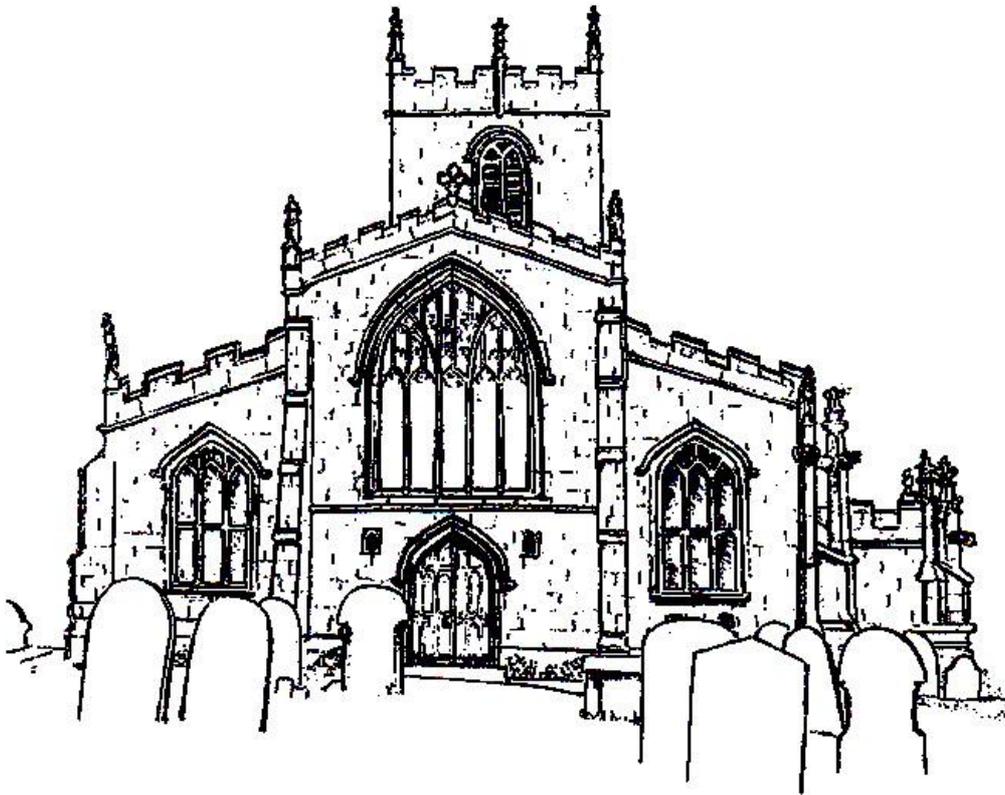


# *St Mary's Ecclesfield*

Following Jesus, Celebrating Life, Welcoming All

*"I am the Vine, you are the branches."*



Sunday 13th January to Sunday 20th January

PRAYER WEEK 2019

*“You did not choose me but I have chosen you, and I have appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last”*  
**(John 15:16).**

We begin this new year with a week of prayer. Prayer for St Mary’s Church, prayer for our Diocese and for the Church of England. We pray also for our neighbours and our parish, for this nation.

We begin 2019 in prayer asking for God’s guidance, acknowledging that God is Lord, that all things and all times are in God’s hands. To start the new year in prayer is an act of trust in God’s goodness and wisdom. It is to put ourselves and those we love, our church and our nation in God’s hands.

For every day of the week beginning Sunday 13th Jan there is a passage of John’s Gospel to read and prompts for a prayerful response.

On Wednesday 16th Jan 2 -3.30pm there will be an opportunity to meet in Church for prayer, worship and teaching. (Please note the slight time change from that advertised in December’s magazine!)

The daily readings from the Bible are all taken from John’s Gospel, from Chapters 14 to 17. This is Jesus’ “farewell” to the disciples as He prepares them, and those who will follow after them, for life and ministry and mission after He has returned to the Father.

**Monday 14th January Read: John 14:15-31.**

Jesus promises the disciples that the Holy Spirit who fell on Jesus at His baptism and remained with Him in His life and ministry, will be given to us too. **Pray for Growth** - ask God to help you to grow each day in faith and in trust, giving you opportunities to serve Christ in others, to share the love of Christ with others.

**Tuesday 15th January Read: John 15:1-11.**

Jesus is the Vine, and we are branches. Our life and our growth comes not from ourselves but from the Vine. This is true of every Christian, of every Church and of all Churches in this land. To be fruitful we need to stay connected to Jesus in prayer and worship and reading the Gospels. **Pray for Renewal** in the churches in Britain, that the light and love of Christ may shine more brightly in us and through us. Pray for a spiritual awakening in Britain such as has never been seen before.

**Wednesday 16th January Read: John 15:12-17.**

Jesus whose love for us, seen in the Cross, is without limit, calls on us to love in return; to show the same generosity to others that He has shown us. We are not Christ's servants but His friends, chosen by Him to share His love. **Pray for:** our community, our neighbours. For all who will enter St Mary's this year. Pray for visitors, those who come for baptisms, weddings or funerals. Pray for the planned disabled access in 2019, that more people may be able to enter St Mary's and meet Christ.

**Thursday 17th January Read: John 15:18-27.**

As disciples of Jesus we are in the world, but we do not belong to the world. Part of our calling is, by our words and our lives, to testify to Jesus. **Pray for:** our nation. We are so divided at the moment. Pray for healing in our land, for visionary leadership, for a sense of our calling as one people.

**Friday 18th January read: John 16:1-15.**

Jesus speaks of the blessings that we have as disciples. We are saved by grace, we are children of the Father, we have an eternal inheritance in God's kingdom, and we have the gift of the Holy Spirit. God's grace to us in Christ calls for a generous response.

**Pray for:** our Church finances, that we may have all of the resources needed to fulfil God's call. Pray also for our finance team, and for the new finance team after our AGM this year.

**Saturday 19th January Read John 16:16-24.**

Jesus promises that His disciples will be filled with joy as He is raised from death to life, and opens the way of life to all. Our joy will be complete, He promises. **Pray for:** our diocese, for Pete and Peter our bishops, especially for the Diocesan finances and for our mission. That we may become a bigger church so that Christ may do bigger things through us.

**Sunday 20th January Read: John 16:25-33.**

We are Jesus' disciples, called and loved and empowered by Him. He loves us as the Father loved Him and He sends us as the Father sent Him. **Pray for:** our leaders at St Mary's, especially our wardens. Pray for the new warden to be appointed at the AGM. God already has the right person prepared!

In the coming week read **John chapter 17**. It is Jesus prayer for His disciples 2000 years ago and today. it is His prayer for us.