

# Prayer Diary

December 2023 to January 2024



*"Binding up the broken hearted and setting the captives free" Isaiah 61:1*



[www.urbanoutreach.co.uk](http://www.urbanoutreach.co.uk)

Urban Outreach Bolton

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Company No. 3019108

**Friday 1st , Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd December**

It feels like we never stay still as we constantly seek how to meet the needs of those who need our help under the banner of God's love. Buildings have a huge part to play, especially as we face increasing numbers looking for help. We've been at Salop Street for nearly 20 years. Originally a team of 7, we believed strongly that this was where the Lord wanted us, as it was in

the heart of the red-light area, and we believed we would grow, and we did. The red-light area has now gone following work supporting the women in the area and we now have 26 staff. Daily we distribute food and around £4000 in utility top-ups from the office to 100's of people. Our work with young people and families has expanded. In fact, everything we do has grown! We now feel God's call to move the office, to once again go into a place that is more suitable for the next season. We don't know what that is, but we feel the call to be ready for what is to come. To this end please would you pray for wisdom for us as we pursue this new venture, for the right place and the resources. To add to this, we feel the need to be fully ready within a year, this is just something that we feel has been laid on our hearts, in this we are fully trusting the Lord. Excitement and trepidation often accompany the sense of God's call but for us there is absolute trust in Him who called us and has sustained us for the past 33 years. Thank you.

**Tuesday 5th December**

Please pray for all those whose hearts are heavy this winter; individuals and families struggling with rising costs, and overwhelmed parents as they consider the cost of gifts for their children, when they are unable to afford the essentials. Please pray for Urban Outreach as it continues to strive to be a beacon of God's love on earth, shining light in the darkness.

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.**
- **Christmas Dinner on Jesus 2023**

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**Monday 4th December**

The big count of donated items for Christmas Dinner on Jesus gets underway today. Please pray for all UOB staff involved – for calmness and clarity of mind and thank God for that joy of being involved in such an amazing project.

**Wednesday 6th December**

Please pray for all the staff at Urban Outreach at this time. Please pray for wisdom, for strength and for an overwhelming knowledge of God's Love and Peace as we continue to navigate the increasing challenges faced by so many in Bolton. Please pray for breakthrough and long-term transformation in people's lives.

**Thursday 7th December**

As we near Christmas and we remember the Word becoming flesh, we also declare that the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome Him. Please pray that in people's darkest times and in their loneliest spaces, they would know Christ's Love and His tangible Presence. Help each of us Lord to be bringers of your Peace.

<p><b>Friday 8th December</b> Today is the deadline for Christmas hamper nominations. Please pray for all those individuals and families who have been nominated to receive one. We thank God for His goodness every year for providing food, volunteers, new partnerships etc to make this possible.</p>	<p><b>Saturday 9th December</b> Please let us pray together today for a young woman who keeps finding herself in vulnerable situations. Please pray for the chains of addiction to be broken and for trauma to not keep repeating for her. We pray for freedom for her, for healing and restoration in her life.</p>	<p><b>Sunday 10th December</b> Praise the Lord! In the October prayer diary, Street Life asked for prayer for a gentleman who needed a place in a detox for his alcoholism. Thank the Lord a place became available in November, please continue to pray that this time he will be able to complete every process through the detox and move on in his life.</p>
<p><b>Monday 11th December</b> Please pray for a middle-aged man that came into the Street Life Drop-In in October. He had been sleeping rough in his car for over 10 months due to the landlord selling the property. Pray we will be able to find the right accommodation for him and he will experience God's love and support through our actions.</p>	<p><b>Tuesday 12th December</b> Today we pray for the first day of packing of the Christmas Dinner on Jesus hampers. Thank God for the willing volunteers who are giving up their time this week. Thank God also for all the contributions going into each box and all the people who collected them.</p>	<p><b>Wednesday 13th December</b> Please pray for children who do not have happy memories of Christmas and who will struggle with emotions as Christmas approaches. Ask God to help our Children and Families team as they support some of these children and young people.</p>
<p><b>Thursday 14th December</b> Please pray for a single mother wanting to do the best for her four children but struggling with her own mental health. Pray that God will give her strength and ask for His protection over them all. Two of her boys are being supported by our RISE project - pray that our workers will have wisdom in how best to help them.</p>	<p><b>Friday 15th &amp; Saturday 16th December</b> Please pray for all those facing a difficult Christmas. For many Christmas can feel hard for various reasons. Pray that for all those in Bolton who feel lonely, that they will experience "Emmanuel" God With Us. For all those feeling anxious that they will experience the Prince of Peace. For all those who are mourning that they will be comforted. That those who feel sad will have moments of God's joy. For those who are hopeless that they discover again or for the first time the real Good News. For those who feel excluded that they will be drawn into a family surrounded by God's love. Declare over Bolton John 1:4-5, "In Him was life, and that life was the light of all humankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."</p>	

