

Prayer Diary

April to May 2023



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



Urban Outreach Bolton



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UrbanOutreachBolton

www.urbanoutreach.co.uk

Company No. 3019108

Saturday 1st April

Dave has been asked to cook with some young people that are currently being looked after by the local authority. This has been going on for some time but this time it is to culminate in a big meal prepared and cooked by the youngsters. Please pray as he discusses this with the young people and for great relationships with them for the forthcoming event.

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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Sunday 2nd April

As the cost-of-living increases continue to affect so many people please pray for us as we seek to address some of the complex issues keeping families and individuals in such difficult circumstances. The idea that someone of any age is freezing in their home and unable to heat their food is shocking in such a wealthy country as ours. May we act just as a nation.

Monday 3rd April

Some of the team will be having some holiday in the next week. Please pray especially for Val, Alan and Gaynor having some well-earned rest, and for all the team as they continue to remain steadfast in the face of growing demand for our help.

Tuesday 4th April

The Easter holiday is an opportunity for the children and young people in our town to spend a couple of weeks relaxing, laughing, playing and spending time with their friends and family. Please pray that God will lead and guide them to safe activities and that they have a safe, fun-filled Spring Break.

Wednesday 5th April

Please pray for continued good management of Urban Outreach's finances. Pray for realistic funding plans and strategies and that all resources are used in the best possible way for its beneficiaries. "For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it." Luke 14:28

Thursday 6th April

As we remember Jesus' death and the hopelessness the disciples felt, please lift all those that feel hopeless at this time. Please pray that the joy and Good News of Hope will fill their hearts so that they, like Jesus, will be able to proclaim that 'It (death and hopelessness) is finished!'

Friday 7th April

Please pray to God and ask that He help us bear the burden of injustice., that He grant us a discerning spirit to follow His path of justice and equips us with His patience and grace so that as we walk with those who suffer, we might strengthen and uphold one another.

<p>Saturday 8th April Please pray for all children and families in Bolton to be flooded with the light and truth of Jesus our Lord and Saviour this Easter time. Pray that they meet deeply with Him in life changing ways.</p>	<p>Sunday 9th April Please pray for a 10-year-old boy who isn't attending school due to extreme fears of going into the building and being separated from parents. Pray that the reasons for this are healed and that he can access a full education feeling peaceful and happy.</p>	<p>Monday 10th April Today as we are still celebrating the Easter bank holiday let us take time to thank God. <i>"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his, we are His people, the sheep of His pasture."</i> (Psalm 100:1)</p>
<p>Tuesday 11th April Please pray for a young woman who is struggling with poor mental health. We pray for God to restore her sense of self-worth, her confidence, and her family relationships. Please pray that she will not feel alone and unable to talk to anyone.</p>	<p>Wednesday 12th April We are beginning to see real change for one of the women we have been praying for. Thank God for His steadfast love for this woman. Please continue to pray for her to be free from a life of addiction, emotional pain and the feeling that she isn't good enough.</p>	<p>Thursday 13th April Please pray for a gentleman who has been sleeping rough in his car due to a relationship breakdown and does not want to go into a hostel or emergency accommodation. Pray that Street Life will be able to find the right accommodation for him soon, which is difficult at the moment due to the housing crisis.</p>
<p>Friday 14th April Can we ask you to pray for the asylum seekers who Street Life have been supporting for many years, and still don't have the right to stay in this country due to their chaotic lifestyle. Pray Street Life will be filled with the skills they need to negotiate with the Home Office and Destitute Charities that can support them further.</p>	<p>Saturday 15th April Please pray for a young boy who is struggling to take responsibility for his aggressive behaviour and to manage his fluctuating emotions. Thank God for his supportive and loving family. Ask that he may be able to develop an awareness of and a resilience in his emotional health.</p>	<p>Sunday 16th April As Samuel Bagley speaks at the Victoria Hall today, please ask that God will give him discernment, wisdom and confidence to share about the work of Urban Outreach. May those who listen be open to journeying with God and the Bolton community. 'In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.' (Proverbs 3:6)</p>

"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter - when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?" (Isaiah 58:6-7)

