

# *Sharing Together*

## *Praying for the churches of Wessex Synod*

*Week One*

*January 6*

### **St Columba's Church, Oxford**

*Loving God, we thank you for your constant presence with us. As we face a period of ministerial transition we give thanks for your past ministry to us. We pray for the United Reformed Church as, with new structures, we work to contribute to your mission. We ask for the guidance of your Holy Spirit in all our endeavours.*

### **St Paul's Church, Bracknell**

*We pray for the newly formed Mission and Outreach Team as they explore ways to share the Good News and serve the community. We pray also for the continued success of the Girls' and Boys' Brigades that they may continue to grow. We give thanks for the shared activities with the Anglican congregation, and we pray that the fellowship of St Paul's will be strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit in all that is undertaken in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

### **The Church at Throop, Bournemouth**

*Eternal God, send your blessing on this congregation as it strives to be a witness to the Gospel in the surrounding community.*

**Remember in prayer:**

**The Staff and Officers of the Wessex Synod and Wessex Trust and the Area Synod Pastoral Committees**

*Week Two*

*January 13*

**The Church at Farnham** gives thanks for children and young people in the church and asks for God's guidance as it seeks to develop further the opportunities that the location, buildings and wide network of people with whom the church is in contact offer. The church asks for prayer that all may deepen and enrich their spiritual lives.

**The Church at Longham**

*Heavenly Father, we pray for guidance in helping others to get to know our Lord Jesus Christ, especially amongst those in the local community and the many young people and adults who use our premises, for which we give you thanks. Amen.*

**The Church at Faringdon**

*Eternal God, send your blessing on this congregation as it strives to be a witness to the Gospel in the surrounding community.*

**Remember in prayer:**

**Conveners and members of Synod committees and Groups and Ecumenical partners locally.**

*Week Three*

*January 20*

**The Church at Beacon Hill, Hindhead** has recently completed an extension and refurbishment and gives thanks to God for his hand upon this project. The congregation prays that with the new coffee bar they can reach out better into the village community. It also asks for prayer for their minister, and for all ministers in the Synod.

**The Church at Chandler's Ford**

*Dear living and loving Lord we place into your hands all our concerns and worries of now, and for the future, while we await a new minister to join us and become part of the South West Hants Group. Help us to be strong in faith so that we may live our lives in total commitment to you and to each other thus strengthening all our churches in unity.*

**Synod partners in the Nord-Normandie Region of the Église Réformée de France**

Pray for our fellow Christians in France as they seek to witness in their communities.

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Egypt, Israel and the Occupied Territories including Jerusalem, Jordan, Lebanon Palestine and Syria.**

*Week Four*

*January 27*

**The Church at Romsey** asks for prayers for its work with the other churches of the town and practical outreach (linked to Hope 2008); for the work with children and especially families bringing children for baptism and for the church's involvement in the town's Arts Festival in 2008, including a presentation of the musical *'Mary Magdalene'*.

**The Church at Hambleton** is a small church that has just celebrated the bicentenary. It has few members and lacks potential officers but has a thriving Preschool Playgroup. Please pray that in the coming year ways will be found to keep the church open to continue to spread the good news of God's kingdom.

**The Church at Southbourne, Bournemouth**

*Eternal God, send your blessing on this congregation as it strives to be a witness to the Gospel in the surrounding community.*

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Yemen, Iran and Iraq.**

*Week Five*

*February 3*

**Trinity Church, Abingdon** asks for prayer that the Holy Spirit will give guidance and encouragement during the time of ministerial vacancy and enable the congregation to live out their mission statement "*Serving God, serving each other, serving community.*"

**The Church at Bitterne Park, Southampton** asks for prayer as it seeks a greater sharing of resources and common witness with both established and newly-established denominations in the locality, and prays that the church rises to the challenge and opportunities afforded by the construction and opening of a new supermarket immediately adjacent to the church.

**The Church at Skinner Street, Poole** plays a full part in the local community particularly as part of the support network to Routes to Roots, providing accommodation for a drop in for the homeless charity as well office space. The church asks for prayerful support for their vision of Christian faith and witness within the community and the partners in the Church's Together in Old Poole.

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Cyprus, Greece and Turkey.**

*Week Six*

*February 10*

**The Church at Cobham**

*We give thanks that we have a sense of God's presence, and that He blesses us with a supportive, welcoming church family. We pray for our church to be filled with the Holy Spirit, to be enthusiastic in outreach, to make a difference in our community and to grow in numbers.*

**The Church at Caversham Park, Reading** asks for prayers for God's guidance and blessing on its work to remain a visible presence of his love and care in the community of Caversham Park.

**The Church at Creekmoor, Poole**

*Eternal God, send your blessing on this congregation as it strives to be a witness to the Gospel in the surrounding community.*

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia.**

*Week Seven*

*February 17*

**The Church at Salisbury** is a city-centre, gathered congregation seeking to be welcoming, inclusive and open to all, delighting in worship and committed to serving the community.

