

Praise Diary

February to March 2024



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



www.urbanoutreach.co.uk

Urban Outreach Bolton

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UrbanOutreachBolton

Company No. 3019108

Thursday 1st February,

For many years we have enjoyed and appreciated the partnership we have had with the Council, the one thing that is always constant is change and we know there are changes coming. But we celebrate and give thanks for the relationships and opportunities this partnership has had.

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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Friday 2nd February

We give thanks for the many partnerships we have with local businesses, from the small to the huge. It's has never ceased to amaze us at how God has always gone before us with meeting people in business and the benefits that have evolved due to them.

Saturday 3rd February

Over the past 34 years many people have come, gone and stayed in Urban Outreach, all coming at the right time bringing with them their skills and gifts. It is right to and a privilege to give thanks to God for all the team both now and those gone before. God has truly blessed the work of Urban Outreach with such amazing people.

Sunday 4th February

As this Sunday gradually gives way to the coming week, we lay before God all our plans, hopes, and concerns. Please ask the Lord for guidance in every decision, strength in every challenge, and grace in every interaction. Thank Him in advance that He will keep us strong so that we may help the weak and rejected and that He will keep us uplifted so that we may have words of encouragement for others.

Monday 5th February

Please thank God for the generosity of all our volunteers and supporters. Praise Him that their willingness to give back to the community reflects His love. Ask God to fill their lives with an abundance of shared blessings as they have shared with us and countless others. *“And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:8*

Tuesday 6th February

Join us as we thank God for the various ways He meets people. Throughout history we can see the many beautiful ways God shows up and speaks into the lives of His children. God knows His creation and He knows how each and everyone of us and those we work with hear, see and experience His love and power. We are grateful for all of the unique ways in which God shows His Great Love.

Wednesday 7th February

God is a God of Hope. We thank God today that there is always hope – in even the darkest of situations. We declare that hope reigns in people's lives as they engage with the support of our services and workers. And that the hope will bring about joy and peace into their lives.

<p>Thursday 8th February Please praise God for our Streetlife team and join us as we continue to pray for all those in our borough who are struggling to find safe, suitable housing. We ask for God’s protection and for a shift in the housing climate to enable more available accommodation for those facing homelessness.</p>	<p>Friday 9th February Let us give thanks to God for those who we have managed to find suitable housing for. Please pray for the Streetlife team as they work tirelessly to seek accommodation and liaise with landlords to place people in the right places.</p>	<p>Saturday 10th February Please thank God for the provision of rehabilitation centres and those who work in them. We recently asked for prayer for a gentleman who had been granted a place in rehab; unfortunately, this fell through due to the rehab having an emergency. Please continue to pray for this situation, that we would be able to encourage and support him until a place becomes available in any rehab.</p>
<p>Sunday 11th February Please thank God that Streetlife have been able to find accommodation for a couple who have been sofa surfing for many months. Unfortunately, the property needs quite a lot of work doing to it, so they are still in the same predicament. Please pray the work will be done a.s.a.p. so they can move on to a better future.</p>	<p>Monday 12th February Please thank God for the opportunity the RISE project gives to impact children and teenagers. Pray for a young boy (10 yr. old) who carries the burden of his dad’s mental health. He is really struggling to come to terms with the breakup of his parents and constantly worries about how his dad is coping.</p>	<p>Tuesday 13th February Two boys are being supported through RISE. Their single mum has struggled to get them to school due to her depression. Please thank God that this is gradually improving. Please pray for the children to be able to maintain routine and build positive family memories. Family activities are rare, please pray for opportunities.</p>
<p>Wednesday 14th February As we begin this season of lent, please pray for all the staff of Urban Outreach and thank God for this opportunity to focus on growing in faith. May this time be a time of getting to know our heavenly father better and understand him more completely.</p>	<p>Thursday 15th February Let’s thank God for the amazing provision that we see as an organisation. There are so many moments of amazing generosity – some big and some small. All beautiful and used for Kingdom building. We thank God for all who are moved to support as together we walk with the people of Bolton.</p>	<p>Friday 16th February Join us as we take a moment of quiet reflection to think upon this week gone, let us think upon how God has spoken, how His goodness has been present and how He has been at work in our lives. We thank God that He is always present, not only for us but for those we work with. We thank God that He is never far off, that he never slumbers and that His eyes are always on His creation.</p>