"May He equip you with all you need for doing His will. May He produce in you through the power of Jesus Christ, every good thing that is pleasing to Him." (Hebrews 13:21)

<p><b>Sunday 17th December</b> Please pray today for children and young people who are in care or those who are in difficult family situations this Christmas. Pray that they would hear the gospel message and take it to heart. Pray for peace and understanding in their situations and relationships, and that this would be a time of blessing to them.</p>	<p><b>Monday 18th December</b> Please pray today for those who are giving their time to pack and prepare the Christmas Dinner on Jesus hampers for single people. Pray that the preparations would go well. Also pray for those individuals who the packs are going to – that they would be blessed and not feel isolated or lonely when they have these meals.</p>	<p><b>Tuesday 19th December</b> Please pray about the lack of rented accommodation that is available in Bolton and how this could result in more people rough sleeping this winter. Pray for the landlords who are struggling due to rising costs and high interest rates and that those searching for properties can restore broken relationships.</p>
<p><b>Wednesday 20th December</b> Please give thanks for those people who have found new accommodation, through the support of UOB this year. We pray that the accommodation will feel like home this Christmas where they will know God's blessings and His peace.</p>	<p><b>Thursday 21st December</b> Thank God for the many volunteers and people who have given their time or gifts to make Christmas Dinner on Jesus happen. Pray today as the final preparations and hamper packing takes place, that we would have enough food to make every hamper and that that the volunteers would experience the joy of giving this Christmas.</p>	<p><b>Friday 22nd December</b> Christmas can be a difficult time for many people and families. Pray that today as Christmas Dinner on Jesus is delivered to each home, they would know how much they are loved by God, and that opportunities to share about Jesus would happen today.</p>
<p><b>Saturday 23rd December</b> Praise God, that Street Life has managed to find accommodation for 78 people in the last 3 months, this includes 60 adults and 18 children. Please pray for the many people who are still on the waiting list, which increases each week at the drop-in, that they will be given hope for their future.</p>	<p><b>Sunday 24th December</b> As we approach the celebration of the birth of our amazing Lord and Saviour, please pray for the many families that are open to Street Life who find themselves in the same situation as Jesus' parents. Pray the staff will be equipped to support these families through this difficult time and give them hope that accommodation will be found soon.</p>	<p><b>Monday 25th December</b> Happy Christmas! Please pray for all the people who have received their Christmas Dinner on Jesus hampers. Pray they feel a sense of God's peace and can enjoy the day with little worry. Please also give thanks for the donations and volunteers who prepared and delivered the hampers.</p>

"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15)