*Eternal God, we rejoice in our diversity and believe that you are still speaking to us and through us. We pray for our Junior Church and FURY group, new bible study/house groups and deepening relationships with our Methodist and Anglican neighbours. In all we do may we walk together as your faithful people.*

**The Church in Guernsey** gives thanks for a flourishing work among children and for a church which is able to attract a wide range of folk from the local area. Please pray for the many lay preachers and minister who conduct worship when the Minister is in Jersey. The church is undergoing some major repair and redecoration work and would welcome prayers for persistence and enthusiasm as the church seeks to raise funds.

**The Church at Freshwater, Isle of Wight**

*Eternal God, send your blessing on this congregation as it strives to be a witness to the Gospel in the surrounding community.*

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.**

*Week Eight*

*February 24*

**The United Church, Winchester**

*Creator God, you have called us to be salt and light in this place. May Jesus be our light as we offer worship, service and hospitality in this city centre in his name. May **The Winchester Passion**, taking place on Good Friday, touch the hearts and minds of all who are involved.*

**The Church at Collinwood Road, Oxford** gives thanks for all the Christian life and witness that fills the buildings using four different languages and very different styles. Pray that the relationships between the congregations may reflect truly shared responsibility and richness in diversity. Pray too that the United Reformed Church congregation may grow in numbers and find better ways of integrating children into the congregation's worship and Christian learning.

**The Church at Fovant**

*Eternal God, send your blessing on this congregation as it strives to be a witness to the Gospel in the surrounding community.*

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Ireland and the United Kingdom.**

*Week Nine*

*March 2*

**The Church at Three Legged Cross**

*Heavenly Father, we give thanks for small churches. We pray that people do not get bowed down with the weight of leadership. We pray for our Lay Preachers and those who support us in our endeavours. We give thanks for friendships made over the years and for those to be made.*

**The Church at Elstead** is a small friendly, outgoing, congregation, who enjoy good relations with both ecumenical and secular neighbours. Many organisations use the premises during the week for a wide range of activities. Please pray for the church as it continues to reach out to all with the love of God.

**The Wessex Synod Meeting at Hythe**

Please pray for all involved in the Synod Meeting as they plan for the future life of the United Reformed Church in Wessex.

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.**

*Week Ten*

*March 9*

**Trinity Church, Bournemouth** was built in 2001, and the church seeks to bind diverse ages within the faith community through caring and service. The congregation asks for prayer as they give thanks for their involvement with local schools, Christian Aid and Age Concern. The congregation rejoices in the Sunday worship, Junior Church, FURY, Bible Study, Prayer Circle and Uniformed Organisations and seeks new ways of strengthening local ecumenical ties.

**The Church at Fleet** has mainly new buildings and the steady influx of new people of all ages and is in good heart. The church has concentrated attention on developing worship, and sharing in learning together, with a major emphasis on pastoral care. Many groups from the community are welcomed onto the premises. Please pray for the future life of the church.

**The Church at Windsor**

*Eternal God, send your blessing on this congregation as it strives to be a witness to the Gospel in the surrounding community.*

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Portugal, Spain, Italy and Malta.**

*Week Eleven*

*March 16*

**The Church at Totton** continues to explore new ways of worshipping and new ways of being Church. The congregation asks you to remember the Group for Children with Additional Needs, the branch of Credit Union, Small Talk for carers and children and the variety of new groups forming after our first *Alpha* Course and pray for the church as it looks at the possibility of engaging a Youth Worker and the running of a *Junior Alpha* course.

**The Church at Brill** asks for prayers as it enters a period of ministerial transition and as it continues to develop its ministry in Brill village.

**The Church at Broadstone**

*With our new minister we pray for wisdom and vision as we seek to deepen our relationship with God, and discern how to use our established talents, newly discovered skills and material gifts to share Christ's saving love with people of all generations and social gifts in Broadstone and beyond.*

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Germany and France.**

*Week Twelve*

*March 23*

**The Church at Lower Earley, Reading** requests prayer for the lively church in a time of change and ask for God's blessing on the minister. The congregation prays that the development of the building into a new open and accessible chapel may enable local people to find a place of peace and spiritual nourishment in their busy lives and that the gathered people of God may be encouraged to proclaim our faith to the wider community.

**The Church at Blandford Forum** praises God for the midweek home groups, for growth in numbers in the evening congregation, for new friends being made through the Tuesday coffee morning and mini-market, and for the good response to the *Pause for Prayer* during that weekly event. Prayer is requested for the contacts being made through church-led groups in art, computing, and craftwork and for the right leadership to come forward.

**The Church at Ryde, Isle of Wight**

*Eternal God, send your blessing on this congregation as it strives to be a witness to the Gospel in the surrounding community.*

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Andorra, Monaco and San Marino.**

*Week Thirteen*

*March 30*

**The Church at Thatcham** asks for prayers for the future and also for the growth and the development of the church family. The church gives thanks to God that everyone who loves him belongs to the Christian family. The members ask for blessing on their work with children through the many Church based organisations and request special prayers for the Elders and congregation as they face another vacancy with the retirement of the Minister.

