

November 2024 prayer diary

FRIDAY 1 NOVEMBER

- Our 11-18s are having a “cinema social”; pray that it will help them build relationships
- William is speaking on Luke 17-19 at a weekend away for Christ Church Kensington. Please pray that as a church family they will be engaged in God’s work until Jesus returns
- There are weekends away for the 4pm and for RML Overview
- Pray for the children’s ministry at weekends away this month; for leaders to be well prepared and excited by what they’re teaching, and for children to have soft hearts to the word

SATURDAY 2 NOVEMBER

- We are committed to partner in prayer with Holy Cross Gleadless Valley, Sheffield: This month they ask us to give thanks for: ‘Fun Food and Faith’ outreach (for fun, a good meal and hearing about Jesus; pray for hearts that turn to Jesus); the relaunch of Sunday Club as ‘Children’s Church’ (which is helping children and parents grasp the gospel priorities for this ministry); new people coming on Sundays and midweek and others returning after a time away; deepening relationships with local organisations and increased opportunities to speak into the challenges faced by many in their community (these contacts have also led to more local government support for their Food Support Ministry); a volunteer assisting the Vicar with the church database
- and to pray for: further admin support, especially concerning safer recruiting and rotas; meetings with the Diocese concerning their roof and the need for more space for children’s ministry; the PCC to be united and have wisdom and courage about decisions over their relationship with Sheffield Diocese; preparations for and opportunities through the Gleadless Valley Memorial Service (7 Dec) and their Remembrance Sunday service (10 Nov); for their women’s gathering (30 Nov) to continue to draw in a wide range of women from across their church family and community

SUNDAY 3 NOVEMBER

- Pray for the 10am & 10.30am (William on Gal 5:2-12), the 2pm Mandarin (John on Acts 16:16-40), and the 4pm & 6pm (Nick / Luke C on Luke 3:1-20) meetings
- Pray that as the children begin to look at God’s promises in Genesis to fix the world, they will know what it means to trust these promises for themselves
- There is a lunch after the 10.30am. Pray for good conversations as they seek to build one another up in the gospel and welcome newcomers. Pray that the ‘Equipped’ session will help them care well for those experiencing mental health struggles
- Asha meets today, looking at Matthew 26:1-16

MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER

- Pray for a guest event this evening at St Helen’s, with Paul interviewing Rachel Dixon: “Is there really life after death?” Pray for conviction and good conversations
- The Marriage Foundations course will run over the next three Mondays. Please pray for marriages to be characterised by grace, forgiveness and the gospel
- (4-8) Cornhill Plus students (including all the St Helen’s Trainee Christian Leaders) have a residential, with teaching from Gwilym and others on the book of Amos and on preaching
- (4-6) Andrew Sach is speaking on 1 & 2 Kings at the ‘Prêche la Parole’ conference in Paris, which will be attended by several of our mission partners

TUESDAY 5 NOVEMBER

- Pray for our Associates to grow in personal ministry as they meet with individuals for 1-1 studies. Pray that those times together in the Word will be encouraging and fruitful
- Pray for the lunchtime meetings at St Helen's (William on Matthew 16:21-23) and Aldersgate (Phil M on Mark 2:13-3:6)
- This week CF are studying Romans 3:27-4:25. Pray that we will be confident that justification is by faith for all nations, as God has always promised
- Pray for Evensong at St Michael's Cornhill (Henry on Luke 10:25-27). A group from the Prayer Book Society are visiting

WEDNESDAY 6 NOVEMBER

- Give thanks for the Essential Mix last month; pray that students will continue to be struck by the significance of Church in God's purposes, and put into practice the lessons they learnt
- Pray for the lunchtime meetings at N Bishopsgate (Tom James on Matthew 16:21-23), and Moorgate (Phil M on Mark 2:13-3:6)
- Pray for week 6 of the City Christianity Explored course. Pray for hearts to love the grace that God offers us

