

# Prayer Diary

December 2021—January 2022



“Binding up the broken hearted and setting the captives free” Isaiah 61:1



Urban Outreach Bolton



@UrbanOutreachUK



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UrbanOutreachBolton

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**Wednesday 1st December**

As part of Dave’s leadership role within Health and Social Care he is joining a group of leaders in the town to look at the vision for Adult Social Care in the Borough. This is a crucial time for this so please would you join with us in praying for wisdom and clarity of vision for the group.

Please pray daily for: -

- **All Urban Outreach staff. For wisdom and protection in the many varied situations they find themselves.**
- **Our Food Hub as we provide food, gas & electric to many vulnerable households each week.**

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**Thursday 2nd December**

This morning church leaders will be gathering from across the town to look at how we all work together in seeing the Kingdom of Heaven extend through God’s church. We will also be discussing the upcoming Christmas Unwrapped Carol service with J. John on the 14th of December.

**Friday 3rd December**

We have the privilege of amazing relationships with over 80 schools across the town one of those is Bolton School and, over 9 days, Dave will be delivering a lesson on justice from a Christian perspective. Please pray that the lesson will be well received and that students will become more aware of some of the basic principles of justice.

**Saturday 4th December**

Today is Smithills annual Christmas Market in aid of Christmas Dinner on Jesus. Please ask God for blessings on all who attend and energy for those involved in organising it. Please pray that people will experience a special welcome of love and warmth. *“Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the Glory of God.”*

**Sunday 5th December**

Many churches recognise the lighting of the candle on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent to symbolize Hope. Please pray that the work of Urban Outreach brings the Hope our God desires to people who are lonely, suffering, in great need and with few resources. Ask Him to grow our hearts to reflect His gracious love to others in need.

**Monday 6th December**

Today Dave is giving a talk about justice at Bolton School. Pray that his message will develop their understanding of fairness and justice. Pray that the children will be able to think how they can make things fairer for other people both locally in Bolton and globally. *“Evil doers do not understand what is right, but those who seek the LORD understand it fully.” Proverbs 28:5*

**Tuesday 7th December**

Please pray for a woman who has been in and out of prison and has now moved into her own home. She has a partner who is her downfall and she needs to see him for what he really is. He won’t move in with her as he has his own place but to make it she has to walk away from him.

<p><b>Wednesday 8th December</b></p> <p>Please pray for a lady we are working with. She has just finished cancer treatment and in the next couple of weeks will have tests to see if the treatment has worked. If it hasn't she will need an operation. She lives on her own and really wants the treatment to have worked. Please pray, thank you.</p>	<p><b>Thursday 9th December</b></p> <p>Please pray for a woman who has been in and out of our support for years. She has had to temporarily move out of her flat as she is being targeted by a neighbour, who is serving notice to leave the flat but until she leaves will cause havoc. It would be so good if the woman we are working with could be back in her own flat for Christmas.</p>	<p><b>Friday 10th December</b></p> <p>Please pray with us today for those who have been nominated to receive a Christmas dinner on Jesus hamper. Pray that they may know the love and peace of Jesus and feel more hopeful for the new year. Thank you.</p>
<p><b>Saturday 11th December</b></p> <p>Today let us thank God for His consistent provision for those in need in Bolton. He is the God of blessing and has always shown His incredible Faithfulness. We are thankful for His provision of food each year and His provision of such wonderful volunteers to be His hands and feet.</p>	<p><b>Sunday 12th December</b></p> <p>As it is getting closer to Christmas and we are making plans, please consider in your prayers today those who are alone and are preparing for a time where they may feel anxious or lonely over Christmas. Please pray for comfort for them and for God to prompt us today to pray for them throughout the day.</p>	<p><b>Monday 13th December</b></p> <p>Please pray for a boy, aged 10, who feels so anxious and angry at school that it is causing thoughts of self-harm and violence towards his family. Pray that he receives God's love in his heart and that his needs are thoroughly assessed very soon and he is back in school.</p>
<p><b>Tuesday 14th December</b></p> <p>Please pray for a 10 year old girl struggling with extreme levels of anxiety in school. Pray that God heals her heart and mind so that she isn't reliant on strong medication to cope.</p>	<p><b>Wednesday 15th December</b></p> <p>Please pray for another 10 year old boy who struggles with extreme anger and feels like he doesn't want to live because he feels so angry. Pray for the love and peace of God to flood him and transform his life. Thank you.</p>	<p><b>Thursday 16th December</b></p> <p>In October Street Life asked for prayer for a place to come available in a rehab for a man who had been waiting a long time. Praise the Lord one came available and although he did well for a while he then relapsed. Please pray he will find another place in a rehab and break free from his addictions.</p>

