



**Christian
Initiative to
Schools**

in partnership with



Scripture Union

Registered charity no 1104698.

Prayer Pointers ▶

March to April 2023



“Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”

Matthew 4:4

Christopher writes,

I was recently told by a teacher that we were half way through the academic year. My response, “Already?” It won’t be long now before Exam season is upon us with all the stresses and strains that will bring. But before we get there we have the season of Lent to navigate leading us towards Easter.

I don’t know what your approach to Lent is, whether it is giving something up or picking something up. Whatever the approach, Lent is a season of reflection and preparation. For Jesus the 40 days spent in the wilderness was I imagine a period of both; reflecting on what had passed in the 30 years leading to this point in His life, reflecting on His baptism where all 3 members of the Godhead were recorded as being in the same place at the same time. God the Son being

baptised by John, God the Holy Spirit descending upon the Son as a dove and God the Father speaking words of affirmation over the Son, “This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased.”

And so Jesus enters the wilderness, giving up food for 40 days and nights, praying and preparing for all that is to come.

In the temptations that come His way Jesus uses Scripture to countermand the taunts of the Devil. “It is written,” is how Jesus speaks back to His opponent.

Jesus knew the Scriptures, God’s written Word. He showed Satan that He would not give in to temptation; that Jesus is His Father’s Son, obedient to Him even when weary and weakened due to lack of food, that life is more than the physical food we eat. It’s about reading, relying and

Please Turn Over

retaining God's word in our hearts and minds.

Jesus, using words from

Deuteronomy 8, reminds us that

'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

As we head towards Easter may we use this time to prepare our hearts and lives, as Jesus did, for what is to come. To take time out to pause, reflect and listen to all that God wants to say to us through all that Jesus has done for us through His death on the cross and His rising from the dead.

Here are some things to thank God for and to pray for.

Please thank God for...

- ▶ Crista Haak, who has just stepped down from being a Trustee. Thank God for her commitment and involvement with CIS over recent years
- ▶ Christopher's role as Chaplain at Etonbury Academy and for the strong relationships that have been established with staff and pupil alike
- ▶ Christian members of staff involved in the life of our schools; teachers, classroom assistants, administrative staff, lunch-time supervisors and also for those who are governors

Please pray for

- ▶ the Easter Journey at St. Pauls, 20th-24th March. Please pray for all those involved and the children and staff from all the schools who will be attending

- ▶ future assemblies

Etonbury Academy 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th (x2) March; **Norton St.**

Nicholas 7th March; **Pix Brook Academy** 16th & 17th March; **St.**

Francis College Prep. 27th March

and 24th April; **St. Mary's C of E**

Academy, Stotfold 28th March;

Grange Academy 29th March

Roecroft Lower School, Stotfold

30th March (x2)

- ▶ the lunchtime clubs at Highfield and Fearnhill (Friday) and Etonbury Academy (Monday)

- ▶ the Trustees who oversee and lead the work of CIS; Chris Jenkins (Chair), Penny Bainbridge (Secretary), Roger Aldridge, Ashley and Chris Croft and Martin Money (Treasurer). Please pray for them as they meet on the 15th March that they would know God's leading, guidance and wisdom

- ▶ Christopher as he spends time in preparation for assemblies, lessons, lunchtime clubs, speaking engagements and Pastoral/Chaplaincy work with staff and pupils

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.

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