**Christ Church, Chineham** is planning a new position for a youth leader in 2008, and there is much work to be done in preparation for the appointment. Please pray that whole church will seek God's guidance, and that they may be clearly led to the right person for the role.

**The Church at Buckland, Portsmouth**

*Eternal God, send your blessing on this congregation as it strives to be a witness to the Gospel in the surrounding community.*

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Myanmar and Thailand.**

*Week Fourteen*

*April 6*

**The Church at Andover**

*Please guide us as we face the coming challenges of ministry without a dedicated minister and as we talk to fellow local Christians in order to try to set up a local mission partnership and glorify your name as we work together for you. Amen*

**The Church at Mere** asks for prayer as it faces the challenges both of being an area earmarked for housing expansion and of impending ministerial transition. The congregation gives thanks for the modernised building and also that it witnesses in a *Fair Trade* area, and through *Mere Churches Together*, supports the *Footprints* project which provides economical courses in computing, parenting and life skills.

**The Church at Grange, Reading**

*Eternal God, send your blessing on this congregation as it strives to be a witness to the Gospel in the surrounding community.*

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.**

*Week Fifteen*

*April 13*

**The Church at Fareham**

*As we seek to re-examine our responsibilities for mission-grant us your vision Lord.  
As we seek to deepen the bonds of friendship between us-grant us your insights Lord.  
As we seek to encourage the young, grant us your words and your wisdom Lord.  
Guide us; guard us; inspire us.*

**The Church at Newbury** asks for prayers as it faces changes in Ministry from early in 2008 and also for the continuing discussions with another denomination about joining together of two churches to make a better impact in the town.

**The Church at Womersley** has entered a positive period in its life and gives thanks for many blessings including an increase in regular worshippers and the mid week fellowship. The congregation ask for prayer for all the groups using the premises and for the plans for renovating the building.

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of China, Hong Kong and Macao.**

*Week Sixteen*

*April 20*

**Richmond Hill, St Andrews, Bournemouth** thanks God for the union of churches which expressed their traditional faith in Congregationalism and Presbyterianism and for the privilege of sharing the Gospel with all who come into contact at special and poignant moments of their lives. As the church looks forward to the challenge of the future, confident in the continuing love and grace of God, seeking to bring deeper understanding between the age ranges in the church through worship, service and fun events, please remember the congregation in prayer.

**The Church at Westborough, Guildford** asks for prayers as it looks for a new minister to journey with them as they seek to be salt and light in Guildford.

**St Andrew's, Reading**

*Eternal God, send your blessing on this congregation as it strives to be a witness to the Gospel in the surrounding community.*

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Brunei, Malaysia and Singapore.**

*Week Seventeen*

*April 27*

**The Church at Braishfield** is a small village church working with the local parish church in producing a joint news sheet and holding special events. It asks for payers for the worship week by week and for growth in the work with children

**The Church at Rowlands Castle** asks for prayer to enable the church to make an impact for Christ in the community and for the Youth work of the church, RoCKs (Rowlands Castle Kids) which is held every Tuesday during term time for 5+ yrs. & RoCYs (Rowlands Castle Youth) once a month on a Friday 10-16 yrs. Prayer is also requested for the new extension 'The Meeting Place' and for finance to build and for the manpower to run it.

**The Church at Lord's Hill Southampton** seeks prayerful support for both the LEP and for the organisation of the area pastoral committee in a transitional period. The congregation asks for special prayer for the Interim Moderators who support the church at this time, and for their work in finding new ministers to fill vacancy as the church continues to work in the local community.

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of East Timor, Indonesia and the Philippines.**

*Week Eighteen*

*May 4*

**The Church at Verwood** asks for prayers for the recently inaugurated informal monthly Early Bird Services designed for families with young children, for the ability to expand provision of outreach lunches for those living alone and for positive responses as with other Verwood churches, Verwood seeks *Fairtrade* Town status.

**Avenue St Andrew's Church, Southampton** invites prayers as it seeks to develop new patterns of ministry with partners in the South West Hants Group, and strives towards being a more multicultural church as the congregation seeks to develop links with asylum seekers whilst working with families under pressure through the *Avenue Centre* and with the homeless through the ecumenical *Rent Deposit Scheme*.

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Japan, North Korea, South Korea and Taiwan.**

*Week Nineteen*

*May 11*

**The Church at Shanklin, Isle of Wight** praises God for many positive developments and for growth, but is challenged by a lack of space. The church asks for prayer for wisdom in decisions about the next steps in improving the facilities and for the new Youth Worker as he settles into the team.

**The Church at Twyford (Bucks)** is a small village church, within the Bernwode Mission Partnership. The church seeks guidance on worship which can be embraced by all and service in the local community, and asks for the Holy Spirit's leading on the church's development spiritually and in relation to the challenge of our buildings.

**Christian Aid**

During Christian Aid week please pray for all the staff and volunteers as they seek to help those in need throughout the world.

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Djibouti and Somalia, Eritrea and Ethiopia.**

*Week Twenty*

*May 18*

**The Shared Church of St Peter's, Guildford** asks for prayer as with its plant, the Church in Jacobs Well, it reaches out to serve and bring Christ's love to the local communities through *Alpha* in the autumn, for a Men's Group meeting in the local pub, and for midweek groups for all ages and for the regular worship.