THURSDAY 7 NOVEMBER

- Pray that many City workers will come to the Remembrance service at St Helen's today, and for guest speaker Major General Rob Thompson, CBE DSO
- Pray for the lunchtime meeting at Covent Garden (Paul on Mark 10:45)
- William is speaking at a thanksgiving service for an insurance worker, Ian Wicks, who died earlier this year. Pray that people will respond to the hope that is found in Jesus
- 10am CF are studying Isaiah 9:8-12:6. Pray they will understand why God acts in judgment

FRIDAY 8 NOVEMBER

- Give thanks for all our small group leaders, and pray they will have good time to prepare their studies each week, and that they will grow in understanding God's word
- Pray for Tom & Liz (Etterbeek Church, Brussels) as they have taken on more leadership responsibilities. Pray that the congregation will remain united in the gospel
- Our 11-14s are starting a series in Exodus, this evening looking at Exodus 1-2 (Will W speaking)
- Pray for the 6pm RML Romans weekend away and the 10am weekend with Tim S on 1 Cor 15. Pray for increasing trust in the hope of the gospel, and for strengthened relationships

SATURDAY 9 NOVEMBER

- Pray for "Sorted" today; an event for 14-18s. Pray that the talks on Ecclesiastes will cause the young people to understand our world rightly and give themselves to what lasts
- Jonny Pilcher asks us to pray especially for the Facilities Team just now. He writes:
 - The team is feeling under significant strain at the moment (various buildings-related issues that don't have simple solutions have reared their heads recently). Pray for volunteers to sign up to help who can assist with facilities-related issues. Pray for energy for Jonny and Alejandro, and most importantly that they will continue to trust in the Lord's provision and sovereignty
 - Pray that they will be able to address the issues that have already arisen successfully, and that further issues won't develop as the winter months set in
 - Give thanks for a great deal of help and support from the Associates, cleaning team, volunteers, and church family. Pray for ongoing patience and support from the church family

SUNDAY 10 NOVEMBER

- Pray for the 10am & 10.30am (William on Galatians 5:13-15), the 2pm Mandarin-speaking (Henry on Acts 17:1-15), and the 4pm & 6pm (Nick / Luke C on Luke 3:21-38) meetings
- Pray for a Sunday morning CE course running over the next three weeks
- Asha are looking at Matthew 26:17-29 (and as the passage is about the Last Supper they will try to celebrate the Lord's Supper too, for the first time)
- Junction (14-18s) are starting a new series on living distinctively. Pray that the teenagers will see that God's way is better than the ways of this world, and be motivated to live accordingly

MONDAY 11 NOVEMBER

- Pray for leaders within the Church of England who are seeking to keep God's word central, particularly when same-sex blessings and prayers are being promoted by others
- Pray for a group of lawyers who are praying and planning Christmas outreach to colleagues
- Pray for our International Committee meeting this evening (meeting Lucy and also discussing next year's budget for Mission Partner support)

TUESDAY 12 NOVEMBER

- Pray for the lunchtime meetings at St Helen's (Wes on Matt 16:24-28) and Aldersgate (Phil M on Mark 3:7-31)
- CF will review Romans 1-4. Pray that they will be strengthened in their faith in the gospel, which is the power of God for salvation for all who believe, and be shaped by this
- Pray that an interview with Paulene Monro about "sitting at the feet of Jesus" will generate gospel discussion at the St Michael's Cornhill post-Evensong dinner
- William and Janet are flying to Kuala Lumpur this evening. Pray for a smooth, safe journey, and that the Lord will give them many ministry opportunities while they are away

WEDNESDAY 13 NOVEMBER

- Central WoW is meeting, to think about how to stay in touch with and care for those in the church family who are 'invisible', like Mission Partners or others not physically able to join us for a season. Pray for women to be equipped and encouraged in this ministry
- Pray for the lunchtime meetings at Moorgate (Phil M on Mark 3:7-31) and N Bishopsgate (Wes on Matthew 16:24-28)
- Paul is speaking on Psalm 34:8 at a St Nick's Cole Abbey evangelistic wine tasting event
- Give thanks for a number of non-Christian students in RML Mark and pray that they will repent and believe in the gospel

