Prayer Diary

For the final week of our Lent series, we’re praying for Carlos Lamelas. A church leader in Cuba, Carlos was imprisoned for four months in extremely cramped conditions with very little water. Even after being released, he had to wait five years to get asylum in the US, where he currently lives with his family. This week, please pray for Carlos and for Cuba

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2 April Give thanks for Carlos’ bravery and strength during his time in prison and when he was applying for asylum. It was ‘a great test of his faith’: thank God that he sustained Carlos during such an extraordinarily difficult time.

3 April Many church leaders in Cuba are still being harassed for their beliefs and are even imprisoned, just like Carlos was, in terrible conditions. We pray for God to guard and strengthen them today.

4 April “We hold fast to our faith and we will continue to fight.” These courageous words are from Caridad Caballero, a journalist, activist and a member of the Ladies in White group – women who peacefully protest the imprisonment of human rights activists every Sunday after Mass. Thank God for Caridad’s courage and ask him to protect her today

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5 April Government officials demolished the Strong Winds Ministry Church in Las Tunas on 9 April 2016, and threatened Reverend Mario Jorge Travieso with seven years’ imprisonment if he spoke publicly about the destruction of his church. Pray for safety for Reverend Travieso and his congregation today.

6 April As we go to print, Reverend Juan Carlos Núñez Velázquez is facing house arrest after noise complaints were made against his church. Pray that he wouldn’t have to face this harsh and groundless punishment.

7 April Please pray for Yiorvis Bravo Denis. He’s currently battling the Cuban government for ownership of his home, which also serves as his church and the headquarters of the Apostolic Movement in Cuba.

8 April Lord, thank you for delivering Carlos Lamelas from his imprisonment. We know you are a God who delights in releasing prisoners and delivering justice: we pray that you would do this all over Cuba and we would see many more people set free! Amen.

**If you have any prayer requests, please advise Heather (contact 01268 773001/07884 426711) and she will ensure that the request is prayed for and passed on to the next member of the chain** Could we also remember in our prayers our housebound friends? In particular we think of  **Helen Willson,Sheila Webber, Ida Hearn, Sandra Hull, Mick Ellis, Win Hodges, Hugh Behag and Beryl Scoging**

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 ***9th APRIL 2017***



***We are all here to:***

** *worship God and spread His love***

** *welcome everyone into our church family***

** *serve the community in the name of Jesus Christ***

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***Sunday 9th April 2017***

***This morning’s service will be led by Rev. Clifford Newman***

**Sunday**

11.00 am Morning Service

**Monday**

9.45 am *Happy Tots* Toddler Group

2.30 pm Women’s Fellowship now meets at Rayleigh and lifts can be arranged

**Tuesday**

10.00 – 12.00 *Coffee Break* for both ladies and men ^^

3.00 – 7.30 pm Hildale School of Dancing \*

8.00 pm Wesley Guild **– No Guild now until October**

8.00 pm Photography Club (twice monthly in the Benson Room^^

**Wednesday**

10.00 -11.30 am **Sacred Space**

**Thursday**

9.30 – 10.30 *Music Dreams* (for 0-2 years)

11.30 – 12.30 Prayer Meeting ^^

3.45 – 7.30 pm Hildale School of Dancing\*

7.30 – 9.30 pm Table Tennis

7.30 pm *Worship and Prayer Time* (1st Thursday of each month)^^

(also in the afternoon *Craft Afternoon* for Rochford Hospital clients takes place)^^

**Friday**

9.15 am *Friday Breakfast* for Mums and pre-school children^^

9.45 – 10.45 am *Diddi Dance* (pre-school dance class for boys and girls)

1.00 – 3.00 pm *One Craft* – craft afternoon open to all ladies^^

**Saturday**

* + - 1. am Hildale school of Dancing\*

\*Term time only ^^Organised by Community Church Rochford

Rochford Church House Group meets each month in a different place each

time,usually on the last Wednesday of the month. Look in the weekly notices for confirmation of the dates and venues.

 **Next week our service will be led by Rev. Hannah Bucke (Communion)**

The collection for Sunday 2nd April 2017 amounted to £ which includes the monies paid directly into the bank

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Wednesday 12th April at 7.30.p.m.** is the final of the series of studies for Lent.

**Easter activities and services for Holy Week are as follows**

**Monday 10th April.  8.00 pm**  'Stations of the Cross' service at St Teresa's Catholic Church.

**Wednesday 12th April 7.30 pm**. Final Lent course evening

**Thursday 13th April. 8.00 pm**. Maundy Service at Rayleigh Church

**Friday  14th April  10.30 am**. Good Friday service with our friends from CCR, followed by Coffee and hot cross buns!

**Saturday  15th April...4.00-6.00pm** Invitation to join CCR to rededicate the Hall. Please bring a picnic tea.

**Easter Day 16th April**.  11.00 am.  Easter Day service with Holy Communion, led by

Rev Hannah Bucke.

**Wednesday April 19th**, 12.p.m. – 2.pm.- Over 65s Lunch Club. See Carole or Margaret for sign up sheet.

**Sunday 23rd April at 2pm**, There is a 3½ mile Sunday afternoon stroll along the Prittle Brook Greenway from Priory Park to Belfairs Park – raising vital funds for HARP. Every step you take will show you’re supporting local homeless people. What’s more, with each entry you will receive a FREE HARP Spring Walk T-shirt and also enjoy a well-earned cup of tea and slice of cake afterwards at the Woodlands Centre at Belfairs Park.This is a great afternoon out and knowing you are helping Southend’s homeless community rebuild their lives and live independently makes it even better!Entrance fee (including tea and cake and FREE T-shirt) Adults - £8 Children - £4 Family ticket- £20.

**JEAN STARTUP**: A service celebrating the life of Jean Startup will take place at this church at 3.p.m. on Wednesday, 19th April. This will be followed by a cremation at 4.p.m. at Southend Crematorium. Following this, light refreshments will be provided back at the church. Everyone is invited to attend all or any of these. The family have requested family flowers only please but donations to Barnardo’s or Dementia UK will be welcome if you wish.

**Sunday 7th May** The christening of Joshua Harris, son of Hannah and Tom and brother of George, will take place here at 2.30pm on Sunday 7th May. Hannah, Tom, Kathy and Robert will be very happy if as many of you as are able will join us at the service to welcome Joshua.