsibility and authority to reduce the destruction of the rain forests across the world

Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

**Sat 17th October** *1 Samuel 10*

*Pray For*: The continuing human catastrophe in Syria. Comfort children and families in their hour of need

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father. Amen

**Sunday 18th October**

**Sermon on the Mount 6 *Blessed are the merciful***

**Mon 19th October** *1 Samuel 11*

*Pray For*: All countries in our world to acknowledge the dangers of climate change and global warming and take steps to halt this.

God our Father, As we celebrate the beauty and diversity of your creation, we are truly sorry for our consumerism and wastefulness. Have mercy on us for contaminating the Earth with billions of tons of plastic waste. Please give each one of us the desire and the means to put things right; no longer trusting in ourselves but in your grace and wisdom alone. Through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour, Amen

Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father. Amen

**Tues 20th October** *1 Samuel 12*

*Pray For*: The One Can Trust supporting families with food parcels

Living God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in all his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

**Weds 21st October** *1 Samuel 13*

*Pray For*: The Heights Nursing Home

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father’s sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father. Amen

**Thurs 22nd October** *1 Samuel 14*

*Pray For*: Work place chaplains seeking to support people across Wycombe

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Fri 23rd October** *1 Samuel 15*

*Pray For*: all members of St James’ church and thank God for the fellowship that we cherish

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

**Sat 24th October** *1 Samuel 16*

*Pray For*: Our church wardens, Paul and Collis and their families

Risen Christ, by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples: help your Church to obey your command and draw the nations to the fire of your love, to the glory of God the Father. Amen

**Sunday 25th October**

**Sermon on the Mount 7 *Blessed are the pure in heart***

**Mon 26th October** *1 Samuel 17*

*Pray For:* All those in our church and community who are single or on their own, that you would give them good friendships and a good support network and help us to be mindful of their needs.

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

**Tues 27th October** *1 Samuel 18*

*Pray For:* Those who we know who are battling Cancer or recovering from it and those researching and treating it.

Risen Christ, you have raised our human nature to the throne of heaven: help us to seek and serve you, that we may join you at the Father’s side, where you reign with the Spirit in glory, now and for ever. Amen

**Weds 28th October** *1 Samuel 19*

*Pray For*: Wycombe Homeless Connection as they seek to support people in difficult circumstances

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ

our Lord. Amen

**Thurs 29th October** *1 Samuel 20*

*Pray For:* A country in our World that really needs prayer – commit to pray for this country regularly.

Faithful God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal: open our lips by your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Fri 30th October** *1 Samuel 21*

*Pray For*: Scientists working to find a vaccine to safely prevent coronavirus

God of truth, help us to keep your law of love and to walk in ways of wisdom, that we may find true life in Jesus Christ your Son. Amen

**Sat 31st October** *1 Samuel 22*

*Pray For*: Charities across the country struggling with less funds

Lord Jesus, the earth is yours and you have commanded the winds and the sea; help us to leave behind our consumer demand for plastics and move towards behaviours that are environmentally healthy; help us to follow your lead in caring for the world you love. Amen.

**Sunday 1st November**

**Old Testament Characters: *David***

**Mon 2nd November** *1 Samuel 23*

*Pray For:* Those who are struggling with addictions that are affecting their lives, their health, their families.

God our Saviour, look on this wounded world in pity and in power; hold us fast to your promises of peace won for us by your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

**Tues 3rd November** *1 Samuel 24*

*Pray For:* The elections taking place in America today.

Gracious Father, by the obedience of Jesus you brought salvation to our wayward world: draw us into harmony with your will, that we may find all things restored in him, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

**Weds 4th November** *1 Samuel 25*

*Pray For:* All those in our church and community who are single or on their own, that you would give them good friendships and a good support network and help us to be mindful of their needs..

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples, ‘I am with you always’. Be with me today, as I offer myself to you. Hear my prayers for others and for myself, and keep me in your care. Amen

**Thurs 5th November** *1 Samuel 26*

*Pray For:* All those in our working to serve our community like shops, refuse collection, pharmacists, GP’s, Care Workers etc

Eternal God, comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken, you have fed us at the table of life and hope: teach us the ways of gentleness and peace, that all the world may acknowledge the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Fri 6th November** *1 Samuel 27*

*Pray For:* Doctors, nurses and all the people involved in maintaining our health and curing the sick

Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me. Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger. Amen

**Sat 7th November** *1 Samuel 28*

*Pray For:* All those working in prisons, remembering particularly Charlotte Nohavicka.