THURSDAY 14 NOVEMBER

- Pray for the lunchtime meetings at St Helen's (Wes on Matt 16:24-28) and Covent Garden (Paul on Mark 10:46-52)
- Wes is speaking at a dialogue lunch at Chaucer Insurance on "Is Christianity outdated?"
- There is a thanksgiving service for Doreen Osborne; pray this will be an afternoon full of thanksgiving for the gospel, and for her faithful life
- Pray that training at LSE CU this evening (Andrew Markham) will equip students to be bold in evangelism
- 10am CF are studying are studying Isaiah 13-23. Pray they will have a right fear of the God who sovereignly judges
- Janet is leading a women's Bible study on Hebrews 10 and William is leading a seminar on reading the Bible 1-1 with non-Christian friends (in Malaysia)

FRIDAY 15 NOVEMBER

- William is speaking at a conference for people considering full-time ministry. Ask the Lord to raise up labourers for the harvest field in Malaysia
- Pray for church musicians attending “Serving in Song” to serve Jesus faithfully and humbly
- Our 11-14s will be looking at Exodus 3-7:7 this evening (Jenny Davies speaking)
- Pray for the 10.30am weekend away (Andrew Sach and David Jackman speaking on God’s sovereignty). Pray that people will leave with a greater assurance of God and his plans, and with strengthened church family relationships. Pray too for the children’s and youth programmes

SATURDAY 16 NOVEMBER

- Pray for James HH today and tomorrow teaching on hierarchy of doctrines for a group of churches in the Strasbourg area
- We partner in prayer with St Philemon’s, Toxteth. This month they ask us to:
 - Give thanks for their mission partners in Japan, Madrid and Warrington, and pray that they will support them well
 - Ask the Lord to provide new leaders for their children’s groups, as they are growing in number
 - Give thanks for their midweek Life Groups that have spurred them on to live and speak for Jesus this year

SUNDAY 17 NOVEMBER

- Pray for the 10am & 10.30am (Gwilym on Galatians 5:16-26), the 2pm Mandarin-speaking (Henry on Acts 17:16-34), and 4pm & 6pm (Nick / George on Luke 4:1-13) meetings
- Simeon is being baptised at the 10am. Pray that he will grow up in a clear faith in Jesus, and for his parents and godparents
- William is preaching on Revelation 17 at St Mary’s Cathedral, Kuala Lumpur
- Pray for Asha; today a discussion on Matthew 26:30-35

MONDAY 18 NOVEMBER

- Pray for a resolution to the wars afflicting the world, and that world leaders will make decisions to help this. Pray that Christians will persevere in their faith and in loving their neighbours
- Pray that across our church family we will have confidence in the gospel and compassion for the lost as we think and pray about who to invite to carols services and other Christmas events
- Give thanks for a number of unbelievers coming to l’ECUB (Will & Joanna, Bordeaux). Pray for Joanna, expecting their fourth child, and the opportunities she has to meet mums at school
- Our Church Council (PCC) meets today. Pray for gospel unity and wisdom in decision-making

TUESDAY 19 NOVEMBER

- (19-21) William is speaking at a ‘curates conference’ in Perth (Australia). Pray for many opportunities for the curates to be encouraged and strengthened with the gospel
- Pray for the lunchtime meetings at St Helen’s (Paul on Mark 10:35-45) and Aldersgate (Phil M on Mark 4:1-20)
- This week CF study Romans 5:1-11. Pray that they will believe deeply and rejoice that, because Jesus died on the cross, we are reconciled to God today and will be saved on the day of judgment
- Pray for evensong at St Michael’s Cornhill (Drew on Luke 11:1-4)

WEDNESDAY 20 NOVEMBER

- Pray for much wisdom for our Government in many complex arenas. Pray the Lord will provide good counsel, and enable decisions that will work for good in the longer term
- Pray for the lunchtime meetings at Moorgate (Phil M on Mark 4:1-20) and N Bishopsgate (Paul on Mark 10:35-45)
- Praise God that one of Joelle's dorm girls, Sarai, is now studying at Bible College in Phnom Penh. Pray that her time there will be great preparation for however God uses her in the future
- Paul is speaking at an evangelistic Christmas event