**“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”
(Romans 15:13)**

<p>Saturday 17th February Please give thanks today for all the people in Bolton who work with children – teachers, social workers, hospital staff, police and many others. Thank God for their service to future generations and pray for peace, strength, and love to fill them. Give thanks for such great schools and hospitals and other organisations caring for children.</p>	<p>Sunday 18th February Give thanks for the chance to share God’s word! Please pray today for Dave Bagley as he preaches at Bank Top URC, that he would be filled with God’s anointing as he shares with the people there. Give thanks for all the churches throughout Bolton, that God would be moving through them to reach all communities.</p>	<p>Monday 19th February Please give thanks for the Genesis Project and pray that those who are being introduced to the project will feel welcomed and settled, quickly feeling a part of a growing family who contribute and benefit from the opportunities to create, prepare and grow in and around the Amber Centre.</p>
<p>Tuesday 20th February Please pray for The Genesis Project; the staff, the referrers, the volunteer mentors, and the attendees as we help them to navigate their way back into society, into accommodation, for some into a life free from addictions and all into a brighter future. Please thank God for these amazing opportunities.</p>	<p>Wednesday 21st February Thank God for the many Churches and congregations across Bolton supporting the work of Urban Outreach in so many ways, Praise God that churches are finding ways to help those in difficulty with compassion, companionship and practical help.</p>	<p>Thursday 22nd February Thank God for showing His amazing power and work in the lives of those who we support. Thank Him, that He is able to bring hope through the toughest of times. Thank Him that He strengthens Urban Outreach staff and Volunteers for His purposes.</p>
<p>Friday 23rd February Please give thanks for a lady that we first met through RUNA, she then became a client on Eve’s Space. We have witnessed her bloom as she has softened and learned to trust outsiders for the first time and as a result her children are no longer on child protection. She gave her life to Jesus at a recent event and is no longer anxious about the future.</p>	<p>Saturday 24th February There are times when we see people feeling lost, alone and unsupported. Please thank God that no matter where someone is on their personal journey, He miraculously equips the team to welcome, to listen and to graciously love and support. Please offer thanks for every breakthrough—the ones we see and the ones yet to come.</p>	<p>Sunday 25th February Please thank God for the volunteers who come every week to help keep the food distribution centre running. Pray they feel fulfilled and valued as a key part of the UOB family.</p>

