



Bury St Edmunds Churches Together Prayer Sheet from December 2015.

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

John 1:1

As the winter nights become colder, please pray for the work of the volunteers in food banks and help centres, plus their clients who need help and loving support.

Prayer for the victims of the shootings in Paris and the wars in Africa and the Middle East.

Praise the Lord for the start of Bury Drop In. With over 50 volunteers from across the churches, we have been able to serve some of our homeless & vulnerable neighbour's person-by-person (look out for the first Bury Drop In newsletter).

We are very encouraged by several new families in the congregation (including some American families) which is an answer to prayer.

Recently we heard that our church hall (due for redevelopment) at Garland Street Baptist Church is to be regarded as listed. Please pray we will have the wisdom of the Lord as we reassess our plans for both buildings and ministry. Please pray for planning for 2016 and especially the visible things that occur outside the building. In particular we hope it will be possible to do another BBQ mission in the summer.

We are aware that there have been groups of young adults (not an initiative of any one church) meeting to worship, meet and work out what it means to follow Jesus. Spectrum has been at the forefront of thinking though encouraging Christian faith among the 18's to 30's. Be encouraged!

Christ Church gives thanks for the very generous response to our recent Gift Day and for the hard work of so many loyal volunteers within the life of the church. We ask your prayers for all our Christmas services especially those involving children from the local schools, guides, brownies and rainbows groups and the Crib Services on Christmas Eve.

Can we please ask for prayer For St. Nicholas Hospice Care, especially on St. Nicholas Day (6th December)?

Please pray for the seven Light up a Life Services organised by the Hospice across West Suffolk and Thetford to celebrate, reflect and remember loved ones. The local services are at the Hospice at 5 pm on 5th December and St Mary's Church Bury St. Edmunds at 6 pm on 13th followed by gathering round the Christmas tree on the Angel Hill at 7 pm.

We are grateful for all of our volunteers, who make the work of the Hospital Chaplaincy so much easier. Thank you, Lord, for those who visit and pray with patients on the wards, those who create the beautiful seasonal floral displays, honorary Chaplains who give of themselves so unstintingly, not to mention the many unsung heroes behind the scenes ... noticeboard angels, pianists, prayer partners, and so on. We pray that Christmas will be a time of rest and spiritual refreshment for them, and especially for those for whom Christmas may not be the happy time that most of us wish for.

West Suffolk Vineyard Church are holding a Family Christmas Party with Nativity on Saturday 19th Dec, and our annual Carols and Candles Service on Sun 20th Dec. Please pray that both of these events will attract many non-church people and the real meaning of Christmas will shine through.

Pray for the work of our schools and colleges as they bring the Christmas message to children across the world.

You may wish to visit our website: <http://together.ourchurchweb.org.uk/stedmundsbury/> .

If you have a subject needing prayer or something to offer in praise, please email Frances at [francesparr@btinternet.com](mailto:francesparr@btinternet.com). We produce a Prayer and Praise Sheet each month – and it is a great way to celebrate God’s work as well as bringing attention to projects and services in your church.

Upcoming events for prayer and reflection:

Date	Church or Organiser	Prayer request- please hold these events in your prayers
10:30 05 Dec	All Saints Mark Haworth	<i>Angel Tree Service</i> – to remember babies and children who have died.
2:00 05 Dec	St Georges Paul Webb	<i>Christmas Fayre</i> - at the heart of the local community.
5:00 06 Dec	St Johns Adrian Mann	<i>Advent Carol Service</i> – an opportunity to worship in fellowship and celebrate the Advent period.
6:30 17 Jan	St Georges Church Paul Tyler	<i>Week of Christian Unity Prayer Service</i> – led by Tony Rogers
12:30 18 Jan	Cathedral	<i>Week of Christian Unity Prayer Lunches</i> – All are welcome to join in fellowship and prayer.
12:30 19 Jan	Garland Street	<i>Week of Christian Unity Prayer Lunches</i> – All are welcome to join in fellowship and prayer.
12:30 20 Jan	Trinity	<i>Week of Christian Unity Prayer Lunches</i> – All are welcome to join in fellowship and prayer.
12:30 21 Jan	St Edmunds	<i>Week of Christian Unity Prayer Lunches</i> – All are welcome to join in fellowship and prayer.
12:30 22 Jan	URC	<i>Week of Christian Unity Prayer Lunches</i> – All are welcome to join in fellowship and prayer.
12:30 23 Jan	St Johns	<i>Week of Christian Unity Prayer Lunches</i> – All are welcome to join in fellowship and prayer.
7:30 25 Jan	Garland Street Andrew Soman	<i>Churches Together Meeting</i>
8 – 10 06 Feb	West Suffolk Hospital Jean Bruce	<i>Prayer Breakfast</i> . All are invited to join and share in a time of fellowship and prayer.
7:30 16 Feb	Cathedral John Parr	<i>Cathedral Tuesday Evening Lent Lectures</i> - focused on Religion and Violence
7:30 23 Feb	Cathedral John Parr	<i>Cathedral Tuesday Evening Lent Lectures</i> - focused on Religion and Violence
7:30 01 Mar	Cathedral John Parr	<i>Cathedral Tuesday Evening Lent Lectures</i> - focused on Religion and Violence
7:30 08 Mar	Cathedral John Parr	<i>Cathedral Tuesday Evening Lent Lectures</i> - focused on Religion and Violence
7:30 15 Mar	Cathedral John Parr	<i>Cathedral Tuesday Evening Lent Lectures</i> - focused on Religion and Violence
7 – 9 20 April	All Saints Church David Wakeford	<i>Study and Share</i> – A series of 4 sessions
7 – 9 27 April	All Saints Church David Wakeford	<i>Study and Share</i> – A series of 4 sessions
7 – 9 04 May	All Saints Church David Wakeford	<i>Study and Share</i> – A series of 4 sessions
7 – 9 11 May	All Saints Church David Wakeford	<i>Study and Share</i> – A series of 4 sessions