**The Church at West Moors** asks for prayers for the continuing life of West Moors United Reformed Church as it tries to reach out into the community to bring the Good News to the mainly elderly people who surround the church.

**The Church at Radipole, Weymouth** asks for prayer for the fellowship as it continues our work with young people at *Whizz Kids* and the Church Youth Club. The church gives thanks for the joint Women's Own meeting with St Aldhelm's Parish Church and prays especially for the new Joint Town Centre Mission Initiative in Weymouth town centre.

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Sudan and Uganda.**

*Week Twenty-One*

*May 25*

**The Church at Summertown, Oxford**

*We thank God for our past - for the years of faithful witness in this place. We praise God for the present - for the closeness of our fellowship, for the love we find here. We trust God for the future, and ask his guidance as we make plans to redevelop our building to better serve our community.*

**St Mark's Shared Church, Bordon**

*We give thanks for ministry provided by the Church of England, Methodist Church, and United Reformed Church, and for the richness that sharing traditions brings. We pray that St Mark's will be guided by the Holy Spirit in developing and deepening our mission, that we may be at the heart of the community as Bordon undergoes significant change in the coming years.*

**The Church at Liss**

*Dear Father, we pray for courage as you challenge us to spread the Gospel in your Son's name. We also pray that we may, with your help, nurture the young lives who use your church in Liss. May we all come to know more and more your saving grace. Amen.*

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Kenya and Tanzania.**

*Week Twenty-Two*

*June 1*

**The Church of the Holy Family, Blackbird Leys, Oxford** gives thanks for the strong ecumenical witness of this church and its vocation for mission, and praises God for the loyalty of the worshipping congregation. The congregations asks that prayer be made for the commitment of the wider Church to the continuing provision of Free Church ministry in Blackbird Leys, and also for the people as together they seek to discern afresh what their engagement in community work might involve.

**The Church at Wimborne** gives thanks for some new opportunities that have come to the congregation, and prays for God's enabling as it responds, particularly in the expansion of activities and ministry among retired people living near to the church and as it plans for the possible re-building of the church halls.

**The Church at Finchdean** requests prayerful support as it looks to make major changes in the way it worships, including using the building in new ways, increasing mid-week services and exploring new patterns of worship. They ask that the prayer may be that they find the right path to make these efforts work for the glory of God.

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Malawi and Zambia.**

*Week Twenty-Three*

*June 8*

**The Church at Bitterne, Southampton**

*We thank God for the many blessings we receive in our lives as a worshipping, celebrating Christian community; people meeting here all through the week, in all their wonderful diversity. We pray for God's continuing guidance and vision, in all our strength and weakness, as we strive to reflect God's love. In Jesus' name.*

**The Church at High Cross Camberley** is working with the young people of Camberley and is opening WIRED@HIGHCROSS an after-school internet café/club. The church continues to develop the *OPEN DOORS* vision and outreach through *THESHOP@HIGHCROSS* and the Coffee Bar. Please prayer for these projects and also for their aim of building better relationships within the church, with High Cross and the other fellowships in Camberley and with the wider community in which it is set.

**The Church at Stanford in the Vale**

*Eternal God, send your blessing on this congregation as it strives to be a witness to the Gospel in the surrounding community.*

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Botswana and Zimbabwe.**

*Week Twenty-Four*

*June 15*

**The Church at Havant** is a gathered congregation, worshipping in traditional style in a Victorian building. In 2008 it is expected that work will begin to refurbish the halls, to build 'Havant Meeting Place'. The fellowship asks for prayers for the congregation who are seeking strength and wisdom for the path ahead, that in a year when the buildings are refurbished, worship and fellowship may be sustained, the gifts of members be affirmed and the path of mission and service become clear.

**The Church at Marston, Oxford**

*Gracious God, we ask your blessing on this small congregation recognising that our energies are more limited now. Grant us a deepening faith as we gather to worship you and show us ways in which we may share the good news of your love with those around us.*

**The Church at Walkford, Christchurch**

*Eternal God, send your blessing on this congregation as it strives to be a witness to the Gospel in the surrounding community.*

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland.**

*Week Twenty-Five*

*June 22*

**Park Church, Reading**

*God of all the world, we praise you for the many people who have been and are part of the fellowship at Park United Reformed Church in Reading. During our Centenary year we pray for Your blessing upon our celebrations. Holy Spirit inspire us as we celebrate the past and build for the future. Amen*

**Freemantle Church, Southampton**

*Father God, thank you for the fellowship at Freemantle. Thank you for those who had the vision to plan and build in faith and those who worked and worshipped through the years. As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the present building, we thank you for the commitment of those who helped to refurbish and update the sanctuary. Praise and thank to you Lord God.*

**The Church at Cosham, Portsmouth**

*Eternal God, send your blessing on this congregation as it strives to be a witness to the Gospel in the surrounding community.*

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Angola and Mozambique.**

*Week Twenty-Six*

*July 6*

**The United Church at Bridport** asks for prayer as it seeks to review the mission statement and define its vision for the next few years. Please also pray for the Youth Cafe being organised through the Churches Together Youth Worker Project, which is beginning to meet on the premises.

