

Wey Valley Circuit Prayer Diary - January 2024

Redemption: a New Start

Simeon and Anna's Prophecies for the life of Jesus, the child Jesus becoming the Saviour and Redeemer for all - Immanuel – God with us, Jesus the Son of God. (Luke 2:21-36)

January is also the month when as a Circuit we remind ourselves of, and renew our Covenant and reflect upon the 22 questions the Wesley Brothers' Holy Club asked themselves every day. We will take one a day, to reflect upon with God. They may not always be relevant to us, but they make us stop and think.

(Bible references are from the NRSVA unless otherwise stated. Holy Club Questions - Discipleship Ministries, UMC)

The Font in Wesley's Chapel, City Road, London, contains a stone slab. This came from the plantation house on the island of Antigua in the Caribbean Sea. It was sent to the Chapel in memory of Nathaniel Gilbert, a one-time slave owner, who became a Christian through John Wesley's preaching, and became a founder of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean. It is engraved with a chain circle symbolising the love of God, through Jesus, shattering the chains of sin and slavery. bringing Forgiveness, Redemption and the promise of new life for for all.



Monday 1st Naming of Jesus – *'He was called Jesus, Emmanuel, God is with us, the name given by the angel before he was conceived'* (Luke 2:21, Matthew 1:23)

As we think on the naming of Jesus give thanks that we are all children of God and will not go into this New Year alone. Pray for God's presence, love and power in our daily lives.

'Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting. (Psalm 139:23-24)...

Tuesday 2nd Question 1: Am I consciously or unconsciously creating the impression that I am better than I really am? In other words, am I a hypocrite?

Wednesday 3rd Question 2: Am I honest in all my acts and words, or do I exaggerate?

Thursday 4th Question 3: Do I 'confidentially casually' pass on to another what was told me in confidence. In other words, do I gossip?

Friday 5th Question 4: Can I be trusted?

Saturday 6th Epiphany – *When the Wise Men saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage, and presented him the gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh.* (from Matthew 2:10-11)

Reflect on *'What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him, give my heart.'* (Christina Rossetti StF 204)

Sunday 7th Covenant Sunday: *'From the earliest days of the Methodist Societies, John Wesley invited the Methodist people to renew their Covenant relationship with God.'* {Methodist Worship Book, P281}

Reflect on these words - *'The covenant I this moment make be ever kept in mind; I will no more my God forsake or cast God's words behind. (StF 549 v 3)* Pray as the Holy Spirit leads.

Pray for the Worship and Mission at Addlestone, Byfleet and Woking Trinity and for all those who participate. Also, all those renewing their Covenant today or later this month.

Monday 8th Baptism of Jesus – *'Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. A voice cam from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well pleased.'* (From Mark 1:9-11) Praise the Lord for the gift of Jesus the Son to be our Saviour.

Tuesday 9th Question 5: Am I a slave to dress, friends, work or habits?

Wednesday 10th Question 6: Am I self-conscious, self-pitying, or self-justifying?

Thursday 11th Question 7/8: Will/did the Bible live in me today? Do/will I give it time to speak to me today and every day?

Friday 12th Question 9: Am I enjoying prayer?

Saturday 13th Question 10: When did I last speak to someone about my faith?

Sunday 14th

Pray for the Ministry and Worship at Cranleigh, West Horsley and Weybridge and all who participate, also for Youth Group Pudding and Praise at Walton-on-Thames – 4.00pm

Monday 15th Question 11: Do I pray about the money I spend?

Tuesday 16th Question 12: Do I get to bed on time and get up on time?

Wednesday 17th Question 13. Do I disobey God in anything?

Thursday 18th

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins.

Each day pray for the ministry of a different Church in your area; Anglican, Catholic, Baptist, URC, Free Church, etc.

Friday 19th Question 14: Do I insist upon doing something about which my conscience is uneasy?

Saturday 20th Question 15: Am I defeated in any part of my life?

Sunday 21st Pray for the Worship and Mission at Guildford St Mary's, Knaphill, Stoughton, and Sheerwater, and all who participate.

Monday 22nd Question 16/18: Am I jealous, impure, critical , irritable, touchy, distrustful, proud?

Tuesday 23rd Question: 17: How do I spend my spare time?

Wednesday 24th Question 19: Do I thank God that I am not as other people, especially as the Pharisee who despised the publican?

Thursday 25th

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ends.

Pray for your own Church community and its relationship with the other worshipping communities you have prayed for this week.

Conversion of St Paul: Give thanks for the work and ministry of St Paul through his writings.

Friday 26th Question 20: Is there anyone whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticise, hold a resentment towards or disregard? If so, what am I doing about it?

Saturday 27th Holocaust Memorial Day – take some time to reflect upon the human cost of the Holocaust, and in the areas of our world today where innocent people suffer due to conflict.

Sunday 28th Pray for the Worship and Mission at Godalming UC, Merrow and Walton-on-Thames and all who participate. Also, for the ministry of Chaplaincy across the Circuit, for example at the University, and the Theatre.

Monday 29^h Give thanks for the service provided by our Ministers, Local Preachers, Worship Leaders, Pastoral Visitors, Stewards, Administrators, Readers, Musicians, Flower Arrangers, Refreshment Providers, all Congregations, and any others who have enabled Worship and Mission to take place in the Circuit.

Tuesday 30th Question 21: Do I grumble or complain constantly?

Wednesday 31st Reflect upon your thoughts about all the previous questions and then answer, **Question 22. Is Christ real to me?**

I pray that God, Abba Father, will richly bless you this year as you seek to serve.

Graham



Image: Chichester Triptych 'Heart on Fire'
This element represents the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist.
Artist: Professor Anne Grebby
Shared with G Warr by the painter