I am giving you worship with all my life, I am giving you obedience with all my power, I am giving you praise with all my strength, I am giving you honour with all my speech. I am giving you love with all my heart, I am giving you affection with all my sense, I am giving you my being with all my mind, I am giving you my soul, O most high and holy God. Praise to the Father, Praise to the Son, Praise to the Spirit, The Three in One. Amen

**Sunday 8th November**

**Sermon on the Mount 8 *Blessed are the peacemakers***

**Mon 9th November** *1 Kings 17*

*Pray For:* All those who struggle with mental health problems in our church and community

Be with us, Lord, in all our prayers, and direct our way toward the attainment of salvation, that among the changes and chances of this mortal life, we may always be defended by your gracious help, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Tues 10th November** *1 Kings 18*

*Pray For:* Those businesses which are struggling financially in this economic climate

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

**Weds 11th November**Remembrance day *1 Kings 19 : 1-18*

*Pray for:* all those who have lost their lives fighting for their country. We pray for peace in our world and we pray for those in the armed forces serving us today.

Lord of the nations, we honour the bravery and sacrifice of those who served. Grant us similar courage to recognise and restrain evil in our own day, and may those who lead the nations of the world work together to defend human liberty, that we may live peaceably one with another. This we ask in the name of the Prince of Peace, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Thurs 12th November** *Esther 1*

*Pray For:* Those across our world living under oppressive regimes.

O gracious and holy Father, give us wisdom to perceive you, diligence to seek you, patience to wait for you, eyes to behold you, a heart to meditate upon you, and a life to proclaim you, through the power of the spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Fri 13th November** *Esther 2*

*Pray For*: The Disraeli School, for all the staff and pupils, especially dealing with new ways of working at present.

Go before us, Lord, in all we do with your most gracious favour, and guide us with your continual help, that in all our works begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally by your mercy receive everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Saturday 14th November**  *Esther 3*

*Pray For:* Our government and other governments across the world seeking to make good and wise decisions.

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. Amen

**Sunday 15th November Sermon on the Mount 9**

***Blessed are those who are persecuted***

**Mon 16th November** *Esther 4*

*Pray For:* A country in our World that really needs prayer – commit to pray for this country regularly.

Holy God, faithful and unchanging: enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth, and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love, that we may truly worship you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

**Tues 17th November**  *Esther 5*

*Pray For:* Those across the world who are suffering from famine, drought and natural disasters

Eternal God, whose Spirit moved over the face of the deep bringing forth light and life; by that same Spirit, renew your creation, and restore your image in your people. Turn us from careless tenants to faithful stewards, that your threefold blessing of clean air, pure water and rich earth may be the inheritance of everything that has the breath of life and one generation may proclaim to another the wonder of your works; through Jesus Christ, your living Word, in whom the fullness of your glory is revealed. Amen

**Weds 18th November**  *Esther 6*

*Pray For:* Resilience for our church and community after such a long time of challenging circumstances.

Almighty God, give us reverence for all creation and respect for every person, that we may mirror your likeness in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Thurs 19th November**  *Esther 7*

*Pray For:* Our church wardens, Paul and Collis and their families

Risen Christ, by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples: help your Church to obey your command and draw the nations to the fire of your love, to the glory of God the Father. Amen

**Fri 20th November** *Esther 8*

*Pray For:* The One Can Trust supporting families with food parcels

Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father. Amen

**Sat 21st November** *Esther 9*

*Pray For:* The Heights Nursing Home

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father’s sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father. Amen

**Sunday 22nd November**

**Sermon on the Mount 10 *Do not Judge Others***

**Mon 23rd November** *Daniel 1*

*Pray For:* Those who we know who are battling Cancer or recovering from it and those researching and treating it.

Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred: open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace, to the praise of God the Father. Amen

**Tues 24th November**  *Daniel 2*

*Pray For*: Marriages of those in our church and community, that you would bless those relationships and help any who are going through difficult times at present.

Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we ask you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

**Weds 25th November**  *Daniel 3*

*Pray For:* Children who come along to St James, that they would feel welcomed and we would be able to help them to grow in faith, and for Helen Lipinski heading up our childrens’ activities on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,  
shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living  
that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Thurs 26th November** *Daniel 4*

*Pray For:* Those who we know who are battling Cancer or recovering from it and those researching and treating it.

Be to us, O Lord, a support in our setting out, a comfort by the way, a shadow in the heat, a covering in the rain and cold,  
a conveyance in weariness, a protection in adversity, a staff in unsteady ways, and a port in shipwreck; that, with you being our Leader, we may reach the place we seek, and at length we may return again to our home in safety. Amen

**Fri 27th November** *Daniel 5*

*Pray For:* All those struggling with bullying, at school, at home or at work.