**The Church at Airfield, Woodley** is small in number but great in determination to seek and to do the will of God. The church asks for prayer that it might be able to make a real difference to the community, for the school where it meets, for the clubs that are run for the pupils and for the work and witness there. The congregation also ask that it will continue to explore and celebrate new ways of worshipping God and showing his love to the people of Woodley.

**The Church at Lovedean** is a small congregation who have been meeting in the village hall since 1966 would welcome prayers for members and their families.

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Brazil.**

*Week Twenty-Seven*

*July 6*

**The Church at Canford Heath, Poole** asks for prayers for wisdom for the minister and elders as it seeks to lead forward the Cell based church including the activities and ministries involving many members. The work includes outreach to the large estate in schools, residential homes, the homeless in the Poole area as well as developing Cell church family from crèche to retired.

**The Church at Petersfield**

*Heavenly Father, we seek your blessing on the work of the recently completed United Reformed Church Centre in Petersfield, making it act as a magnet to the surrounding community, drawing in people of all ages to accept your loving presence in their lives.*

**The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church** is meeting in Edinburgh during this week. Please pray for the Moderator and Assembly Officers, the members of Assembly and the staff as they plan for the way ahead for the church.

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay.**

*Week Twenty-Eight*

*July 13*

**St Mary's Church, Banbury** requests prayer for their mission as a shared church with the Anglican congregation, in the town centre ministry, particularly as it moves into a new phase, the *Livearts* programme, in the internal administration, in its response to environmental issues and the possible redevelopment of the worship area.

**The Church at Tadley**

*Thank you, Lord for our vision to become a cell church, for our new youth worker and for closer working with our nearby Methodist friends. We pray for our fledgling cell groups, for our youth worker as she trains and begins work, and for guidance in our mission and outreach.*

**The Church at Somerford, Christchurch**

*Eternal God, send your blessing on this congregation as it strives to be a witness to the Gospel in the surrounding community.*

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Bolivia, Chile and Peru.**

*Week Twenty-Nine*

*July 20*

**The Church at Shaftesbury** praises God for a thriving congregation, with a good mix of ages. Please pray for additional helpers with the Junior Church, which is growing steadily. Pray too for the Methodist minister, and for the part-time United Reformed Church vacancy arising this year due to retirement.

**The Church at Hedge End, Southampton**

*We praise God that, through years of change, we have known the constancy of God's love and of Christian companionship. We pray that God will continue to use us, granting us vision and encouragement as a church - and as churches together - for the sake of the coming Kingdom. In Jesus' name.*

**The Church at East Cliff Bournemouth** *Dear Lord, the world changes all the time, and we are learning to change as well. With your guidance God we are helping each other to lead the church. Onward we go, outward we go, with you beside us to strengthen us in the next stage of life at East Cliff*

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela.**

*Week Thirty*

*July 27*

**The Peachcroft Centre, Abingdon** asks for prayer as it seeks to appoint a new minister from September 2008, asking that that God's choice will be made and that the new minister will continue to further the vision to serve the local community, especially amongst young people and families, and bring them to faith in Jesus.

**The Church at Woking** praises God for the growth in children and young families and prays too for his continued guidance in the development of the Youth and Children's work. The congregation pray for the planned redevelopment of the Woking premises, through which it is hoped to make the church more available and welcoming to the local community.

**Christ Church, Woodley**

*Eternal God, send your blessing on this congregation as it strives to be a witness to the Gospel in the surrounding community.*

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Panama**

*Week Thirty-One*

*August 3*

**The Church at Portsmouth Road, Guildford** embraces a broad range of theological standpoints and worships in a way that is best described as 'relaxed formality'. The church asks for prayers for their Outreach, for their work with children, including the after school club, the Holiday Clubs for young and old, the Contact Centre, the work with people with learning disabilities and the work with people with mental health needs.

**The Church at Portland** is a long standing stone church which has often struggled to survive. The congregation is small and mature. Their prayer is for the work ahead.

*Heavenly Father,*

*Just as the Causeway joins our island to the mainland, may we be a link through which your love flows to others.*

*As the mighty sea defences keep us safe from the stormy seas that surround us may we offer shelter to those in need.*

*As the lighthouse offers guidance to those at sea, may we show your light to those who live in the darkness and are lost.*

*Father God may we be an answer to the prayers of others.*

*Amen*

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico**

*Week Thirty-Two*

*August 10*

**The Church at Lymington** asks for prayers for God's guidance and strength as the *Open Door Vision* comes to fruition in the beginning of the refurbishment of the church and the building of a new hall. It seeks support during a time of ministerial vacancy and prays that in the outreach through the *Basic Bank* people in need will receive God's love along with the food.