THURSDAY 21 NOVEMBER

- Pray for the lunchtime meetings at St Helen's (Paul on Mark 10:35-45) and Covent Garden (Giulio on Mathew 16:1-12)
- Give thanks for the time that our 1st year Associates have spent in Philipians this term. Pray that they will increasingly take on the mindset of this letter
- 10 CF are studying Isaiah 24-27 tonight. Pray they will praise God for his salvation, and that these chapters will help them to see the pride of the world the way the Lord sees it
- William is leading a seminar for AFES staff on biblical worship

FRIDAY 22 NOVEMBER

- Give thanks, and pray for, a number of teenagers in our youth groups who are involved in running their school Christian meetings
- Pray for a number of children coming to our youth groups from unchurched backgrounds
- Our 11-14s will be looking at Exodus 7-10 this evening (Anna Lamb speaking)
- IGG have a weekend away. Tom Liu (Mandarin) and Gwilym (English) are giving a Bible Overview
- William is speaking at an evangelistic workplace dinner in Perth

SATURDAY 23 NOVEMBER

- (23-26) William is speaking at a student conference in Perth. Pray that students in Western Australia will shape their lives around gospel priorities
- Pray for our brothers and sisters around the world who are marginalised and persecuted because they are Christians. Ask the Lord to provide for their needs and to protect them
- Pray for Rosanne's preparation for and participation in OMF leadership meetings next week. Pray that despite several changes, they nevertheless will make good decisions and progress where needed in order to help all OMF Japan serve the Lord joyfully and effectively

SUNDAY 24 NOVEMBER

- Pray for the 10am & 10.30am (Gwilym on Galatians 6:1-10) and the 4pm & 6pm (Aneirin / George on Luke 4:14-21) meetings. (No Mandarin-speaking meeting because of the weekend away)
- Martin and Maddie are being baptised at the 10.30am. Pray that they will continue in Jesus each day, rooted and built up in him, with thanksgiving (Colossians 2:6-7)
- There is a lunch after the 10am. Pray for fruitful times of conversation as they reflect on what they have been learning from Galatians
- Asha meets today, looking at Matthew 26:36-46

MONDAY 25 NOVEMBER

- Pray for our former Associates and apprentices to stay faithful to the Lord, living godly lives and holding out the word of truth lovingly and clearly to those amongst whom he has placed them
- Our church family gathers to pray together this evening. Give thanks for the privilege of prayer, both in private and as we meet together. Pray that many of us will join to pray this evening

TUESDAY 26 NOVEMBER

- Pray for the lunchtime meetings at St Helen's (Paul on Mark 10:45) and Aldersgate (Phil M on Mark 4:21-34)
- Pray for a new Tuesday lunchtime small group in Mizuho Capital (Tokyo - Thierry & Antonia), which has two non-Christians coming. Pray for the group to gel and for the participants to enjoy getting to know each other; pray that the Bible time will feel unforced and interesting for all
- CF are studying Romans 5:12-21. Pray that they will rejoice in Jesus Christ, the new Adam, in whom there is grace abounding
- Pray for Joe as he trains a group of seven church apprentices from across Paris
- Pray for evensong at St Michael's Cornhill (Drew on Luke 11:5-13)

WEDNESDAY 27 NOVEMBER

- Give thanks for the ladies regularly attending the Asha ESOL classes on Wednesday mornings. Pray that friendships will develop that will enable conversations about Jesus
- Pray for the lunchtime meetings at Moorgate (Phil M on Mark 4:21-34) and N Bishopsgate (Paul on Mark 10:45)
- Give thanks for those who have been attending the IGG Explore course recently. Ask that they will be convicted of sin and convinced of mercy

THURSDAY 28 NOVEMBER

- Pray for the lunchtime meetings at St Helen's (Paul on Mark 10:45) and Covent Garden (Giulio on Mathew 16:13-23)
- Pray for Gareth & Katharine, with decisions to make about adjusting their roles and handing other responsibilities on to others. Pray that they will be clear-headed and servant-hearted concerning their roles and how they can best contribute to serving God in Nigeria
- 10am CF are studying Isaiah 28-29 tonight. Pray they will see the folly of trusting in anyone other than the Lord to protect and deliver his people

