

## Wey Valley Circuit Prayer Diary - February 2024

### The Theme this month is Candlemass and Lent

(Bible references are from the NRSVA unless otherwise stated.  
Prayers are in line with the Lectionary and other sources as noted.)



A solitary candle shining in the darkness! Carlisle Cathedral

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup>** As we begin to focus our thoughts on Lent and Easter give thanks for the new life Spring brings. Its colours, scents, and increasingly longer daylight.

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> The Presentation of Christ in the Temple, Candlemas:** Today we give thanks for the witness of Simeon and Anna and the promise that Jesus is the 'Light of the World', sent to shine on all God's people.

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup>** Pray for the outreach through the Pantomime 'Snow White' at Godalming UC on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> - for further information see Page 9 The Wey Forward.

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> World Cancer Day:** Pray for all those suffering from cancer and their families, particularly those you know – also all those who work in cancer care and research.

Pray for the Worship and Mission at Addlestone, Byfleet and Woking Trinity - and the Circuit Service there at 6.00pm to celebrate Hugh Bowerman's 25 years as a local preacher, and for all those who participate in these worships.

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup>** Pray for the ministry of Chaplaincy across the Circuit; in Hospitals, Care Homes, Schools, the University other Colleges and locations. May God empower the Chaplains in their work.

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>** In this period of reflection upon the 'Presentation of Jesus in the Temple' pray for the children known to you, and their families, that God will bless them. Pray for families and children across the world who are suffering.

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>** 'Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided, urged, and inspired me, cheered me on my way, sought me and saved me, pardoned and provided, Lord of the years, I bring my thanks today'. *{StF 470:1, suggested by Methodist Prayer Handbook 2023/24 for today.}*

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>** Give thanks for the light in the morning and pray that the Light of Jesus will shine out of you today for 'Jesus bids us shine like a pure clear light' – wherever we are.

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup>** Reflect on how the light of Jesus can/could shine from your heart into the dark corners of our world, where there is so much need.

### **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>**

Thank God for the lights of evening. I share the words of a chorus I learned over seventy years ago; but still so true today. *'A little star peeps over the hill, the woods are quiet, the birds are still, the children clasp their hands in prayer for the love of God is everywhere!'* Take that promise and relate it to tomorrow.

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Racial Justice Sunday:** Give thanks for our diversity and pray for God's help in overcoming our prejudices and the injustices that reflect and reinforce them (*The Methodist Church*).

Pray for the Ministry and Worship at Cranleigh, West Horsley and Weybridge and all who participate.

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup>** As we approach Lent and consider the Passion of our Lord Jesus, pray these words of Søren Kierkegaard: *'May I never feel forsaken, O Lord, whether in the quietness of my resting, in the storms of the day, in the cares of the world or in the journey of life'*.

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> Shrove Tuesday** On this day when we traditionally eat pancakes, pray for those who will not have a proper meal today and seek to do something to help. *'Feed the hungry. Come, you who are blessed by my Father, for I was hungry, and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink'*. (Matthew 25:34)

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday:** Reflect on these words and respond as the Spirit leads - *God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, so that everyone, (including me!) who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.* (John 3:16)

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>** *'Those who do what is true come to the light, so it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God'*. John 3:21. Pray for God's help to achieve this today and every day.

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup>** Pray for the Spirit to live in you so that the light of Jesus will shine for all to see.

*From 397 StF the Hymn designated in the Methodist Prayer Handbook, A Guide to daily prayer – and the first of the five steps in the Methodist Way of Life Examen.*

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>** Pray for the Ministry of 'Clothes 4U' at Knaphill 1.30pm-4.00pm

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> Student Sunday:** Pray for the students within the your church family and any others that you know, that God is with them as they study.

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

### **Theme for the week as we consider Jesus in the wilderness facing temptations about his Mission**

Based around Day 6 in 'Light the Fire Again, Lent 2020' by Rev, Dr Andrew J. Taylor, and the Gospel song by Pollard Stebbings 'Make me know your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth' (*Psalms 25:4-5a*).

### **Monday 19<sup>th</sup>**

*'Have your own way Lord, have your own way, you are the potter, I am the clay., make me and mould me, after your will, while I am waiting yielded and still'*.

### **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>**

*'Have your own way Lord, have your own way, search me and try me Master today. Whiter than snow, Lord, wash me just now, as in your presence humbly I bow'*.

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>** *'Have your own way Lord, have your own way, wounded and weary help me I pray, Power, all power, surely is thine; touch me and heal me Saviour divine'*.

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>** *'Have your own way Lord, have your own way; hold o'er my being absolute sway. Fill me with your Spirit till all shall see, Christ, only always, living in me'*.

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>** 'Lord you are my Deliverer, you rescue me from troubles both real and imagined, and save me from hopelessness and despair. Turn a new page in me and lead me on to follow in your footsteps'.

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>** *'Give thanks to the Lord your God with your whole heart and glorify God's name.*

*(From Psalm 86:12 part of the Psalm designated for today)*

For our sins are forgiven through the sacrificial love of Jesus.

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>** Pray for the Worship and Mission at Godalming UC, Merrow and Walton-on-Thames and all who participate.

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup>** 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.

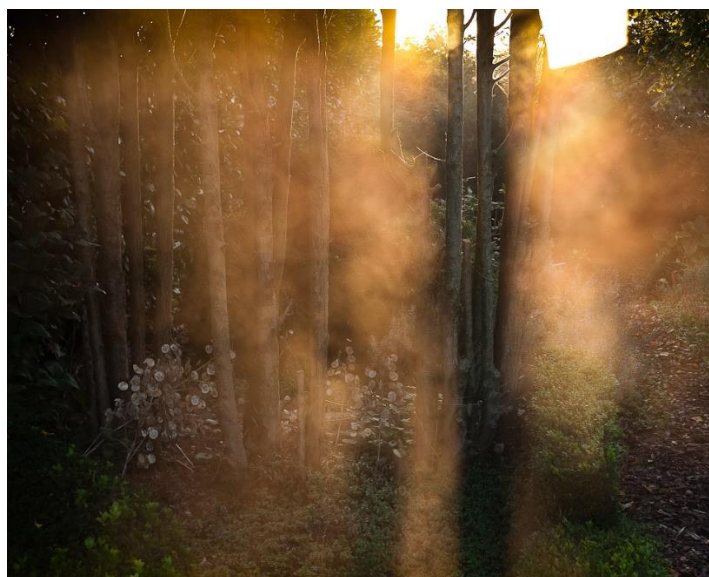
**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup>** Today and Tomorrow reflect upon these words of Isaiah: *'I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God, Yahweh has clothed me with the garments of Salvation'.* (Isaiah 61:10)

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup>** *'As the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden cause what is sown to spring up; so the Lord will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all nations'.* (Isaiah 61:11)

**Thursday 29<sup>h</sup>** Use this extra day as God has given and use a different format for prayer. Perhaps use music, or a hymn/song, a candle as a focus, or silence to meditate on the sacrifice Jesus made for you.

I pray that God will be with you as you follow in Jesus's footsteps through Lent towards the reality of Easter.

Graham



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