**Immanuel with St Mark's Church, Hatch Warren**

*Wonderful Lord, we praise your holy name. We ask that our worship of you be from the heart, that our service of you involves sacrifice and that our decisions and choices be made with the wisdom that has come from you. We pray for the faith that will call us to follow you no matter what the consequences and above all we ask to be filled with your love. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of the Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda the Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago.**

*Week Thirty-Three*

*August 17*

**The Jesus is Lord Church, Warsash**

*Our Lord and Heavenly Father, thank you that we serve a true and living God, and that you pour new mercies upon us every day.*

*Thank you for the young people in our congregation, for their vibrancy and energy in their love for you. Help keep them strong.*

**The Church at Medstead** gives thanks for the small faithful congregation who have recently been blessed by the addition of an organist, and for all those who give ministry to them. The fellowship asks that God will continue to bless them and the warm and loving mid-week fellowship together with the social events which are so important to those taking part.

**The Church at Lytchett Minster** asks for prayer for a sense of purpose and for good use of the buildings as the small and faithful congregation continues to worship and witness to the love of God in Christ. The church values the local ecumenical relationships and prays that all the churches may find effective ways of witnessing and worshipping together.

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Canada and the United States of America.**

*Week Thirty-Four*

*August 24*

**The Church at Bury Road, Gosport** celebrated the 50th anniversary of the current building in 2007 and are hoping to build on the good relationships that those celebrations have given with those who use the building and with the surrounding community. The fellowship asks for prayers that it may show the love of God in Christ Jesus in all that is done during the coming year.

**The Church at Worplesdon** asks for prayers for the church and in particular the lunch club; for its organisers who do so much each week, and for those who come to enjoy the fellowship and friendship it offers.

**Christ Church, Marlow** asks for the prayers of the Synod as it seeks to grow Christ's Church in Marlow, in work in places and overseas. The mission team to Mozambique has brought back a number of opportunities and these will be used to increase enthusiasm to spread the Gospel and to attempt to combat poverty and injustice wherever possible.

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia.**

*Week Thirty-Five*

*August 31*

**The Church at London Street, Basingstoke** asks for prayers for the minister, the church in her mission "*To Walk with Christ in the Market Place*" and gives thanks for the continuing development of the ecumenical Community Cafe now with a paid manager, and for the growth of the young people's work including weeknight Pilots begun in 2007.

**The Church at Longfleet, Poole**

*Lord, we offer our thanks for the opportunities offered to this fellowship during the last few years. Thank you for the work of the Poole Food Bank, and for the continuing outreach offered by the Fair and Square café. We ask that you will continue to offer us opportunities to make a difference within our community through the work of our Church Related Community Worker and the Bridging Communities project. We ask this in your name and for your glory alone. Amen.*

**The Church of St Francis, Banbury**

*Eternal God, send your blessing on this congregation as it strives to be a witness to the Gospel in the surrounding community.*

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of the Pacific islands: Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Western Samoa and the French Overseas Territories of New Caledonia (Kanak)**

*Week Thirty-Six*

*September 7*

**The Church at Swanage** thanks God for guidance during a time of ministerial transition and prays that it, together with its sister church in Wareham, will be led in making the right choices for the future. Please pray for the churches in Swanage as they seek to work together more in the community.

**The Church at Marsh Gibbon**

*Thanks be to God for the growing trust and faith that we share through our fellowship groups and prayer meetings. We ask that God will guide us and enable us to find ways to overcome the obstacles which a small, elderly congregation presents. We ask for strength, wisdom and courage to enable the work of Christ to continue in this place.*

**The Church at Sarisbury Green** gives thanks for the time, talents and support given to the church by past and present members and friends. Please pray particularly for those from this congregation who witness as lay preachers and for those training for the ministry.

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.**

*Week Thirty-Seven*

*September 14*

**The Church at Hythe**

*Loving God we give thanks and praise to God for the opportunities that the new building provides in communicating the love of Christ to those in Hythe. We pray that our open doors will be welcoming to all who enter; that we will all be renewed in Spirit as together we journey as Christ leads. Amen*

**The Church in Jersey** asks for prayer that a newly reconstituted Junior Church may continue to grow and that outreach to the locality will encourage more community use of the refurbished premises. Please pray also for encouraging and developing ecumenical links with the local Methodist Church.

**The Church at Normandy**

*Eternal God, send your blessing on this congregation as it strives to be a witness to the Gospel in the surrounding community.*

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia.**

*Week Thirty-Eight*

*September 21*

**The Church at Weybridge**

*As we at Weybridge dream our dreams of a church committed to the values of the kingdom, so we pray that God will turn our dreams into vision and our vision into reality that way seek to be an inclusive church and play a full part within the community.*

**The Church at Cumnor, Oxford**

*We praise you, O God, for the worship we enjoy each Sunday and for the inspiration that comes through our ministers and preachers. We work to have our premises well used by people and groups in the local community. May we all share what we have with those who are in need. Amen.*

**The Church at Valley Park, Chandler's Ford**

*Eternal God, send your blessing on this congregation as it strives to be a witness to the Gospel in the surrounding community.*

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Slovenia and Yugoslavia**

*Week Thirty-Nine*

*September 28*

**The Church at Iford, Bournemouth**

*All praise and thanks to you Father God, as we go forward with enthusiasm under the leadership of our Minister. May we encourage our young people, support those in need of care, and show forth your love to all, so that others are drawn to accept Jesus as Lord. Amen*

**The Church at Broad Chalk, Salisbury** asks for prayers for the local church, for the United Reformed Church mission partnership with the Parish Church, and the growing commitment to make 'Church' visible and meaningful in the whole of village life. Pray too for the local farming community, and others who struggle to find work and affordable housing.