*"Finally all of you be like minded; be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble." (1 Peter 3 v8)*

<p><b>Friday 17th December</b></p> <p>Please pray for a man who Street Life has been trying to find the right accommodation to help him with his needs. Pray that something will become available near to his family who want to give him the extra support and get him into the right services for his addictions.</p>	<p><b>Saturday 18th December</b></p> <p>Praise the Lord that Street Life has been able to accommodate a man who had been sleeping rough or staying at friends' homes for many years. He has now got a flat with a housing association with everything he needs and is spending his first Christmas in his own property. Praise God.</p>	<p><b>Sunday 19th December</b></p> <p>As this is a very busy time at Urban Outreach please could you pray for the staff and the volunteers within Urban Outreach. Pray they would get a chance to recuperate, spending quality time with the Lord, family and friends. <i>"For in Him we live and move and exist" Acts 17 v 28a.</i></p>
<p><b>Monday 20th December</b></p> <p>Please pray that Street Life will be equipped as they try to find accommodation for people who are extremely hard to house due to their lifestyle. Pray for a breakthrough from the struggles they face and that they will begin to see God's Love and Hope through the support they receive through Street Life.</p>	<p><b>Tuesday 21st December</b></p> <p>As we approach a time of celebrating Christ's birth, please pray with us as Street Life try to help people who find themselves having the same difficulties as the family of Jesus, and don't have anywhere to stay. Pray Street Life will be able to find them a place to live and give them Hope for a better future.</p>	<p><b>Wednesday 22nd December</b></p> <p>Today we pack the fresh bags for Christmas Dinner on Jesus. Join us in prayer for the final preparations of this wonderful hamper project. Pray that today runs smoothly and that all staff and volunteers get the rest they need before the big distribution day.</p>
<p><b>Thursday 23rd December</b></p> <p>Today is Christmas Dinner on Jesus Distribution Day! Please pray for every household and every person that receives a hamper; that they encounter the love and peace of God this Christmas. Pray that the hampers provide more than food on a table - that they bring relief to those who are struggling, peace to those who are worried, hope to those who feel despair and joy to the</p>	<p><b>Friday 24th December</b></p> <p>This month is a month of celebration. Celebrating the good news that Jesus was born into our world to dwell among us. For many the celebrations may seem far off as people deal with illnesses, bereavement or any other difficult situation. Pray that this Christmas, whether believer or not, people will meet with the Prince of Peace and see Christmas for its true meaning.</p>	<p><b>Saturday 25th December</b></p> <p>Happy Christmas! Give thanks today for the birth of Jesus, and celebrate His life. Please pray for those who have received Christmas Dinner on Jesus hampers, that these would bring joy and peace. Pray also for those people who are alone or suffering at this time, that they would see or hear of God's love for them.</p>