<p>Monday 17th April Praise God for the gift of all the children that RUNA and RISE connect with. Thank God for their individuality, their perseverance, their humour, their willingness to talk and engage and the support networks that surround them. Please pray for safety, peace and reassurance in their personal circumstances.</p>	<p>Tuesday 18th April Join us as we thank God for His boundless grace. Pray that as a team we will keep the grace of God at the forefront of what we do. That His love will be seen and shown in practical ways to all we come across from those we work with to those who partner with us.</p>	<p>Wednesday 19th April Please pray for the Storehouse Pantries that are taking place today. Pray for all who attend that their needs are met, not just with food, but with support for the various challenges they face. Pray for all partner agencies and churches involved with Storehouse Pantries that they continue to work together for those communities they are based in.</p>
<p>Thursday 20th April Please pray for the staff; for strength and peace in their own personal challenges as they walk alongside others who face daily battles. The enemy seeks to kill, steal and destroy. Pray that the fullness of life that Jesus came to bring would reign in the staff and from that fullness they would be able to support and love those they work with.</p>	<p>Friday 21st April Please pray for Urban Outreach staff, especially those working with vulnerable children or adults who have suffered traumatic situations. Pray that the workers would know the right words and actions to help and that those in need would be responsive. Pray that God's love and peace would be with the staff who are exposed to these circumstances.</p>	<p>Saturday 22nd April Pray today for social workers, school staff, children's care home staff, foster carers and all others who give their time to keep children safe and well looked after. Pray that they make a positive difference in the lives of the children they see, and that the children would appreciate their input.</p>
<p>Sunday 23rd April Please pray that our staff and volunteers will find opportunities, once the crisis is resolved, to walk with those we are working with on a journey to a safe and fulfilling lives.</p>	<p>Monday 24th April Please pray that our clients who are in addiction, will find the strength and courage to work their way through recovery. We pray that they will find that strength in God.</p>	<p>Tuesday 25th April Reach out today to those we meet who experience mental illness, that their burdens would be lifted, calm their anxiety and quiet their fears. Please ask God to surround them with His healing presence and that they may know that they are not alone.</p>

'Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.' (Proverbs 16:3)

<p>Wednesday 26th April Pray today for all those people who will be coming to the Food Pantries in Deane and Halliwell, many who find themselves with debts or struggling to secure any type of paid employment. That they will see a breakthrough from the issues that hold them back.</p>	<p>Thursday 27th April Please pray for the young people we work with and the families who receive our food packages. As food prices continue to increase, pray that children across Bolton receive the nutrition they need and that their parents don't go hungry.</p>	<p>Friday 28th April Please thank God in advance for His provision over Urban Outreach and pray that we continue to use the resources provided to serve Him in the best way possible.</p>
<p>Saturday 29th April Every Wednesday is the Street Life Drop-In, at the former Central Baptist Church on Snowden Street. Pray God would equip the staff and volunteers with everything they need as they seek to help those who come through the door. Pray everyone would encounter God's life changing love and be filled with hope for their future.</p>	<p>Sunday 30th April Please pray for a woman being supported by Street Life. She is in her late 50's and has mental health issues which are being made worse by the condition of her private rented flat. Pray Street Life will be equipped with everything they need to support her and be able to find the right secure accommodation.</p>	<p>Monday 1st May <i>"And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice."</i> (1 Kings 19:11,12) As things happen and change around us, let these few precious moments now when being still and with God help us to hear His still small voice, leading us and encouraging us through these times. Please pray as God leads not only UOB but our town, country and worldwide.</p>
<p>Tuesday 2nd May <i>"If any of you is lacking wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you"</i> (James 1:5) Today, please will you pray specifically for Gods wisdom for all the team at UOB, including our trustees as we seek to make the right decisions in so many complicated situations.</p>	<p>Wednesday 3rd May Sometimes, there is a sense of 'vulnerability' as we look to serve and share with those who are broken hearted and are feeling imprisoned. Please pray protection for our UOB team and for their families as they seek to share God amazing LOVE!</p>	<p>Thursday 4th May Let us spend time praying for families who are in desperate need of accommodation due to landlords either selling their properties or putting the prices up with the cost of living. Pray that Street Life will be able to assist them by obtaining more secure accommodation and make sure they are receiving the right benefits.</p>

"And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength." The second is equally important: "Love your neighbour as yourself." No other commandment is greater than these." (Mark 12 v 30-31)

<p>Friday 5th May Praise God for the Street Life Drop-In and for the valuable volunteers that help to run the weekly sessions. Please pray the staff and volunteers would be filled with God's wisdom as they seek to help those who attend who have many diverse issues. Pray they would experience God's unconditional love and grace as they spend time with us.</p>	<p>Saturday 6th May Today is Coronation Day for King Charles III. Please pray for our King and Queen Consort and the whole royal family. Pray for all who will play a part in today's ceremony. Pray that they all may be given the strength to carry out the duties and responsibilities entrusted to them. "Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands" Psalm 90:17</p>	<p>Sunday 7th May Pray for neighbours and communities who are coming together today to share friendship, food and fun with a Coronation Big Lunch. Pray for all those working hard to make these events happen – for good weather, for safety and a strengthening of positive relationships across our town</p>
<p>Monday 8th May Volunteering has been an important part of what we have been able to achieve over the years – both as a nation and at Urban Outreach. Please pray for organisations large and small, who are getting together today to mark The King's Coronation by giving everybody the chance to try volunteering for themselves and make a difference in their community.</p>	<p>Tuesday 9th May Thank the Lord for a lady and her children who have just been offered a property by Bolton Council after many years of waiting. She has overcome so much adversity to finally reach this point, but she knew that God would not let her down. Praise His name.</p>	<p>Wednesday 10th May Please pray for a young woman with learning difficulties who is being manipulated by someone who is supposed to care for her. He completely gaslights this poor girl. Please pray for her protection over her mind, and that she allows us to build up a trusting working relationship with her.</p>
<p>Thursday 11th May Please pray for a young woman who has been out of prison now for 6 months. Pray she stays on the right path and is protected from risky associates who would drag her backwards. Also pray for restoration with her family, so that she has a positive support network around her.</p>	<p>Friday 12th May Please pray for those who live their lives on the margins of society. Pray that they would not be overlooked and that they know they are of value.</p>	<p>Saturday 13th May As we start the weekend, please give thanks for rest and refreshment that this time brings. Please pray for a restful weekend for all our Urban Outreach staff and volunteers.</p>

