

Advent

A journey of prayer for our
Church and Community

From Sunday
27th November
to Saturday
3rd December

What is this week all about?

We'd like to begin the "journey of Advent " by talking and listening to God in as many different ways and as many different places as we can!

Why do we want to do this?

Prayer is central to our lives as Christians and as we enter the "journey of Advent" it might be a good time to reflect on and give thanks for all we do well, and to consider the way forward.

In particular, we'd like to pray about our church and its place in our community and to ask for God's help and guidance in our coming year's work. We also would like to pray for the spiritual life and health of our community.

The PCC is working on the plan for the church for the next few years and it would be really helpful to have as many prayers as possible to help set priorities.

How can we do it?

Each of us can help by looking at the prayer ideas for things to do and by choosing one (or some!) to do or join in with.

There are things to do together and things to do alone.

There are things to do in church and some to do at home.

There are things to do with friends, and some to try with strangers.....but the main thing is to join in with something.....

There is something for everyone!

So what is on offer? (See the list on the back page)

- Cards and reflection sheets to use at home
- Ideas for coffee/tea/pub dates with friends
- Ideas for prayer walks around Ickenham
- Ideas and prayers on the church web-site
- Help build a wall of prayer in the St John's chapel
- The PCC's current thoughts and ideas

DIARY FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 27th November

A brief presentation in each of the services introducing a selection of reflection sheets and prayer cards for use at home.

St John' chapel ready and open after the services and from 2-4pm for individual or group prayer, candle lighting, and places to put "post-it" prayers and your God inspired thoughts about our church's mission.

Monday 28th November

Church and chapel open for usual "church watch" time(10.30-12.30) and any kind of prayer and reflection.

Church open from 6- 8pm for people on their way home from work.

Tuesday 29th November

Church and chapel open for usual "church watch" time(10.30-12.30)

Wednesday 30th November

Church and chapel open for usual "church watch" time(10.30-12.30) and in the afternoon from 2-4pm for quiet reflection and prayer activity.

Thursday 1st December

Church open for usual service of Holy Communion (10 am) and afterwards for individual prayer or reflection in the St John's chapel.

Church and chapel open in the evening from 6-8pm for quiet prayer or reflection

Friday 2nd December

Church and chapel open for usual "church watch" time(10'30-12.30)

Saturday 3rd December

Church open for "Pray First" at 9.15 to draw the week to a close

Ideas for the Week

- Why not make a date with a friend (or group of friends) and have coffee/ tea / a drink in one of the local cafes, pubs, restaurants or in the library. While you are there pray quietly (or silently if you wish) for all those there. See if God responds in any way.
- Have a look at the church's website and pray for anything that calls to you, or use the prayer suggestions posted for the week.
- Have a walk down your road and pray for all those who live there. Remember it if God moves you in some way.
- Walk with a friend around the village. Give thanks for all we have and ask for guidance on what else we should be doing.
- Come into church at one or more of its open times and reflect on the church and the community. Write any prayers you have on the post-its provided and put them on the "prayer wall" in the chapel. Put any ideas or responses from God on the wall or in the box provided.
- Use the reflection sheets and/or prayer cards and suggestions in any way that helps you.
- Just have a go!!!! God loves it when we spend time with Him!

Remember!

Jesus said:

"And I tell you, Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened."
(Luke 11:9-10)

So don't be afraid to ask... and listen carefully for the answer...it may surprise you!