

Prayer Focus 30th December 2018

Our Father, as we stand at the beginning of this new year
we confess our need of Your presence and Your guidance as we face the future.

We each have our hopes and expectations for the year that is ahead of us—

You alone know what it holds for us,

Only You can give us the strength and the wisdom we will need to meet its challenges.

So help us to humbly put our hands into Your hand,

and to trust You and to seek Your will for our lives during this coming year.

In the midst of life's uncertainties, assure us of the certainty of Your unchanging love.

In the midst of life's inevitable disappointments and heartaches,

help us to turn to You for the stability and comfort we will need.

In the midst of our daily preoccupations and pursuits,

open our eyes to the sorrows and injustices of our hurting world,

Help us to respond with compassion to those who are friendless and in need.

May our constant prayer be that of the ancient Psalmist: "Teach me, O Lord, to follow your decrees;
then I will keep them to the end" (Psalm 119:33).

We pray for our nation and its leaders during these difficult times.

Bring our divided nation together, and give us a vision of what You would have us to be.

Your Word reminds us that "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12).

As we look back over this past year we thank You for Your goodness to us—

beyond what we have deserved.

May we never presume on Your past goodness or forget all Your mercies to us,
but may they instead lead us to a new commitment to make You the foundation

and center of our lives this year.

And so, our Father, we thank You for the promise and hope of this new year,

and we look forward to it with expectancy and faith.

This we ask in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus, Amen.

EBC & Local Focus:- Please pray for:- Chris & Liz Morton from the Methodist Church, Liz is suffering from oesophageal cancer and has just started treatment.

Pray for local businesses who are continuing to be adversely effected by the suspension of the ferry.

Street of the Week:- Kingswood Close

National & World Prayer Points:- Pray for Yemen - after 5 years of brutal conflict there is finally a ceasefire in the strategic port city of Hudaydah. It is still tentative with both sides claiming violations. Real progress has been made but aid agencies are still warning of one of the worst humanitarian crisis.

Pray for Indonesia which has recently experienced further natural disasters while still struggling to provide help to those effected by the earlier events.