**“And now we thank you, our God, and praise Your glorious name.”
(1 Chronicles 29:13)**

<p>Monday 26th February Please thank God for the generosity of our donors, who have supported us over the past 33 years to support our projects and general upkeep of UOB. Thank God for always providing for us, by individual donations, grants and council funding.</p>	<p>Tuesday 27th February Please give thanks for those services and individuals that expose and break through the risks of exploitation with our young people. Pray that Jesus' light shines and that each young person is protected by the love, grace, and mercy of our loving Father.</p>	<p>Wednesday 28th February Pray for our Urban Outreach team today, as we meet in devotions, prayer and fellowship. Give thanks for God's love and protection that sustains each one of the team to serve in ways that God has planned in each of our ministries.</p>
<p>Thursday 29th February As we read in Ecclesiastes 3, 'There is a time for everything.' Give thanks and praise for this time – let it be a time of blessing, light and hope for every young person. Pray for the conversations that take place with young people reported missing from home, and the hope that is offered through the work of our RUNA team.</p>	<p>Friday 1st March As we complete the final touches to our new outreach centre it's with amazement, we consider how God has supplied our needs over so many years. From literally nothing except a belief that this was Gods will to begin this adventurous journey to now reaching in His name over 100,000 people each year.</p>	<p>Saturday 2nd March Always for us the vision of Urban Outreach was to be grounded in the local Church, without a doubt still Gods master plan. We remain humbled and at the close umbilical links we have with the Church in Bolton. We have much to do as His body but together we have come a long way and much has been achieved. Praise God for His church that does prevail in His name.</p>
<p>Sunday 3rd March "I will sing of your love and justice" (Psalm 101 v 1) LORD thank you for your cross shaped love-sacrificial-unconditional-faithful-never ending-healing and saving love. We are so grateful that in a world where injustice is rampant, You always remain a God of Justice. We bow down in wonder and awe. Amen.</p>	<p>Monday 4th March Sometimes, as we look back at the year gone, we can't help but be in awe at how God has fulfilled our prayers. Please give thanks to God for two extremely chaotic women who have both managed to abstain from heroin, crack, and alcohol; one for 8 months and the other for 12. The male partner of one has also abstained for 10 months and they have now all given their</p>	<p>Tuesday 5th March Please give thanks for three women, known to us, who have stopped working in a parlour – two of them are working and one has started university. Also, for a mother and son who were creating problems through their dealing and use of drugs, they have now turned their lives around and are starting afresh down south.</p>

"I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify Him with thanksgiving."
(Psalm 69:30)

<p>Wednesday 6th march Praise God for a female who has remained abstinent from alcohol for three years. She has now passed her driving test and has completed her volunteering training. She has made a commitment to God and now goes to church. This is an absolute answer to our prayers.</p>	<p>Thursday 7th March Thank the Lord that groups of Bolton women are now able to access domestic abuse courses to help them have a better understanding of what they have experienced. This is by using the latest up to date virtual reality equipment at our Amber Centre, delivered by the Eve's Space team.</p>	<p>Friday 8th March Give thanks to God that so many Bolton Women are now accessing Eves Space and taking full advantage of the excellent support on offer. Thank you for those ladies who have made commitments and are now attending church.</p>
<p>Saturday 9th March We serve a God who is faithful to meet all our needs. Please offer Him thanks and praise today for His abundant provision in all areas of our Outreach, helping and guiding us in love for those on the margins of our society.</p>	<p>Sunday 10th March Please thank God for all those who He has put in the path of Urban Outreach over the years who have found restoration. We thank Him that He continues to restore what has been lost for so many. Pray that we continue to be open to His leading in all areas of our work.</p>	<p>Monday 11th March On this day we praise the Lord for His life-giving light. We pray that His light illuminates the darkness of exploitation in the lives of some of the young people our RUNA project engages with. Bring them out of the shadows and into God's freedom and redemption, we pray.</p>
<p>Tuesday 12th March Please give thanks to the Lord for our committed and dedicated team of trustees. As they gather today for a Trustees Meeting, we pray for wisdom and discernment as they make important decisions about the running of UOB. We thank Him particularly for the newest additions to the Board of Trustees and pray that they will be blessed at this time.</p>	<p>Wednesday 13th March Please give thanks for the UOB Staff team who gather to pray every Wednesday. Pray for the renewing and growth of faith in this time as they come together. We pray for a strong sense of togetherness in the midst of a busy week.</p>	<p>Thursday 14th March Please give thanks for the Urban Outreach team and pray for them on the Staff Away Day today. Pray that this would be encouraging and refreshing for all as they meet to spend time in prayer and worship.</p>

"I waited patiently for the Lord, He turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire, He set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in Him."
(Psalm 40: 1-3)

