

## A Prayer Calendar for January 2008

St Michael  
& ALL ANGELS

**25 The Conversion of Saul of Tarsus who became the apostle Paul** – we pray for Leah Philbrick, the work with our young people and especially the Sports Club due to be launched on 14<sup>th</sup> February; pray that each of us may have a clear sense of Christ as Lord in our life; we pray too for Damascus where Saul was baptized, for her people today, for wise leadership for the nation of Syria and for her neighbours, Israel, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey and the efforts of all who pray and work for reconciliation and for a lasting peace in that region

**26 Timothy & Titus** – pray for Struan & Moira Oliver and their children, Hamish, Jessie, Shona and Iona – giving thanks for the children's baptism in 2007 and pray that each child baptized in our fellowship may *grow in wisdom and stature and in favour with God and other people* Luke 2:52 – give thanks for our own baptism, godparents and godchildren

**Sunday 27 January** – Give thanks for those whose faithful service means that our church is welcoming each Sunday; pray for the opportunities that each of us has to be part of that welcome to regular worshippers, residents and visitors from other churches and those who come as strangers but who may leave a friends; pray too for Elliot Carter as he is baptized; we join others across the Anglican Communion in praying for Bangladesh, her leaders, her people, her churches and the need to cope with inundation by water

**28 Thomas Aquinas** – give thanks for those who are prayerfully thoughtful and write helpfully for others - pray for all who live in the Keep and especially Claudine Rice and son Alexander as well as the Pearce family, Bruce & Estelle, Edmond, Roderick and Rosalind continue to pray for the family of Eileen Davis who lived in the Keep as they adjust to her death also pray for our MP, Nick Raynsford born on this day in 1945 and for his work as Chairman of the Construction Industry Council

29 Give thanks for children in our parish and fellowship and pray for Sneakers (the group for school years 4-6); pray also for the Vouillemin family from Manor Park, Jean Marc & Julie and their children, Evie, Joseph and Robert; we join with others in the Anglican Communion in praying for New Zealand and remembering particularly Alan Moss, Pete & Pam's son living and working there

30 Blackheath has a great variety of bars and restaurants – remember in prayer those who work out front and in the kitchens to serve meals, may their work be appreciated and each restaurant provide space for good social life in 2008; pray too for those who live in Rycroft Square

31 Easter is very early for us this year – 23<sup>rd</sup> March – our orthodox brethren will celebrate five weeks later on 27<sup>th</sup> March – let's pray for effective use of Lent as a time of reflection and preparation; pray too for our bishops, Tom and Christopher, meeting with the Bishop's Council this evening

*O God, who revealed your only Son to the Gentiles by the leading of a star, mercifully grant that we, who know You now by faith, may after this life enjoy the splendour of Your gracious Godhead, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

*The glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it*

Isaiah 40:5

**Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns,  
turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness,  
that we may be ready to meet you  
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**

**Sunday 6 January – Epiphany** – the coming of wise men from the East – give thanks for those who in our time have lifted their gaze and thoughts into the sky, for faith inspired and reinforced, for insights into creation and evolution, for the sense of our place in the vastness of space and yet so finely made of pieces and forces so tiny that we do not understand them.

May we wonder today at the creation that surrounds us and at a creator ready to occupy a manger; Adam & Oona Scott are helping to host the Macedonian Orthodox Church in the UK as they celebrate Christmas (on the old calendar) at the House of St Barnabas-in-Soho today – pray for Father Viktor and his Macedonian congregation and for the work of the House with homeless people

Give thanks for those whose work has made St Michael's a beautiful church, thanks especially for the needlework and for the leadership and example of Olga Stokes – remembering her daughter Jacqui studying New Testament Greek and all who bring linguistic insights to reading, teaching, preaching, discussing and applying the Scriptures

7 *I saw that there is nothing better for a man than to enjoy his work... Eccles 3:22* - many individuals in our parish and fellowship will be back at work – paid, unpaid and educational - this week, pray for a fruitful and enjoyable New Year; pray for those who live in Rocque Lane just North of our Halls, especially Margaret Quail, and for each of the people who will be coming to the Halls in the next month giving thanks for the facilities that we have inherited

8 In our World Focus this month's prayer topic is St Michael's Travel Fund – give thanks for the vision of encouraging and enabling visits between the church overseas and our parish; we pray for countries on a troubled road to democracy, especially at this time Kenya, Pakistan & South Africa remembering the struggles in Judea and Israel and how David was appointed King of Israel by God and the elders – 2 Samuel 5

