

This month the Prayer Diary takes a different format. It is divided into four weekly sections, each one beginning with an Advent meditation, followed by items of thankfulness and prayer for a number of organisations within the church. Finally there are details of a special service which needs your prayers. Please use the Diary in whatever way suits you best.

Encountering Jesus Christ

It's so easy to be distracted or stressed with Christmas decorating, shopping, and celebrating with family and friends that we miss the opportunity that this time of year presents to encounter Jesus. So bring yourself into the presence of Jesus in prayer and ask, "Lord, speak to me through your word." Linger on each verse for as long as the Holy Spirit invites you to, prayerfully reflecting on the texts, listening to what the Lord says, and speaking with him.

Copyright © 2005 PRMI

WEEK STARTING SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER

"Living in Hope" Isaiah 9:2

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned."

Focus: Where is the darkness in your life? What are the things that seem unclear, the route that is uncertain, or the things that cause doubts to arise? Bring them to the Lord, and ask Him to shine His light into your situation.

mentoring@maze to become a reality for those who are being mentored, that they have recognised their need for growth in their faith for the mentors, that they have set aside time to train as mentors and to mentor others

All age service takes place on Sunday 10th at 11:30am

WEEK STARTING SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER

"The days are coming..." Jeremiah 23:5-6

"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness."

Focus: God promises the advent of a King who will be wise and whose reign will be righteous, and in Jesus we encounter the King whose life was totally right before God. Thank the Lord that through His wonderful love you have been put right with God and are a citizen of His kingdom. Do you have a growing desire to live in a way that is righteous in God's sight?

Sunday Club

Give thanks for the numbers of children who attend Sunday Club for leaders who share one vision of teaching the gospel and glorifying God for the many skills and talents of the leaders for those children who have grown up through Sunday Club and now serve God through it for those who consistently pray for the teachers, children

Youth Fellowship

Give thanks for the willingness of the kids to come and engage with the material every week for the leaders who give up their time to serve, especially the new leaders for the new members coming this year Pray for wisdom & direction as they carry on throughout next year

Parents & toddlers and Crèche

Give thanks for opportunities to share God's love with those who come each week for the mums, grannies and carers who come with their babies and toddlers for those who help with the craft, storytelling, singing and preparing the snacks for those who volunteer to be on the crèche rota for our fantastic crèche room!

mentoring@maze

Give thanks for the Kirk Session having the vision to employ mentoring as a means of discipleship for the Discipleship sub-group who have enabled

<p>and all aspects of the work</p> <p>Pray</p> <p>for Stewart's Sunday Club class</p> <p>for the workshops planned for Sunday on 17th December</p>
<p>Duke of Ed</p> <p>Give thanks</p> <p>for the unity and friendships between the young people</p> <p>for the safety of the leaders and young people on day walks and expeditions</p> <p>for the ongoing commitment of the leaders</p>
<p>Meadowbridge school</p> <p>Give thanks</p> <p>for the success of Christmas fayre</p> <p>Pray</p> <p>for the P7's who are sitting their AQE/ and those who are not</p> <p>for Mr Good to find healing after his surgery</p>
<p>Carol service takes place on Sunday 17th at 6:30pm</p>

<p>their only connection with church</p> <p>for the leaders who give up their time and energy</p>
<p>women@maze</p> <p>Give thanks</p> <p>for the visit by Jo Gibson from RUTH</p> <p>for the work of Street Pastors</p> <p>pray</p> <p>for Jo, Rhonda, Juanita and the other volunteers who go out on the streets of Belfast</p>
<p>Christmas Day service on 25th at 10:45am</p>

WEEK STARTING SUNDAY 24TH DECEMBER

"God with us" John 1:14

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth"

Focus: Are you aware of the presence of God? Jesus is Emmanuel - "God with us". He has chosen to make his dwelling place in our midst and promised to be with us forever. Spend time in prayer asking the Holy Spirit to open your eyes and to help you see the glory, grace and truth of the Lord who is among us now.

men@maze

Give thanks

for the 2017 events and their success at bringing new men in to the centre of church life

for thanks for the fellowship enjoyed

for record attendance at this year's men's conference

Pray

for a link to develop between the older and younger men

for wisdom in developing and planning for an outreach event next year

that men within men at Maze will continue to develop into the best Christian Men that they can be

Tuesday Club

Give thanks

for the outing to Belfast Castle in June

for the gift of long lasting friendships

Walking Group

Give thanks

for safety during the walks

for new friends made

Watch night service on Sunday 31st at 11:30pm

WEEK STARTING SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER

"Prepare the way for the Lord" Mark 1:2-4

"It is written in Isaiah the prophet: 'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way - a voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" And so John came, baptising in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins."

Focus: What obstacles hinder the Lord's reign in your life? Prepare a clear path for Him, turning away from known sin and receiving the forgiveness that He offers.

House groups

Give thanks

for the friendships formed

for the development of Christian character through bible study

for the sense that they give of belonging to the body of Christ

Pray

The focus this month is on Melanie's Wednesday morning group. Thank God for the support & trust that exists in this group and pray that this would continue & develop.

Youth Club

Give thanks

for the number of children who come to youth club each week

for the fact that they come, even though, for many, this is