<p><b>Tuesday 26th December</b> Please pray for the UOB staff, that they can have a time of rest and spend quality time with their family and friends after a busy Christmas period. Thank the Lord that He continues to give our staff and volunteers the heart to help others across Bolton.</p>	<p><b>Wednesday 27th December</b> Please join us in prayer for those young people who feel that home is not a safe place to be at this time of year. Pray specifically for those young people who are the witnesses, and therefore also victims of domestic violence in the family. Our hearts are full of hope, offered by Jesus Christ, for these families.</p>	<p><b>Thursday 28th December</b> Today, please hold our RUNA team in prayer. We pray collectively, that the hearts of our team are strengthened by the hope offered at this festive time of year, but equally that their energy is renewed to continue the work they do with the young people of Bolton.</p>
<p><b>Friday 29th December</b> Our prayers today, are for the services with whom our children and families team work. Pray for strengthened relationships that focus on the needs of young people and their families. Pray for hearts and lives to be transformed in the precious name of Jesus.</p>	<p><b>Saturday 30th December</b> Please pray for the young people who are regularly missing from home. Please be praying that they are kept safe over the school holidays and that people caring for them will show them so much love and patience. Pray that these young people will experience joy and light where this is only possible by the power of our God.</p>	<p><b>Sunday 31st December</b> Please give thanks for 2023! Please thank God for all He has done and for all the teams and volunteers that have worked so hard through 2023 to 'bind up the broken hearted and set the captives free'. Please thank God for the amazing projects that have run this year to provide specific support to people in Bolton.</p>
<p><b>Monday 1st January</b> <i>Happy New Year!</i> Let us pray that this coming year 2024 will present yet again more opportunities for us all to see the Kingdom of Heaven extended across our nation!</p>	<p><b>Tuesday 2nd January</b> At the start of this New Year, please pray that God will lead the Urban Outreach team and trustees in every step they take. That important decisions will be flooded with God's wisdom and guided entirely by Him! May God open doors needing to open and close the ones needing to be shut tight. <i>Thank you.</i></p>	<p><b>Wednesday 3rd January</b> As the potential busyness of the day threatens to overpower, please pray that the team will feel God's peace, enabling them to slow down to hear His voice in any given situation and to find moments where they can "be still and know that He is God!"</p>

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." (Isaiah 40:31)

<p><b>Thursday 4th January</b> A woman known to Eve's Space has spent 14 years in prison, this is the longest period that she has spent out of custody. She is currently in a hostel but, with support, is ready to have her own tenancy. This will take a lot of inter-agency co-ordination and support. Please pray that the right accommodation and support can be found to keep her from re-offending.</p>	<p><b>Friday 5th January</b> Eve's Space are working with a young university student who, as a child, was abused by members of her family. She has mentioned that she believes in Jesus and prays but nothing seems to happen. She has been given a bible to encourage her faith. Please pray that her relationship with God can be nurtured and bear fruit.</p>	<p><b>Saturday 6th January</b> Epiphany, the day we celebrate the three wise men being led by a star to find Jesus. Can this be called a quintessential light bulb moment? This makes us think about the men, women and children we work with who don't have a relationship with Jesus, please pray that they too can have an epiphany.</p>
<p><b>Sunday 7th January</b> Please continue to pray for a lady who is still abstinent from alcohol. This is fantastic but also brings its own set of anxieties. She is making great progress, but pray for protection of her heart and mind, and that she stays away from risky associates.</p>	<p><b>Monday 8th January</b> Please pray for a young female who has been in an abusive relationship and moved back to Bolton. Unfortunately, her son has been allowed to stay with the Father and she is too afraid to see him. Pray for a breakthrough and for the correct legal team to get involved. Let this mother see her son.</p>	<p><b>Tuesday 9th January</b> Please pray for a lady with a brain injury, who is experiencing auditory hallucinations. Pray that the specialists find out what is really going on and offer her the correct medication or whatever is needed to give her peace. Pray this will be sorted soon.</p>
<p><b>Wednesday 10th January</b> Please pray for those who are struggling with hunger and wondering about their next meal, often on a daily basis. Pray that they find the support that is out there for them to get them the food they so desperately need.</p>	<p><b>Thursday 11th January</b> People can often be left struggling with debt after the Christmas period, particularly in the current financial climate. Money for food and utilities can be an issue. Please pray for them as they seek support and guidance to help them out of their situation.</p>	<p><b>Friday 12th January</b> Being without food or gas and electric can be a strain on your mental health. Please pray for those who are going through this currently. Pray that these burdens can be lifted with help, and they begin to see a hope and have a sense of peace over their future knowing there is help out there for them.</p>

"When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him."