*"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14)*

<p><b>Sunday 26th December</b></p> <p>Please pray today for the staff and volunteers of Urban Outreach, that this would be a time of rest, relaxation and healing for all after a difficult year. Pray for a good time with families and friends, and that there would be special times praising and worshiping God.</p>	<p><b>Monday 27th December</b></p> <p>Please pray today that young people who are placed in care throughout Bolton would feel well looked after and cared for, and that they would have happiness during these holidays. Please also pray for the people who care for them, that they too would experience happiness as they share their time with the young people.</p>	<p><b>Tuesday 28th December</b></p> <p>Please pray for the In Off The Street Night Shelter which will open its doors on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January. Praise the Lord for His provision of the building, volunteers and resources that make this project possible. Thank you.</p>
<p><b>Wednesday 29th December</b></p> <p>Please pray for all those who find themselves homeless at this time, especially those who are not eligible for support from the Local Authorities. Pray that they will make contact with the Urban Outreach Street Life project or that we will be able to find those who are rough sleeping and invite them in.</p>	<p><b>Thursday 30th December</b></p> <p>Please pray that all those involved in the In Off The Street Night Shelter and those using the service will experience God's Love and provision and that doors to permanent accommodation would open for those in need.</p>	<p><b>Friday 31st December</b></p> <p>Please pray for an umbrella of protection over the people of Bolton as we all continue to heal from the impact of Covid, and the economic impact on our town. Pray that as we start a New Year it would be a positive start for individual people, Urban Outreach and our Town.</p>
<p><b>Saturday 1st January</b></p> <p>Happy 2022! A New Year's Prayer, "Lord, You make all things new You bring hope alive in our hearts and cause our Spirits to be born again. Thank you for this new year for all the potential it holds. Come and kindle in us a mighty flame so that in our time, many will see the wonders of God and live forever to praise Your glorious name. Amen."</p>	<p><b>Sunday 2nd January</b></p> <p>This is our first Sunday together in 2022. We pray that in this coming year we will continue to rebuild following the pandemic and that those who will find this the greatest struggle will receive what they need and that as a society we will always consider how, and who, we can be a neighbour to.</p>	<p><b>Monday 3rd January</b></p> <p>Please pray for those who have lost jobs or have faced a drop in their income as a result of the pandemic and are still struggling to manage. May God give them hope. And open doors for support where it is needed.</p>

*"The word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it" (John 1 v 4-5).*

<p><b>Tuesday 4th January</b></p> <p>All the team will return today, and we will start the day and the year together in prayer. We are at our strongest when we are united as a body. Please join with us today for unity in the team at Urban Outreach and that we will pursue all that builds up the body across the town and the region. Thank you.</p>	<p><b>Wednesday 5th January</b></p> <p>Please pray for those attending the Pantry foodbanks that Urban outreach provides across Bolton. Pray that they receive the support they need to seek employment and to increase their incomes.</p>	<p><b>Thursday 6th January</b></p> <p>As we enter this New Year, please pray that the team at Urban Outreach will receive a renewed strength and energy to seize all that God has for them. These last couple of years have definitely felt tiring and stretching in so many ways and many are feeling weary. It is only through God's strength that we can keep going. Thank you.</p>
<p><b>Friday 7th January</b></p> <p>We thank God for all those who continue to give so generously of their time, resources and skill sets through volunteering. Please join us in praying God's richest blessing on them and that as they give as Christ would give, that they would know His love and joy flowing through them.</p>	<p><b>Saturday 8th January</b></p> <p>Even though Winter Watch is not happening this year, we are excited to see all that God is going to do with our night shelter, In Off the Street. Please pray for those who will find warmth and rest there; that their minds will find peace and clarity to make good decisions for themselves moving forward.</p>	<p><b>Sunday 9th January</b></p> <p>As many children and young people have returned to school and college this week, please pray that they are able to thrive and learn. Ask God to especially bless and support those who are vulnerable and those who struggle in the school environment. Pray that RUNA will continue to have positive relationships with local schools to work together for good.</p>
<p><b>Monday 10th January</b></p> <p>Christmas debt will be starting to impact parents at this time. Please pray for RUNA and ITHRIVE as they work with missing young people and with children with emotional difficulties but also as they work alongside parents who are stressed and under pressure. Intercede for good signposting and practical help with finance and budgeting for parents.</p>	<p><b>Tuesday 11th January</b></p> <p>Please pray for the trustees of Urban Outreach as they meet today. Ask for Godly discernment and wisdom for the decisions that they make and praise God for their generous commitment of time and resources and the skills they bring.</p>	<p><b>Wednesday 12th January</b></p> <p>Urban Outreach works with an alliance of like-minded 'women's centres' across Greater Manchester. Pray that our meeting with them today will be productive in developing our work with women at risk of offending, those suffering domestic abuse and other crises in their lives.</p>

