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| **A black and yellow logo  Description automatically generated** | **St James Church Year of Prayer 2025** |

**January & February 2025**

1. **Introduction**

* Our focus for January and February: thanksgiving, imagining and listening
* Thanksgiving: for Mark & Della’s ministry and an element of grieving as it comes to an end at St James’
* Imagining: what the future for St James’ Church and the communities around us could be
* Preparing to listen: clearing the ground, preparing our hearts through cleansing, repentance, forgiveness and giving our plans and wills to God
* Praying for the current stage in vacancy process. For Jan/Feb this is preparing the parish profile through listening, discerning and feedback.

1. **Collective prayer**

*Lord of the year passing,*

*Lord of the year dawning,*

*Creator, ruler, upholder, restorer of all creation,*

*We worship you today.*

*As we step over the threshold into the year to come,*

*We offer ourselves to you again*

*So that this moment, this day, this year,*

*You would be glorified in and through our lives.*

*Amen*

(From Lectio 365)

2 Chronicles 7:14

*If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sins and will heal their land.*

1. **Individual prayer (prayer spaces/activities)**

*Activity:* Pray through your dreams for St James’ Church (see handout)

Spend time imagining the future of St James’ and praying through the sheet, and do the activities listed (you might want to continue them at home):

* Gratitude wall: Use post-it notes, stick them on the board/wall
* Gratitude line: Use pieces of paper available, pegs them to the line.

1. **Collective prayer in groups**

In groups of e.g. 3 or 4, pray through some of the following issues:

* Pray for a fresh move of and openness to the Holy Spirit amongst us
* Pray against any fear during this time of vacancy
* Pray for Mark and Della as they transition to retirement and the next stages of life, family and ministry. Pray particularly for Mark’s final weeks at St James, and for their move to a new house.
* Pray for St James’ Church in the season of unity, that we maintain unity, openness to His Spirit and an outward focus
* Pray against potential power struggles or vacuums, which can become an issue during vacancy periods
* Pray for the Leadership Team, PCC and other teams, that we will have and give clear direction and an openness to the Holy Spirit throughout the process
* Pray for the shaping of the Parish Profile by a team through wider consultation (deadline for submission of draft = 23 Feb)

1. **Concluding prayers (all together)**

***Wesleyan Covenant Prayer***

I am no longer my own, but yours.

Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you,

Praised for you or criticised for you.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service.

And now, O wonderful and holy God,

Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,

You are mine, and I am yours.

So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth,

Let it also be made in heaven.

Amen

**Blackburn Diocese Prayer for Growth and Renewal (2025)**

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