- 9 Amidst the sub-prime problems and the associated difficulties in financial and housing markets, pray for all seeking to move house; pray for Peter & Lynne Hamilton moving to their new home in Blackheath Park and for Ian & Jane Gardner moving from that home with their children Alice & Charles – Micah 4:4; pray too for the registrars of births, marriages and deaths and for local undertakers and the staff of the crematoria in Greenwich and Lewisham caring for bereaved families as well as for our standing and finance committee as they meet today
- 10 The story of God's purposes contains many instances of exile and return – as we remember the child Christ returning from exile in Egypt, pray for exiles to be able to return to live without fear in their home countries – Micah 4:6-7; pray too for Marion Chittleborough and those responsible for caring for her – may she be well for Gwyneth's marriage to Simon and give thanks that Keith Rogers had the joy of taking Sarah down the aisle for her marriage to James last year.
- 11 Give thanks for the presence among us of Isaac Mensah from Ghana; pray for his learning experience from us and ours from him; pray for his future, for wise choice of studies, for his nation and for ways of using the rivers, lakes and sea to feed the people sustainably with fish remembering our Lord's capacity for guiding his disciples to good catches both of fish with nets in Lake Galilee and of men and women with the Gospel
- 12 Give thanks for Blackheath and Greenwich Park and for the Green Belt surrounding London, remembering those who keep them as *green and pleasant* lands – may they be for us *quiet hills* – Psalm 121; pray for the Cook family from Vanbrugh Hill, parents Malcolm & Annabella and their children, Eleanor, Imogen, Jasper and Piers; remember too clergy who have retired and, amongst those living locally, Bob Vogt, sometime incumbent of St James Kidbrooke

*Please send topics for February to [adam.scott@btinternet.com](mailto:adam.scott@btinternet.com)*

- Sunday 13 January – the Baptism of Christ** – give thanks for the Son beloved of His Father and willing to be baptized for our sake; pray for the baptism of Nathan Tobias; pray for justice not simply in the narrow sense of what courts should do but in the prophetic sense of political and economic justice amongst all nations and peoples of this world; we also join with others in the Anglican Communion praying for Australia and her churches and, across the diocese, in praying for Christine, Archdeacon of Lewisham remembering the boroughs of Lewisham and of Greenwich and their leadership and staff
- 14 Give thanks for London's public transport and for various schemes to encourage us to use it; pray for all involved in planning, improving and running the systems; pray for John Sucksmith from Murillo Road and Eva Funston from Hyde Vale
  - 15 Pray for Greenwich Teaching Primary Care Trust, for its chairman, Michael Chuter, and chief executive, Jane Schofield, and all involved locally in caring for our health; pray especially for the care of Hannah Dunstan, Elizabeth Hingston,

Nicola Rattray and Chris Westwick; pray too for our parochial church council meeting this evening

- 16 Give thanks for those who organize camps for young people and especially pray for CPAS Ventures in 2008 – [www.cpas.org.uk](http://www.cpas.org.uk) and Fiona Tozer a contact point; pray for good use of the Travel Fund in 2008; is there someone whom we should be encouraging to visit a church abroad?
- 17 Give thanks for those who keep the gates of the Cator Estate and pray for their safety in 2008; pray too for the Stern family from Frank Dixon Way, David & Penny and children, Arthur & Christopher

**The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** – 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – pray that we may be one as Christ prayed and so witness to Him - see John 17

- 18 Give thanks for Trinity Laban and their activities in Blackheath Concert Hall; pray for Guy Stephan-Smith, for Shirley and all who care for Guy in his illness and for University Hospital Lewisham and its staff
- 19 Give thanks for those who have served St Michael's as church wardens and pray for the calling of future wardens; pray for one former warden, Gordon Kelk, for his family and for wise decisions about his future accommodation and care

**Sunday 20 January** – give thanks for our carol service in 2007 and for each of those whose musical talent enriches our worship; pray for generous giving amongst the fellowship at St Michael's including generosity towards the Travel Fund; pray too for Churches Together in Blackheath gathering at 6:30 pm in St Michael's to pray for unity

- 21 This week we pray for those who live in Pond Road including Birchmere Row and today especially for David Sprackling and for his work with others in drafting new laws for parliament to debate and enact; pray too for the introduction today of the new Green, Blue & Black waste and recycling arrangements in Greenwich and for better stewardship of waste in 2008
- 22 Give thanks for those whose generosity and commitment provided lights in Blackheath Village this year; in Pond Road we pray for Geoff & Val Brown, for Andrew Brown and for Brown's business in the village; also pray for Michael Hancock whose wife Jean died in 2007 and for his daughter, Jenny, her husband Fred and their children, Lily & Daisy
- 23 Give thanks for each of those involved in serving God and other people through St Michael's – in church, in the Halls, in groups of various sorts, in visiting, in administration and so on; in Pond Road we pray for: our vicar, Sandy, his wife, Catherine, their son Ethan Christie and his grandmothers
- 24 Give thanks for Churches Together in Blackheath and efforts to bring us to unity in Christ; remembering all who live in Birchmere Row we pray especially for Richard & Cherith Hateley and their children, Connie, Edward & Thomas