

**Charities supported by
St Andrew's in December**

Nailsea Foodbank at Southfield Church, run by members of the church, is part of the Trussell Trust's UK-wide foodbank network. Thirteen million people live below the poverty line in the UK and foodbanks help prevent crime, housing loss, family breakdown and mental health problems. Professionals such as doctors and social workers identify people experiencing a crisis and issue a voucher which can be exchanged for three days' non-perishable food. Nailsea Foodbank is open every Friday at the Church between 12.30 pm and 2.30 pm when donations of dried and tinned food can also be received.

One25 is a Bristol-based charity, founded in 1995, as the only organisation reaching out to women trapped in or vulnerable to street sex working. Those who wish to break free from sex work are helped to build new lives away from violence, poverty and addiction. The organisation is driven by a Christian vision and Christian values, although volunteers, supporters and service users are welcomed from all faiths and none.

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers."

A Prayer for Peace

Heavenly Father, we pray
for peacemakers and peacekeepers;
for all who seek to keep this world
secure and free;
for aid agencies and workers and all
who bring relief to the suffering and needy;
for all who bear the burden and privilege of
leadership, political, military and religious,
asking for gifts of wisdom and resolve
in the search for reconciliation and peace;
for each of us,
in our joys and sorrows, needs and pains,
that you will grant us comfort,
healing and hope
and lead us to a new understanding
of your way for our lives and our world.
Amen.



St Andrew's, Backwell

St Bridget's, Chelvey

PRAYER DIARY

December 2017



- 1 Our Rector, Margi, and Curate, Justine, and their families.
- 2 Preparations for the Christingle Service tomorrow afternoon.
- 3 **First Sunday of Advent**
Our services including the St Nicholas' Service at Brockley Church this evening.
- 4 All our village schools at this busy time.
- 5 All who are working for peace, especially in the Middle East and on the Korean Peninsula.
- 6 **Nicholas, bishop**
The outreach to the villages over the Christmas season, including Posada, where nativity figures move from house to house.
- 7 Backwell Parish Council, meeting tonight.
- 8 Nailsea Foodbank (see December Charities).
- 9 Those living in Station Road, receiving prayer cards this month.
- 10 **Second Sunday of Advent**
Our services, including *Andy's* service in the Sixth Form Centre and St Bridget's Carol Service.
- 11 Backwell Junior School's Carol Services in St Andrew's this afternoon and this evening.
- 12 Our government and especially the negotiations with the European Union.
- 13 St Andrew's PCC, meeting tonight.
- 14 'Carols around the Crib' in the Parish Hall.
- 15 Our choir and all musicians, especially as they prepare for Christmas.
- 16 Our Churchwardens: Anita and Carol with John, Chris and Anthony at St Andrew's; Kathy and Tony at St Bridget's.
- 17 **Third Sunday of Advent**
Our services including St Andrew's Carol Service this evening.
- 18 Those who will be alone this Christmas.
- 19 The residents of Lawnside and their Christmas Communion this morning.
- 20 One25 (see December Charities).
- 21 Places recovering from natural disasters, including recent devastating hurricanes and the earthquake in Iran/Iraq.
- 22 Our Readers: Martin, David, and Vicky who is retiring at the end of the year; and our Assisting Priest, Peter.
- 23 The many millions of refugees and displaced people, especially from Syria, South Sudan and Myanmar.
- 24 **Fourth Sunday of Advent**
Christmas Eve
The Christmas Crib Service and the late night services in both our churches.
- 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY**
That the Christmas message of peace and goodwill reaches across our benefice and beyond.
- 26 **Stephen, deacon, first martyr**
Christians suffering persecution or hardship in at least 50 countries across the world.
- 27 **John, Apostle and Evangelist**
For those living on Main Road, Brockley.
- 28 **The Holy Innocents**
Children suffering as a result of war, especially in Yemen, where 50,000 children are expected to die this year as a result of disease and starvation.
- 29 We give thanks for our medical services and pray for those who are ill in hospital or at home.
- 30 We give thanks for our villages and pray for wisdom for plans to build new housing.
- 31 **First Sunday of Christmas**
We give thanks for our churches and all that has been achieved in the past year; and we pray for wisdom and guidance in the coming year.