(Matthew 2:10-11)



<p><b>Saturday 13th January</b> Please praise God for His intervention in the lives of families Urban Outreach work with. When disputes seem to come to an impasse, we praise God for the path he clears for reconciliation and restoration.</p>	<p><b>Sunday 14th January</b> We are witnessing an increase of young people being made homeless in the borough. Please lift them up in prayer. Pray for their family relationships, their safety and the provision of supported housing for them during these dark and cold evenings.</p>	<p><b>Monday 15th January</b> 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><b>Tuesday 16th January</b> Please continue to pray for the many people who come into the Street Life drop-in who have been given eviction notices through no fault of their own. Landlords are either selling their properties or are increasing rents to a point that the tenants cannot afford. Pray for Street Life as they tirelessly seek to obtain other landlords.</p>	<p><b>Wednesday 17th January</b> Praise the Lord for the Street Life volunteers who give their time and skills to help those who come into the drop-in. Please pray the staff and volunteers will be encouraged knowing that God will provide them with everything they need to help each person who comes through the door, many in diverse and desperate situations.</p>	<p><b>Thursday 18th January</b> Please pray for a young couple who have been struggling with their house search for over a year. Pray for strength and patience as they continue to overcome obstacles on their journey to a suitable house they can call home.</p>
<p><b>Friday 19th January</b> Please pray for those who are suffering with the cold weather. Ask that they receive warmth, comfort, and protection. Pray for protection for those who don't have a home to return to, pray that through Gods love they will be guided to places of peace and security.</p>	<p><b>Saturday 20th January</b> Please pray that the team will be filled with God's love so that His light will shine in the dark places. "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." (Psalm 119:105)</p>	<p><b>Sunday 21st January</b> Please thank God for the Urban Outreach team and all the skills they bring enabling us to carry out our very varied work. Please pray that today will be a day of rest for all and that the team will be revitalised by the Holy Spirit giving them the energy to face the week ahead.</p>

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." (Matthew 6:9)

<p><b>Monday 22nd January</b> Winter can seem long and dark when you're struggling financially and mentally. Please pray for families in Bolton who are finding life so very hard; pray that they get the help they need and that they be encircled with God's love.</p>	<p><b>Tuesday 23rd January</b> We give thanks for all departments of Urban Outreach Bolton as they continue to work tirelessly to help the hundreds of people that we encounter on a regular basis. Please pray for God's continued strength enabling us to continue the support that is given to make a huge difference to the lives of the</p>	<p><b>Wednesday 24th January</b> Please ask God to be with the people of Bolton needing help, pray that they are signposted to the right places for the help that they need. That they are given the support needed to make a difference in their lives as they struggle either to pay the bills or to put food on the table.</p>
<p><b>Thursday 25th January</b> We think of all volunteers who give tirelessly to help and promote all the work of Urban Outreach. Please give thanks for the loyal and hard work that these volunteers continue to give throughout the year as, without them, we wouldn't be able to do what we do.</p>	<p><b>Friday 26th January</b> Please pray for children who are on the brink of going into care. Pray for them and their families and the complex circumstances they face. Pray that these children would know they are still loved and valued, despite being removed from their families. Pray that they know peace during this significant life change.</p>	<p><b>Saturday 27th January</b> Pray for young people who are struggling with low mood, anxiety, and low self-esteem. Pray that Jesus would shine light in their darkness, bring hope to their hopelessness and bring joy instead of despair. Pray they would find things that help lift their mood and build confidence and ultimately discover life in Jesus in all its fullness.</p>
<p><b>Sunday 28th January</b> Pray for all professionals working with young people in our town. For teachers, social workers, support workers and youth workers. Pray that God would clothe them with wisdom, patience, compassion and understanding. Pray that God would pour His love upon them so that they may love our young people in return.</p>	<p><b>Monday 29th January</b> Please pray for the Eve's Space team today as they work alongside probation at our women's centre and pray for the ladies that attend. Some are new, some we have worked with for a while. We hope that they will feel supported, safe and encouraged. Please pray for trust in these relationships to be built and new beginnings to flourish.</p>	<p><b>Tuesday 30th &amp; Wednesday 31st January</b> As the first month of the new year is almost at a close, we look towards the rest of 2024. Please pray for it to be a year of growth for Urban Outreach, that we will continue to reach more and more individuals old and young across our town. That those who are most in need will experience love and support through Urban Outreach.</p>

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near." (Philippians 4:4-5)