**Hope Church, Weymouth**

*Eternal God, send your blessing on this congregation as it strives to be a witness to the Gospel in the surrounding community.*

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Belarus, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine.**

*Week Forty*

*October 5*

**The Church on Hayling Island** asks for prayer support as it seeks to increase opportunities for fellowship and learning, not only to help church members deepen their faith, but also to reach people of all ages who have not yet committed themselves to the Christian faith. The church plans to build on existing networks with children and young adults, and continue running *Disciple* and *Alpha* courses.

**The Church at Ringwood**

*Eternal God, send your blessing on this congregation as it strives to be a witness to the Gospel in the surrounding community.*

**The United Reformed Church** was formed on October 5th 1972. Please pray for the whole church as it celebrates 36 years of work and witness and looks forward in faith to the future.

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.**

*Week Forty-One*

*October 12*

**The Church at Tilehurst, Reading**

*Father God, we thank you for the wonderful fellowship and friendship of our congregation and sense of pulling together during our time of ministerial transition. We pray for the uniformed organisations and all the hall users, that they may feel your presence. We pray Lord, that this part of your Body of Christ would fulfil your purpose, with exciting new opportunities to serve the local community and expand our Junior Church. In Jesus' name, Lord. Amen*

**The Church at Bishop's Waltham**

*Thank you, Lord, for the growth and fellowship of this small, town-centre, united Methodist and United Reformed congregation and its midweek groups. Fill us with your Spirit that we may grasp every opportunity to be your witnesses and servants in our community, and that we may show more young people your love. Amen.*

**The Church at Twyford (Berks)**

*Eternal God, send your blessing on this congregation as it strives to be a witness to the Gospel in the surrounding community.*

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan Uzbekistan.**

*Week Forty-Two*

*October 19*

**The Church at Temple Cowley, Oxford** asks for prayer as it explores a radical and costly development of their building to enable the setting-up of a residential Christian community.

**The Church at Sherborne**

*As we continue on a challenging journey, Lord, encourage us and direct us, so that we may see the common vision of our church and make our church to be a centre of this community, where people can find the true love of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

**The Church at Winton, Bournemouth**

*Eternal God, send your blessing on this congregation as it strives to be a witness to the Gospel in the surrounding community.*

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal.**

*Week Forty-Three*

*October 26*

**The United Church at Godalming** asks for prayers for the church (Methodist and United Reformed since 1977, and in a local covenant with Church of England parishes). In the first phase of a vision process the church is seeking to make its buildings more accessible and flexible. As *Catch the Vision* becomes *Vision4Life* please pray for unity of purpose and a deepening commitment to prayer, Bible study and evangelism.

**The Church at Maiden Bradley**

Pray for the small fellowship at Maiden Bradley that the members may be faithful to the Gospel.

**The Church at Thame**

*Eternal God, send your blessing on this congregation as it strives to be a witness to the Gospel in the surrounding community.*

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.**

*Week Forty-Four*

*November 2*

**St Columba's Church, Gosport** has just opened a preschool in co-operation with other local churches, in its building. Please pray that the church will be able to build good relationships with the families of the children involved. Pray also for continuing good relationships with the other groups that meet on the premises, including the parents and toddler group and the dancing classes.

**The Church at Three Mile Cross**

*Father of all, help us to cope with 'change' in a changing world: changes as families grow up, changes in health and activities as we grow older and changes in our church buildings. Help us to remember that there is One who never changes, now and always. Amen.*

**The Church at Whitely**

*Eternal God, send your blessing on this congregation as it strives to be a witness to the Gospel in the surrounding community.*

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of the Indian Ocean islands: Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Maldives.**

*Week Forty-Five*

*November 9*

**Isaac Watts Memorial Church, Southampton**

*Loving God please give members of Isaac Watts church the vision to see how you can work in Shirley, the wisdom to understand your will as they seek to follow the vision, and the strength to carry out the work. Bless them as they bring the good news to those who have not yet heard it.*

**The Church at Wareham** is in good heart and has enjoyed a shared ministry of the Interim Moderator and Elders since 2006. Your prayers, with thanksgiving, for all who share in ministry are requested, and also that the ecumenical progress being made may continue to grow between local churches.

**The Meeting of the Wessex Synod**

As the Synod meets please pray for all who will attend that they may work and find fellowship together.

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda.**

*Week Forty-Six*

*November 16*

**St Andrew's Church, Walton-on-Thames** is an interesting mixture of traditional and innovative in many respects. Traditional worship each Sunday plus 'Express' Services for those in hurry and 'Early-Bird' All-Age Services, lively house-groups and bible study, a weekly much used Child Contact centre, plus the usual round of church lunches, ladies guilds etc. Please pray for continued strength and guidance as the church is now in ministerial transition.