Faithful Creator, whose mercy never fails: deepen our faithfulness to you and to your living Word, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Sat 28th November**  *Daniel 6*

*Pray For*: Charities who are very short of funds due to the economic situation

Lord Jesus, the earth is yours and you have commanded the winds and the sea; help us to leave behind our consumer demand for plastics and move towards behaviours that are environmentally healthy; help us to follow your lead in caring for the world you love. Amen.

**Sunday 29th November**

**Sermon on the Mount 11 *Family matters***

**Mon 30th November** *Exodus 1*

*Pray For:* Those who are struggling with addictions that are affecting their lives, their health, their families.

Lord God, whose Son, Jesus Christ, understood people's fear and pain before they spoke of them, we pray for those in hospital;  
surround the frightened with your tenderness; give strength to those in pain; hold the weak in your arms of love, and give hope and patience to those who are recovering; we ask this through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

**Tues 1st December**  *Exodus 2*

*Pray For:* Downley School, for all the staff and pupils, especially dealing with new ways of working at present.

O gracious and holy Father, give us wisdom to perceive you, diligence to seek you, patience to wait for you, eyes to behold you, a heart to meditate upon you, and a life to proclaim you, through the power of the spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Weds 2nd December**  *Exodus 3*

*Pray For*: Cathy Piercy running the Moor lane preschool and all the staff and children

Loving God, your Son told his disciples to become like little children. Lead us to work for the welfare and protection of all young people. May we respect their dignity that they may flourish in life, following the example of the same Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**Thurs 3rd December**  *Exodus 4*

*Pray For:* Azalea High Wycombe working with women who have been trafficked or find themselves trapped in commercial sexual exploitation.

O Lord our God, source of all goodness and love, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies look with compassion upon all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

**Fri 4th December** *Exodus 5*

*Pray For:* Wisdom, integrity, energy and strength for our MP Steve Baker as he seeks to serve our town and wider area.

Gracious Father, by the obedience of Jesus you brought salvation to our wayward world: draw us into harmony with your will, that we may find all things restored in him, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

**Sat 5th December**  *Exodus 6*

*Pray For:* Hilary Perowne as she manages our Church Hall, and for all those who hire it regularly and occasionally.

Be with us, Lord, in all our prayers, and direct our way toward the attainment of salvation, that among the changes and chances of this mortal life, we may always be defended by your gracious help, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Sunday 6th December John the Baptist *Mark 1: 1-8***

**Monday 7th December** *Luke 1: 5-25*

*Pray For*: Our Home groups meeting weekly to nurture and support each other and to study the bible together and for wisdom and energy for our Home Group leaders.

Faithful and steadfast God, nourish your people in this wicked world, and, through prayer and the Scriptures, give us our daily bread; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Tues 8th December**  *Matthew 3: 1-12*

*Pray For*: The Disraeli School, for all the staff and pupils, especially dealing with new ways of working at present.

Holy God, faithful and unchanging: enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth, and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love, that we may truly worship you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

**Weds 9th December**  *Matthew 11: 1-19*

*Pray For: Our PCC members and their families*

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Thurs 10th December**  *Isaiah 6*

*Pray For:* The Buckinghamshire Council making decisions about our local services and especially for wisdom for Paul Turner as he represents Downley ward

Sovereign God, the defence of those who trust in you  
and the strength of those who suffer: look with mercy on our affliction and deliver us through our mighty Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

**Fri 11th December**  *Isaiah 7:1-17*

*Pray For:* The continued improvement work in our church and hall, giving thanks for all that has been done, and especially for the vision and work of Mike Jacobs, and praying for physical and financial resources to continue to improve and maintain our buildings.

**Sat 12th December** *Isaiah 9: 1-7*

*Pray For:* A country in our World that really needs prayer – commit to pray for this country regularly.

Heavenly Father, You have taught us, through your servant St Francis, That all creation is your handiwork. Grant us your grace that we may Exercise wise stewardship of this Earth; Tread lightly upon it; And cherish its resources; That our children may enjoy its riches, throughout all generations, And your name be glorified through all that you have made. Amen.

**Sunday 13th December**

**Sermon on the Mount 12 *Let your yes be yes***

**Monday 14th December** *Isaiah 11*

*Pray For: Our hospitality and sides teams seeking to make everyone feel welcome on a Sunday*

God of the ages, you are the beginning of our journey and our strength as we pause along the way. Hold us by the hand as we grow, show us where to seek you, and guide our steps that we may find you. Give us devoted hearts that we may love you,   
and your peace when we reach our journey's end. Amen

**Tues 15th December**  *Isaiah 12*

*Pray For:* Housing associations working in this area and all those in need of housing.