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, through its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging." (Psalm 46:1-3)

<p>Sunday 14th May Please pray for three children who have gone into foster care and are wondering why they can't be with their mum. Please pray that God surrounds them with His love and glory allow them to realise how special they are to Him. Let them know that He will always be there for them and that better times are coming.</p>	<p>Monday 15th May Please pray for the children and family team who continue to work with vulnerable children and their families. Give them the wisdom and love to be able to support the children through some hard and challenging times.</p>	<p>Tuesday 16th May We pray a prayer of thanksgiving for the Urban Outreach Trustees that are meeting today. Thank you for their commitment and faithful guidance to the work of the charity. We pray for protection as they discern key decisions for the direction of the charity.</p>
<p>Wednesday 17th May Please pray for the young people our RUNA project are working with that are gripped by exploitation. May God release them from the shackles of those that seek to take advantage of the vulnerable in our society.</p>	<p>Thursday 18th May On the day of Ascension, let us thank the Lord that He came down to Earth so that Earth might ascend to heaven; that He descended to the dead so that the dead might rise to live.</p>	<p>Friday 19th May Please pray for all the children and teaching staff on Easter leave; that they enjoy time with their families and return to school refreshed and ready for the new term. Pray also that the HAF Easter programme goes well and that the children enjoy the food provided.</p>
<p>Saturday 20th May Please give thanks for all our volunteers who give their time so willingly and selflessly each week.</p>	<p>Sunday 21st May Please give thanks for all the other agencies that support the work that we do; pray that they will continue to support us to help change the lives of the complex people that we are dealing with on a day-to-day basis.</p>	<p>Monday 22nd May Praise God for the opportunities we get to walk alongside people in their times of crisis. Thank Him that we can show His love through our interactions with them.</p>

"Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my saviour, and my hope is in you all day long." (Psalm 25:5)

<p>Tuesday 23rd May Please pray for the people of Bolton as they continue to struggle with the rise in cost-of-living expenses, we give thanks for the generosity of those who can give more to help those that are struggling to make ends meet. We pray that those who need help continue to be able to access the support they need.</p>	<p>Wednesday 24th May We pray for all the members and volunteers who work in the food side of Urban Outreach. We give thanks for all the dedication and hard work given by the volunteers on a weekly basis, without whose loyal support we would not be able to achieve the targets we reach on a weekly basis.</p>	<p>Thursday 25th May We pray for all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes at Urban Outreach. As we fast approach the summer holidays, we pray for the Bolton Lunches that will begin in July and give thanks for the army of volunteers who will help with this project. It's a massive undertaking to feed the children and young people of Bolton during the six-week holiday,.</p>
<p>Friday 26th May Please pray for a young lady who is facing eviction; pray that she is able to find and accept the help available to her and that she finds a safe home she can feel secure in.</p>	<p>Saturday 27th May Isaiah 43:18-19 "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Let's give thanks for our Lord who leads us forwards and stays by our side regardless of what has gone before.</p>	<p>Sunday 28th May As we celebrate Pentecost today let's pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit across our town. That all people would see visions and dreams from God, that they would prophesy, and experience signs, wonders and miracles. We pray for a refreshing of souls and a stirring of hearts. Maranatha, Come Holy Spirit!</p>
<p>Monday 29th May "Cast all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you". Pray for all our children and young people who are crippled by anxiety and worry. Pray that they would come to know the burden baring love of Jesus. Pray for Peace over their minds and hearts and freedom from anxious thoughts and worry.</p>	<p>Tuesday 30th May Please give thanks, that through the RUNA team we met a ten-year-old girl who was deeply unhappy. We were able to offer her support and as a result her family are now working closely with our street life project. Please pray for Gods provision for a safe home for this family.</p>	<p>Wednesday 31st May The RUNA team often meet young people who are struggling, Please praise God that we can support and connect with them, help us to encourage them. Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."</p>

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit - fruit that will last - and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you." (John 15:16)