*"You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance." (Psalm 65:11)*

<p><b>Thursday 13th January</b> Please pray for God's wisdom, guidance, and timing as we continue to develop our plans for the former Central Baptist Church building on Snowden Street. Pray for all those involved in both planning and in implementing the various projects to serve those in need and to honour God.</p>	<p><b>Friday 14th January</b> As another busy week draws to a close, give thanks to God for all our staff, volunteers and trustees who work together as one body of many parts – each with their various gifts and skills in His service. Pray for rest, relaxation, and safety. Pray that all involved in our work will be encouraged about the difference they are making to the lives of many across our town.</p>	<p><b>Saturday 15th January</b> Please pray for a lady who is now doing well in a recovery community home. Pray she continues to use the new found skills which help her to function positively in her new life and avoid anything that may tempt her to go backwards.</p>
<p><b>Sunday 16th January</b> Please pray for a lady who has been awarded "right to stay" in this country with her children, but still has no recourse to public funds, and is not allowed to work. Her children are laughed at for not wearing the latest fashion. However, everything she has must be got by vouchers only. Pray the Home office will speed things up.</p>	<p><b>Monday 17th January</b> Please pray for dentists in Bolton to open up new spaces for NHS patients. A lot of service users at the moment are really struggling to get desperately needed treatment.</p>	<p><b>Tuesday 18th January</b> Many will be struggling at the start of this New Year with issues caused by the financial strain that Christmas can bring. Please pray for those that find themselves in this position and maybe needing help with food.</p>
<p><b>Wednesday 19th January</b> Please give thanks to God for our supporters, and their generosity, which enables us to help those in need.</p>	<p><b>Thursday 20th January</b> Please pray for our volunteers; we are so thankful for all those who give up so much of their own time to help us reach so many.  Thank you.</p>	<p><b>Friday 21st January</b> Please pray for a young girl who is finding life extremely hard. Obstacles are being put in her way and rather than talking about these things she is choosing to run away making life more complicated. Please pray that she may know that she is so loved by God and protected from evil.</p>

*"Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble." (1 Peter 3:8)*

<p><b>Saturday 22nd January</b> Please pray for all the children who are placed in care. Life is tough for them and they often feel abandoned by everyone. Let them know that there are good people in the world who want to care for them and love them. Pray that they be given light and are able to enjoy life once again.</p>	<p><b>Sunday 23rd January</b> Please pray for all the volunteers that help Urban Outreach especially over these winter months. Giving up their free time to help the most vulnerable of people in and around Bolton, knowing they make a difference. Please let them know how invaluable they are and that God sees their tremendous efforts.</p>	<p><b>Monday 24th January</b> Please pray for a young person who has lost his dad and step dad within the last year. May he find comfort, hope and assurance in God's presence as he processes his grief. We ask God to encourage others in his life to be valuable role models as he navigates high school and all the other pressures of life.</p>
<p><b>Tuesday 25th January</b> Please pray for all the vulnerable children around Bolton that are being exploited and groomed by gangs to commit crimes. We ask that God gives them the courage, wisdom, and self-worth to break these chains and show them the hope that He promises us all.</p>	<p><b>Wednesday 26th January</b> Join us in a prayer of thanksgiving to God for all He has provided for His people in Bolton, particularly over this challenging winter period. As the Urban Outreach staff meet for their weekly team meeting today, please pray they all feel God's blessing on Bolton and be encouraged by the work He is doing in all our lives.</p>	<p><b>Thursday 27th January</b> January can be particularly hard for people's mental health. Christmas is over, bills can be overwhelming and cold days can add to people feeling down. Please pray for those who are vulnerable to 'low days' that they see hope in different ways and can talk through any difficulties they are having.</p>
<p><b>Friday 28th January</b> Let's thank God for the existing partnerships between organisations, churches and schools. Pray for Urban Outreach to continue to grow in these relationships and more working together is seen across the town.</p>	<p><b>Saturday 29th January</b> Please pray for the Urban Outreach team. Pray that as they rest today, they are refreshed and filled with the Holy Spirit. Pray that the strength that comes from God will help them with all that they face inside and outside of Urban Outreach.</p>	<p><b>Sunday 30th &amp; Monday 31st January</b> Please pray for those finding themselves in need of help, maybe for the first time, with food and/ or gas and electricity top-ups via Local Welfare Provision. Pray for compassion and sensitivity for all those whom they come into contact with.</p>

*"Do everything in love." 1 Corinthians 16:14*