

Prayer Diary

December 2024 to January 2025



“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

Sunday 1st December

“Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.” As we meditate on this, please pray this scripture in to the life of Urban Outreach.
Thank you.

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 2024**

admin@urbanoutreach.co.uk 01204 385848 www.urbanoutreach.co.uk

Monday 2nd December

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” (Revelations 2:7, 11 & 17 and 3:6, 13 & 22).
As we are reminded of the importance of listening to God, let us now in these quiet moments listen to what He is saying. Thank you, God.

Tuesday 3rd December

Jeremiah 17:7-8 says “But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him. They will be like a tree planted by the water ...”
Please pray for the team and trustees that they will not be overwhelmed or fearful but will continue to trust God and be fruitful in all they do.

Wednesday 4th December

Today is deadline day for receiving all the pledged items for Christmas Dinner on Jesus. Praise God for the generosity of all the individuals and organisations who have donated items for this year’s 2100 hampers.
“The generous will themselves be blessed”
Proverbs 22v9

Thursday 5th December

Please pray for the people who are finding it difficult financially at this time of year, especially as the media and shops put the focus on the materialistic part of the season. Pray that people will find peace and joy in spending time with family and ask God to open their hearts so they can gain a fresh revelation of the real meaning of Christmas.

Friday 6th December

Please pray for a young woman who is currently not accessing school and is struggling with her emotional health and with her friendships. Ask that God would make a way in the wilderness of her struggle and provide some education and a friend to talk to and help her.

Saturday 7th December

Isaiah 9 ‘The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy.’ Please pray for children in Bolton who are living in the darkness of poverty, abuse and exploitation. May there be light and hope on the horizon.

<p>Sunday 8th December As parents prepare for Christmas and gifting, please pray for the wise stewardship of finances. May they see the value of time and recreation alongside the gifts. Please pray for UOB and CAP and all the other agencies seeking to support financial difficulties and that parents will be able to withstand the pressures of debt.</p>	<p>Monday 9th December There will be many people struggling in the lead up to Christmas with feelings of worry about Christmastime, loneliness, and fear. Please pray for these people, that they would not feel alone. That they would know and see God's love in some way over this period. Please also help us to be aware of those around us who may need a little extra love or care from us this month.</p>	<p>Tuesday 10th December Please join us in praying together for a man who has been cast out by his family for circumstances outside of his control. Please pray for reconciliation and understanding for them and for him to be able to be a part of their lives again.</p>
<p>Wednesday 11th December Please pray for the many people who are still in desperate need of accommodation, especially now we are in the colder months of the year. Pray the Lord would equip Street Life to support and help each person and that more properties will come available across all private rented and Housing Associations, even with the housing crisis.</p>	<p>Thursday 12th December As Street Life try to find emergency accommodation for those who are rough sleeping in Bolton, pray that spaces will be available in the shelters. "And the King will say, I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!" Matthew 25 v 40.</p>	<p>Friday 13th December In the build up to Christmas, please pray for those children who find Christmas a difficult time of year as their memories of Christmas are not positive. Pray that our schools may be places full of fun and joy where they can build positive childhood memories.</p>
<p>Saturday 14th December Pray for our Children and Families Team working with children in schools. Pray that as the end of term approaches, they will have insight and wisdom about children who may need extra advice and support to get them through the holiday period.</p>	<p>Sunday 15th December Today is the 3rd Sunday in advent and is known by many as Gaudete Sunday. It moves us from reflection to joyful anticipation as Christmas draws near. Join us as we joyfully celebrate the season and all that it represents. May our hearts be glad as we look towards the coming of the saviour.</p>	<p>Monday 16th December Please join us as we pray for the logistics of setting up Christmas Dinner on Jesus. As the project comes together pray that everything happens that needs to in order for the project to run as smoothly as possible.</p>

**"And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to Himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to Him."
(2 Corinthians 5:18)**