**The Church at Maidenhead**

*We praise God for the continued presence of the West Street church over the centuries. We give thanks for the many blessings, including our premises, our healthy finances and our full time staff. We pray for our small groups and our work with young people and we ask that we may work and pray harder.*

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Republic of Congo, Gabon, Sao Tomé and Principe.**

*Week Forty-Seven*

*November 23*

**The Church at Henley on Thames** is celebrating the centenary of the church building and asks for prayers for the developing life of the Church and outreach in the community. The congregation gives thanks for new young families and the work with children and young people.

**The Church at Ferndown** has seen congregational growth in the past year through various initiatives. The current prayer needs are for the recently introduced Ministry Teams, to achieve more flexibility and to free up the leaders to concentrate on the spiritual and strategic planning life of the fellowship. The church would also value prayer for a new or enlarged sanctuary to facilitate the current needs and for the opportunities that have come about through the appointment of a Youth Minister.

**The Church at East Howe, Bournemouth**

*Eternal God, send your blessing on this congregation as it strives to be a witness to the Gospel in the surrounding community.*

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Cameroon, Central African Republic and Equatorial Guinea.**

*Week Forty-Eight*

*November 30*

**The Church at Wheatley, Oxford** continues to serve the village community, by providing rooms and personnel for two mother and toddler groups, the CAB, and an Alzheimer's Carers group. The church is also looking for new areas of outreach work. Please pray for the LEP in the village and for the continuing search for a minister.

**The Church on the Heath, Elvetham Heath** ask for prayer as the fellowship rejoice in the possibilities afforded by the wonderful new building, and as it works to clear outstanding loans so that it can increasingly focus on their vision of *Sharing the Good News; Serving the Community and Growing as Christians*. Please pray for the church as it seeks to add a youth worker to the team to reach out to teenagers in the community.

**The Church at Winton, Bournemouth**

*Eternal God, send your blessing on this congregation as it strives to be a witness to the Gospel in the surrounding community.*

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger.**

*Week Forty-Nine*

*December 7*

**The Church at Pear Tree Green, Southampton asks for prayer**

as it prepares to celebrate the bicentenary in May 2008, and as it works with other local churches, faith groups, and the City Council to plant joint ministry and outreach within the major building development planned on the nearby site of the former Vosper's shipyard.

**The Church at Parkstone** would value prayers for the growing link, reflected increasingly by joint worship, with the Anglican sister church, St Peters Parkstone. Please also pray for the thousands of statutory sector workers (emergency services, Connexions, Primary Care Trust, Local Authority etc) who visit the church premises, that they may catch a glimpse of the glory of God, and that the church may learn from them about community and wellbeing.

**The Church at Chertsey**

*Eternal God, send your blessing on this congregation as it strives to be a witness to the Gospel in the surrounding community.*

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Liberia and Sierra Leone.**

*Week Fifty*

*December 14*

**The Church at Fordingbridge** requests pray for the life of the church through its activities including the *Carers' Café*, meeting monthly for anyone caring for a relative or friend, to exchange experiences or let off steam and the *Young Parents' Group* meeting weekly for companionship and mutual support. Please pray also for the Junior Church, that more young families may be attracted; for older people, retiring to the area, and that there may be a happy balance between old and young.

**The Church at Emsworth**

*Eternal God, send your blessing on this congregation as it strives to be a witness to the Gospel in the surrounding community.*

**Synod Partners in the Lusaka Presbytery of the United Church of Zambia**

Please pray for the Lusaka Presbytery as the members work to further the work of God's kingdom.

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Cape Verde, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal.**

*Week Fifty-One*

*December 21*

**The Church at Egham** asks for prayer for members and friends in the United Church of Egham as it continues to reach out to the local community by exploring new and exciting ways of worship, continuing well established coffee mornings and midweek services as well as reaching out to and working with other churches in the area.

**The Church at Hungerford** asks for guidance and sensitivity in any plans for the future as it reaches out to local people, and prays that more young people will regularly attend both Junior Church and the Mini-Crus meetings held on Friday evenings during term time.

**The Church at Milton, Portsmouth**

*Eternal God, send your blessing on this congregation as it strives to be a witness to the Gospel in the surrounding community.*

**Remember in prayer:**

**The peoples of Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo.**

*Week Fifty-Two*

*December 28*

**The Church at Aston Tirrold** asks for prayers for the Centre for Reflection as a focus of the congregation's mission and for those who come to the Centre, seeking rest, refreshment and healing. At a congregational "at home" day, those present reflected on the verse: "*Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking. If anyone hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and eat with you and you with me*" (Revelation 3.20) and suggest that this could be a focus for personal meditation.

**The Church at Burton Green, Christchurch**

*Eternal God, send your blessing on this congregation as it strives to be a witness to the Gospel in the surrounding community.*

**Remember in prayer**

**The peoples of Ghana and Nigeria.**