<p>Friday 15th March Give thanks for God's continuous provision of food donations to the Food Hub throughout the winter season which have allowed Urban Outreach to provide food to those in need. Please pray that these donations would continue, and that Urban Outreach can keep helping people across Bolton access food.</p>	<p>Saturday 16th March Please give thanks for the new Flourish course, a virtual reality experience aimed at helping survivors of domestic abuse to flourish in their new lives. Give thanks for the amazing opportunity to deliver this course to our women.</p>	<p>Sunday 17th March <i>"Anyone who is joined to Christ is a new being; the old is gone, the new has come."</i> (2 Corinthians 5:17) Give thanks for the coming of Spring, the warmer weather it will bring and the renewal of life.</p>
<p>Monday 18th March Please give thanks for the agencies that work to support people across Bolton. We are in a period of reduced funding and services are being stretched and spirits are low. Pray that God will encourage and strengthen these workers and protect them with good health.</p>	<p>Tuesday 19th March Please give thanks for the provision of Storehouse and all the food that comes in to help people who find themselves in need. Please pray they would not only receive the food they need but would be filled with hope to face their problems.</p>	<p>Wednesday 20th March We give thanks for the work that is done by our vast number of volunteers down in the food hub, for their flexibility in carrying out the tasks that they are given. Without their help we would not be able to achieve what we do in helping support the people of this wonderful town here in Bolton.</p>
<p>Thursday 21st March We give thanks for the Churches and community in Horwich who have been having a fortnightly food collection for Urban Outreach. We give thanks for the volunteers who open one of the Churches for the food collection to take place, this has been ongoing since the start of the covid pandemic and has been a great source of help.</p>	<p>Friday 22nd March As we remember the verses of Ecclesiastes chapter 3 verses 1-8, we give thanks for the changes that have been made down at the food hub that will help us to be more involved with our projects in the community. We are thankful that our volunteers are adaptable to change and fully understand the reasons as we look at giving a better service to our clients out in the community.</p>	<p>Saturday 23rd March Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness, you have done wonderful things, things planned long ago (Isaiah 25:1). Praise God for the life of UOB – past, present and future. Thank Him for everything that has been planned and planted by Him. Praise Him for working together for good in Bolton.</p>

**"For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations."
(Psalm 100:5)**

<p>Sunday 24th March As we move into Easter week, thank God for His sacrifice and love in Jesus. Pray that each child and young person in Bolton would know the touch of His immense love and that they would know that they are valued and special. Pray for those who run away and those who struggle with their emotions.</p>	<p>Monday 25th March Praise God for all those agencies who work with the homeless. Please continue to pray for the housing crisis that the country is experiencing and that those seeking to help will be equipped with everything they need. Pray also for those who are rough sleeping that a place will come available in</p>	<p>Tuesday 26th March Let us spend time praising the Lord! Although Street Life are seeing many more numbers of homelessness, they have worked tirelessly and been able to accommodate numerous people, this includes families. Pray that this will continue, and that more properties will</p>
<p>Wednesday 27th March Praise God for the Street Life Drop-In, the staff and especially the valuable volunteers who give their time, giftings, unconditional love and support to the many people who come through the doors, many who are in despite need. Thank the Lord that people can experience His love and acceptance through the witness of seeing our faith in action.</p>	<p>Thursday 28th March Please give thanks that Jesus was willing to pray, "not my will, but yours be done" and step into unimaginable suffering because of how much He loves us. Please thank God that Jesus set a perfect example of how we can remember what he did for us, through taking communion.</p>	<p>Friday 29th March Please thank God for sending his Son to give his life for us. Praise God that because of this we can be forgiven any time we ask. Please thank God that there is nothing we could ever do that means we are too far away to turn back to Him and His plans for us.</p>
<p>Saturday 30th March Please join us in thanking God for His all-encompassing love and His forgiveness that binds up our brokenness. Pray that all those that we encounter and serve in His Name will be open to receiving His love.</p>	<p>Sunday 31st March Happy Easter! On this special Sunday let us remember that God's grace can provide everything we need! Please take time today to thank the Lord for all that He provides UOB to enable us to carry out His mission – whether that be the talents of the staff in dealing with vulnerable families, adults and children or donations that we receive to help provide for those who are without.</p>	 <p><i>I am the resurrection and the life.</i> <i>John 11:25</i></p>

**"Don't look out only for your own interest, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had."
(Philippians 2:4-5)**