<p>Tuesday 17th December Let's thank God for the sheer volume of people involved in Christmas Dinner on Jesus. The staff coordinating, the hundreds of volunteers, the thousands of donators, the hundreds of nominators and the thousands of recipients. May each one be blessed.</p>	<p>Wednesday 18th December Please pray for professionals in Bolton who work with children and young people, in education and other places such as hospitals, social work and many others. Pray that these workers would give good guidance and help to the youngsters they work with, and that they are able to support decisions to transform these young lives.</p>	<p>Thursday 19th December Please pray today for children and young people who are in difficult family situations leading up to Christmas. Pray for a change in these circumstances that would lead to a better place for the next year. Pray also for healing in their relationships, that this would be a time for these families to enjoy being together.</p>
<p>Friday 20th December Please pray that Hope, Joy and Love will win over the fear, anxiety and stress that may overwhelm our clients during these dark winter months.</p>	<p>Saturday 21st December Please pray that we can engage with all the rough sleepers and offer a bed for every night on the coldest nights, through the Severe Weather Emergency Provision. (SWEP)</p>	<p>Sunday 22nd December Please pray today for our food team and volunteers as they make the final preparations and arrangements for the Christmas Dinner on Jesus Hampers that will be distributed to 2100 households across Bolton tomorrow morning! "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me", Philippians 4:13</p>
<p>Monday 23rd December Please lift in prayer all the individuals and families that will receive their Christmas Dinner on Jesus hamper, we pray that they will be truly blessed today. Please also pray for those who are lonely and those struggling with finances. "May the Lord bless you and protect you, May the Lord show you his favour and give you peace". (Numbers 6:24—26)</p>	<p>Tuesday 24th December On this Christmas Eve join us praying that as we eagerly await the celebrations ahead, God would grow in us a desire, longing, and excitement for the love, justice, and peace that only Christ can bring.</p>	<p>Wednesday 25th December Today we join together in thanksgiving and praise that the God of heaven and earth has redeemed all creation by becoming human. May we be blessed in the knowledge that we belong to him forever.</p>

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." (Luke 2:14)

<p>Thursday 26th December Join us in praying for those in our town for whom Christmas day was a painful one. Pray that God would provide comfort, hope, and joy in times of loneliness and heartache. Pray that peace is found in all homes across Bolton.</p>	<p>Friday 27th December Please pray for the many people who are open to Street Life who struggle with addictions either with drugs or alcohol, and this time of year can be really hard for them. Pray they would meet with our glorious Saviour and experience His unconditional love and freedom. "So, if the Son sets you free, you are truly free." (John 8:36)</p>	<p>Saturday 28th December Let us thank the Lord for all the staff within Urban Outreach, as they will be taking some well-earned time off during the Christmas period with family and friends. Pray they would get a chance to recuperate, and the Lord would bless them for their commitment to helping the vulnerable people of our town.</p>
<p>Sunday 29th December We pray for Looked After Children over the festive period. May God's message of hope, light and joy surround their lives in their foster placements, residential placements and semi-independent accommodation. We ask that God provides the close people in their lives to treat them as family and to share His love.</p>	<p>Monday 30th December Please pray for our RUNA and Food Team who will be covering in the office today to ensure those in need of food and gas and electric top ups are provided for over the festive period, and children that are reported missing are given the opportunity to be heard at what can be an especially difficult time for them.</p>	<p>Tuesday 31st December Please take this opportunity to praise God for His blessing throughout 2024. Thank God for all His provision through the different projects Urban Outreach offer and the lives touched by His love, grace and compassion.</p>
<p>Wednesday 1st January Happy New Year! As we look forward to this 2025 being filled with even more moments when we see the Kingdom of God extended not just here in Bolton but in every corner of the globe and in your circumstances too. As we look to this new year we pray that compassion will be the driving force for our Government as it makes decisions that effect so many children and families stuck in poverty.</p>	<p>Thursday 2nd January Each new year presents us with challenges from the Christmas period, many will have found the season quite distressing with loneliness, lack of resources and other situations. Often the numbers of those who have gone missing will have gone up and the young people we work with affected by Criminal Exploitation will have spent potentially more time with people who are exploiting them. Please pray as we open the book on this new season that we will be surprised at the low numbers and that for many of those young people Christmas will have been safer and more peaceful.</p>	<p>Friday 3rd January Dave has recently become a Brand Ambassador for Bolton, this entails being at events and ensuring the Bolton Brand is recognised and that the vision and culture of the town is realised by people far and wide. Please would you be so kind as to pray for him in this additional role and that the culture of kindness and generosity will be visible and that faith will be seen as a crucial part of our culture.</p>

"The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in the land of deep darkness, a light will shine." (Isaiah 9:2)

<p>Saturday 4th January As we journey toward the light of Epiphany, please pray for God's guidance for all the staff at UOB. Ask that He show us how we can best serve others, with generosity and joy, as we remember that each act of kindness brings us closer to Him.</p>	<p>Sunday 5th January Please pray for all those receiving food parcels this week, who may feel burdened, lonely or afraid. Pray that the Lord will shine His light into their lives and remind them that they are loved and never forgotten. May they be strengthened, not just by the food they receive, but by the love shown by those who donated it.</p>	<p>Monday 6th January Today we thank God that the love he has for his people and church has no limits. Into the darkness a light has come. May we be a light in the darkness to those who feel like there is no hope, and that they know the love that God has for them.</p>
<p>Tuesday 7th January Please pray as we head into a new year, that this may be a year of new beginnings for all those we look to serve. May they look ahead with a new hope, knowing they are not alone and there are those who love and care for them. Ask that He help us to meet their needs and give them comfort.</p>	<p>Wednesday 8th January Please pray for Friends of Fun Food as the team prepare to start a cookery course at Chorley New Road Primary School this month. