

Growing in
depth

Growing in
influence

BECCLES PARISH

ST MICHAEL'S & ST LUKE'S

MISSION FOCUS

PRAYER DIARY – AUTUMN 2018

SUNDAY – CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY

- Please pray for Deborah and Levi Santana who are working with some of the poorest and most marginalised members of society in Goiania, Brazil. It is often very difficult to know how best to respond to so many needs when there is so much poverty and so few resources.
- In Japan Christians make up only about one percent of the population. The Diocese of Osaka has a long established link with the Diocese of Taiwan and there are regular exchange visits between the two. The latest ones involved young people from both countries. Please pray that this link will give mutual encouragement to Christians in both countries.
- Rachel Ullmer is now back in Pakistan following her recent visit to the UK. This will probably be Rachel's final period working as a mission partner in Pakistan. Please pray for all the projects that she is involved with and also for Rachel as she considers her future ministry.

MONDAY – CATHERINE LEE

- Catherine will be in the UK until February of next year, when she will be returning to Taiwan. During her time in the UK she will be visiting many of her supporting churches as well as spending time with family and friends. Please pray that the coming months will be a real blessing to the churches she visits and that it will be a time of real spiritual refreshment and relaxation for Catherine herself.
- Like other universities in Taiwan, St John's University is facing reducing numbers of student enrolments. Please pray for Bishop David Lai as he takes over the role of Chair of the Board of Trustees at this very challenging time.

- Whilst Catherine is on leave many (but not all) of her responsibilities will be taken over by others. Please pray for these staff and also that the momentum will not be lost especially in the English language classes that Catherine runs.

TUESDAY – THE CHILDREN’S SOCIETY

- Amanda was put into care at age 12 due to home difficulties. She began to skip school and would often sleep out on the streets. At age 14 she was referred to the Children’s Society who supported her one-on-one to bring her home, rebuild her troubled relationship with her mum and engage with school again. She is now living happily back at home. Please pray for all the Children’s Society workers who are supporting thousands of children like Amanda.
- Please pray for Christine Bonney, a project worker at the London Refugee and Migrant Services. One young person recently told her, “The Children’s Society is like my family.....I wouldn’t be alive if it wasn’t for you and the support you’ve provided”.
- In 2017. 84,044 working days were contributed to the Children’s Society by local volunteers. Please give thanks for all these dedicated workers and especially for those working in our local Children’s Society shop.

WEDNESDAY – CHRISTIAN AID

- The worst monsoon rains in over 100 years have brought massive flooding in Kerala, southern India. Over a million people have been affected; 200,000 people will be unable to return to their homes for at least 6 months and more than 400 lives have been lost. Please pray for the relief efforts being organised by Christian Aid’s local partners.
- Give thanks that, as a result of the Big Church Switch initiative, more than 5,000 churches and 15 cathedrals in the UK and Ireland are now running on renewable energy. Please pray that more organisations will join this campaign to reduce greenhouse gases.

- Please pray for all the countries and organisations working to bring about a **sustained** ceasefire in Syria. Half the Syrian population have had to flee their homes and more than 5.2 million people are now refugees. The conflict is now entering its seventh year. Give thanks for Michael Green's work supporting Middle Eastern refugees including Syrians in Ipswich.

THURSDAY – RUKUNGIRI

- Our Harvest appeal this year is to help fund the building of a new girl's toilet block at the neighbouring secondary school. Give thanks for the good relations between the primary and secondary schools and also give thanks that more girls are progressing on to secondary education in Uganda (and many other African countries). These young women will have even greater ambitions for **their** children who are the future of Uganda.
- Please pray for the projects being organised both in Rukungiri supporting churches in the UK to buy much need new benches and desks for some of the classrooms.
- The new irrigation system is working well on the Farmland which, as a result, continues to develop. Please pray for the little school and the recently completed church which are serving the needs of the families in the area, many of whom work on the Farmland.

FRIDAY – KAGERA

Give thanks and continue to pray for:

- **Spiritual Nurture:** That there will be an increase in the number of people who know God and worship him faithfully in Spirit and Truth.
- **Poverty Alleviation:** Kagera is one of the poorest regions in Tanzania. The Diocese complements government efforts in seeking to alleviate poverty in the region.
- **Education:** The Kagera Diocese has one of the lowest literacy levels in Tanzania. A number of projects are in place to enhance standards of education amongst different sections of the community.

- **Health Care:** The Diocese is working in partnership with the government to improve the provision of health services both at the hospital level and also, more importantly, in primary health care within the community.

SATURDAY – THE BIBLE SOCIETY

Bible Sunday will be celebrated at both St Luke's and St Michael's on Sunday 28th October

- **Algeria:** The Christian community is coming under pressure. Bible Society there has been unable to get a licence to import Christian material. Four Protestant churches have been shut. A bookshop owned by a Christian has been closed down and other Christians have had lawsuits filed against them under a law that forbids 'seeking to shake the faith of a Muslim'. 'Please pray for Algerian Christians and the ministry of the Bible Society here,' asks Ali Khidri (General Secretary). 'Our freedom to worship is facing a grave threat and there is a clear violation of fundamental freedoms.'
- **Open the Book:** As the new academic year begins, please pray for the Open the Book teams from Beccles and Worlingham as they go into schools to tell Bible stories. Give thanks for the schools' willingness to receive us and pray for Rich as he regularly leads assemblies. Praise God for the opportunities that the Christmas season gives to welcome schools into our churches.
- **Christian Unity** has taken an enormous step forward in Turkey, where Turkey's Orthodox, Catholic, Armenian, Syriac and Protestant churches have produced a book entitled *Christianity: Fundamental Teachings* which they have all agreed to. Bishop Masalyan said, 'Through this book we declared to the whole world with a mighty voice that, without hesitation, we see every Church and every believer who approves of the fundamental principles and doctrines of faith in this book as fellow-heirs of salvation in Jesus Christ, considering them our brothers and sisters.' Praise God!