FRIDAY 29 NOVEMBER

- William is leading an evangelistic preaching training day in Adelaide. Pray that the pastors will be encouraged to keep the gospel central to their evangelistic efforts. Janet is speaking at an evening for pastors' wives on "Partnership in a Noble Task" from 1 Timothy
- Pray that the Associate training session on 'How to apply' will help them to think carefully about how to apply the Bible to themselves and to those they teach
- Pray that many at the Guys CU carol service (Tim speaking) will want to investigate Jesus further
- Our 11-14s will be looking at Exodus 11-13:16 this evening (Will Waugh speaking)
- RML Mark have a weekend away

SATURDAY 30 NOVEMBER

- Give thanks for progress made on Ruth's dissertation for Wycliffe Bible Translators, and for getting into a helpful work routine. Pray that she will work diligently and be able to serve the Lord joyfully through her study
- Pray for Joe & Elin (Asia) as they begin to plan for the next year of ministry. Give thanks for two new Bible study leaders to help with leading small groups. Pray that the Lord will help them make the best plan for the building up of his people and that they will continue to trust him to provide the people, the safety and the finances to keep going

Mission Partner news

St Helen's sends out and supports individuals and families involved in cross-cultural Christian ministry, both overseas and in this country. We are also linked with national Christians and churches overseas. Below is a focus on two of our mission partners. News for our other partners is on the information board under the balcony in St Helen's Church.

Joe, Anne-Sophie, Lucie (born 2013), Emma (born 2015) and Charlotte (born 2018)

Joe and Anne-Sophie are part of the ministry team at Eglise Connexion in Paris.

received 27.10.24

Recently at Connexion church we've been studying the end of the book of Exodus and have been meditating on God's desire to dwell with his people. It's been fruitful doing this during a period when we're putting a lot of time and effort into fundraising for our building project because we know that as Christians living under the new covenant, God's presence with us doesn't depend on tents or temples made by human hands. He's already come to dwell with us in Christ and through his Spirit filling our hearts. Please pray for us that we'll rejoice not only that he's saved us from slavery and death but also for relationship with him and the rest of life in his presence.

Building project

It was great to pay a visit to London in July and to present Connexion's plan to buy a building in central Paris. It's all hands on deck right now as we seek to raise the necessary money to complete the sale. We're grateful for the generosity already shown both by members of our church and from outside.

We also give thanks for positive relations with the sellers and for three months extra time for fundraising. And we've been blessed to have a team of American volunteers that's come together to promote the project in the US.

Please pray for energy levels in our church, with so many people serving. Please pray also for Jason, pastor of Connexion, who's heading out to the States for 3 weeks in November to raise funds and also for his wife Loanne and two children that they'll be well looked after during his absence.

It's also our desire that this building should serve the wider church here in Paris. Please pray for discussions we're having with organisations interested in maybe renting meeting space from us, that any partnership would not only help us pay for the building but also further the cause of the gospel in the French capital.

Church apprentices

I have the privilege of helping train church apprentices from across the Paris area. This year we have a group of seven who'll meet once a month to study Colossians, practise giving Bible talks and think about the joys and challenges of Christian ministry. Pray that we'll all grow this year as we do that.

You can pray also for events we're planning in Paris and Strasbourg early next year to encourage members of churches in those cities to consider whether full-time Bible teaching ministry could be for them.

Local evangelistic opportunities

Please pray for evangelistic opportunities with neighbours. Recently Anne-Sophie began reading Mark's Gospel with two local mums and their 10 year old daughters. This November she'll also start teaching Mark's Gospel in Lucie's school to year 7 pupils as part of a religious education course. [Joe continues to read John's gospel with neighbour].

Family

Finally, we'd ask you to keep praying for us as a family that we would know, love and trust the LORD more and more. Please pray for Lucie, Emma and Charlotte that they would call on the LORD as a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. And you can pray for Anne-Sophie and me also that amidst everything else going on, we won't in any way neglect our ministry towards our girls.

Some other things happening over the next few weeks :

- The team sent by Connexion on a short term mission trip to Togo will be coming home to Paris
- Andrew Sach will speak on 1 and 2 Kings at the 'Prêche la Parole' preaching conference 4-6 November

Joe