



**Christian
Initiative to
Schools**

in partnership with



Scripture Union

Registered charity no 1104698.

Prayer Pointers ▶

January to February 2023



I waited patiently for the Lord,
He turned to me and heard my cry.
He lifted me out of the slimy pit,
out of the mud and mire. He set
my feet on a rock, gave me a firm
place to stand. He put a new song
in my mouth, a hymn of praise to
our God.

Psalm 40:1-3

Christopher writes,

Happy New Year!

Many of us take time at the beginning of a new year to look back on what has gone before. To reflect on the past year and to consider all that took place within it. For the Baker family 2022 started well but ended with sadness and concern. Sadness at the passing of Jane's Mum Anne. Concern as Christopher's father went through chemo and radiotherapy after he was diagnosed with aggressive lymphoma. As you can imagine both situations hit us really hard. They left us emotionally and physically drained and had an impact on our daily lives which was surprising and, at times, unexpected. It's times like these where it feels like we're hanging on to God by our fingernails. Yet in reality He's holding on

to us. Holding us in His arms.

Comforting, supporting and giving the strength to get through those tough times. Providing us with those who stand with us during difficult times. People like you and me, being, as I heard it once described, 'Jesus with skin on.' Showing His love and compassion in a real and tangible way to those at time of loss or struggle.

In Psalm 40 David expresses his experience of how God comes and rescues him. Of how his cry to God is answered, eventually. David experienced a time of waiting. We don't know how much time elapsed between David's cry and God's response but an answer came. Rescue and help was provided.

David patiently waited for God's response. Is that true for us? In a world where we can get anything instantly, waiting patiently for God to respond to

Please Turn Over

our cries for help, to answer our prayers can be hard. Yet it is in the waiting that God works in us. Gets us ready for what is to come. Prepares us for the answer He will give.

Whatever we may go through God is present with us. When we call He will and does answer in His way and in His time, and waiting patiently is part of the process. Something I've come to learn more over the past year.

Since beginning to prepare this Prayer Pointers I received the news that after a recent scan my father has been given the all clear. There is no trace of cancer in his body. An answer to prayer which we give praise and thanks to God for, that has lifted our spirits and one which we've had to wait patiently for.

As we begin this new year and new term here are some things to thank God for and to pray for.

Please thank God for...

- ▶ the positive response from pupils and staff who attended the Christmas Journey presentation at St. Paul's before Christmas
- ▶ the continued encouragement received from staff to all that CIS are involved with in schools
- ▶ enabling CIS to maintain good and positive relationships with schools
- ▶ the re-establishment of lunchtime clubs at Highfield and Etonbury Academy this term
- ▶ the Year 10 GSCE RE lessons that Christopher took at Etonbury Academy last term and the positive response to them

Please pray for...

- ▶ future assemblies
Roecroft Lower School, Stotfold 23rd January; **Etonbury Academy** 30th and 31st January, 1st, 2nd and 3rd February; **Norton St. Nicholas** 6th February; **Grange Academy** 22nd February **St. Francis College Prep.** 27th February
- ▶ the restarting of lunchtime clubs at Highfield (Fridays) and Etonbury Academy (Mondays) this term.
- ▶ the Trustees as they oversee the work of CIS; Chris Jenkins (Chair), Penny Bainbridge (Secretary), Roger Aldridge, Ashley and Chris Croft and Martin Money (Treasurer)
- ▶ Christopher as he spends time in preparation for assemblies, lesson, lunchtime clubs, speaking engagements and Pastoral/Chaplaincy work with staff and pupils
- ▶ Christopher to return to full health after having had a severe chest infection/virus over the Christmas period

There is a group that meets to pray for the schools in the area on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 10:30am via Zoom. If you would like to join with others to pray then please contact Penny Bainbridge on 07974944175 for more details.

To contact Christopher:

mobile: 07881465043

office: 01462 480126

email: cisschoolsworker@gmail.com