

## Prayer Focus 7th April 2019

**My life is like a frozen thing, No bud nor greenness can I see:  
Yet rise it shall—the sap of Spring; O Jesus, rise in me. Christina Rossetti**

Loving Father,  
As I continue to reflect on my walk with you during this season of Lent  
I invite you into my life today and make myself available to you.  
Help me to become the-best-version-of-myself  
by seeking your will and becoming a living example of your love in the world.  
Open my heart to the areas of my life that need to change  
in order for me to carry out the mission  
and experience the joy you have imagined for my life.  
Inspire me to live the Christian faith in ways that are dynamic and engaging.  
Show me how to best get involved in the life of my town.  
Make our community hungry for best practices and continuous learning.  
Give me courage when I am afraid,  
hope when I am discouraged,  
and clarity in times of decision.  
Teach me to enjoy uncertainty and lead your Church  
to become all you imagined it would be for the people of our times.  
Amen.

**EBC & Local Focus:-** Please pray for Carol Cole as she travels to Malawi with Operation Christmas Child to distribute shoe boxes. The knitting done by our "nutty knitters" for the Sailors Society is being picked up this week pray for their work with seafarers, their port Chaplains and the recipients of the hats and neck warmers.

**Street of the Week :-** Cow Lane

**Community Prayer Diary:-** Emmanuel Baptist Church - Rev Mark Hatto

**National & World Prayer Points:-** 91 million Christians live in Nigeria – they make up around 46 per cent of the total population of 196 million. There are a similar number of Muslims in Nigeria – over 90 million. The majority of Christians live in the south of the country, and their religious freedom is respected. But in the north of Nigeria and the 'Middle Belt', where Christians are in the minority, they face horrific levels of persecution at the hands of Islamic extremists. The militant group Boko Haram have abducted and killed those who refuse to conform to their extremist brand of Islam. Attacks by armed groups of Muslim Fulani herdsmen have resulted in the killing, maiming, dispossession and eviction of thousands of Christians. Twelve of the northern states are under Sharia (Islamic law), and Christians in these states face discrimination. In some northern states, increasing numbers of Christians are dressing like Muslims to make their faith less obvious and reduce the chances of attack. Christian young

people in these states are frequently denied access to higher education, and Christians have been asked to give up their faith in order to be given work. Christian women and girls are in danger of being abducted and forced to marry. When Christians are displaced by the violence in the region, they face discrimination when government aid is distributed because of their faith.