Almighty and merciful God, whose Son became a refugee and had no place to call his own; look with mercy on those who today are fleeing from danger, homeless and hungry. Bless those who work to bring them relief; inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts; and guide the nations of the world towards that day when all will rejoice in your Kingdom of justice and of peace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**Weds 16th December**  *Isaiah 25:1-9*

*Pray For:* Unity between churches in Downley and across Wycombe, that we would work together to spread the gospel in word and in deed across our town*.*

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever. Amen

**Thurs 17th December** *Isaiah 26: 1-15*

*Pray For:* Opportunities for loving our colleagues and friends at work and at home

God of creation, who loves all he has made and all that has evolved, open the eyes of your people, that your love might be reflected in our care for the planet. Through Jesus Christ, who walked this earth and calls us by name. Amen.

**Fri 18th December**  *Isaiah 35*

*Pray For:* Families struggling to give their children the Christmas they would like to, due to financial worries.

Lord of creation, whose glory is around and within us: open our eyes to your wonders, that we may serve you with reverence and know your peace at our lives' end, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sat 19th December** *Isaiah 40:1-11*

*Pray For*: Christians across the world who are being persecuted for their faith

Merciful Father, we cry to you from the depths of our concern  
for those wrongly imprisoned or held captive: for those trying to secure their release, that the ways of peace and diplomacy may prevail over acts of violence and aggression, that their captors may know a change of heart; through him who was sent to proclaim liberty for captives and to set free those who are oppressed, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Sunday 20th December Carol Service *Luke 1: 26-38***

**Monday 21st December** *Isaiah 41: 8-20*

*Pray For:* All those in our church and community who are single or on their own, that you would give them good friendships and a good support network and help us to be mindful of their needs.

Creator God, you made us all in your image: may we discern you in all that we see, and serve you in all that we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Tues 22nd December**  *Isaiah 42: 1-9*

*Pray For*: all those who struggle with depression at this time of year

Father God, watch over all those who are vulnerable in mind body or Spirit, and guard, guide and direct their paths. Help us to see the unspoken needs of those around us. Amen

**Weds 23rd December**  *Isaiah 43: 1-7*

*Pray for:* Those who will spend Christmas on their own.

Loving Jesus, you were born in a stable but worshipped by the angels. Be with all who are lonely, and with all who feel distant from celebrations. Be for us a living hope that lightens their hearts. Amen.

**Thurs 24th December Christmas Eve**

*Pray For*: All those who will join in with our Christmas services, especially those who do not usually do so

Holy Jesus, by being born one of us, and lying humbly in a manger, you show how much God loves the world. Let the light of your love always shine in our hearts, until we reach our home in heaven, and see you on your throne of glory. Amen.

**Fri 25th December Christmas Day**

*Pray For*: our families and friends as we celebrate Christmas

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God. Amen.

**Sat 26th December Boxing Day**

*Pray For*: those with the responsibility and authority to reduce the destruction of the rain forests across the world

Heavenly Father, creator of the world, your heart must weep at the destruction that mankind has wrought upon it. Open the eyes of the world to see what it is doing and to change this. Amen

**Sunday 27th December**

**Monday 28th December** *Isaiah 44:1-5*

*Pray For:* Newcomers to the church to feel welcomed and become integrated quickly into the church family.

Lord God, you taught us to welcome the stranger and to show love to all, help us to be those who radiate your love to everyone we meet. Amen

**Tues 29th December**  *Isaiah 53*

*Pray For*: Scientists working to find a vaccine to safely prevent coronavirus

Living God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in all his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

**Weds 30th December**  *Isaiah 54:1-10*

*Pray For*: Good rest for our teachers and schools workers over this holiday period

God our Saviour, look on this wounded world in pity and in power; hold us fast to your promises of peace won for us by your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

**Thurs 31st December**  *Isaiah 55*

*Pray For*: Our vision for St James for 2021

God of truth, help us to keep your law of love and to walk in ways of wisdom, that we may find true life in Jesus Christ your Son. Amen

*Please be assured of my prayers for you all. If there is anything we can do to help, or you would like to talk with myself or a member of our pastoral team, please ring or email:  
Heather Graham 07876292288* [*heather.graham@stjamesdownley.org.uk*](mailto:heather.graham@stjamesdownley.org.uk)

You can keep in touch with the church on our website www.stjamesdownley.org.uk

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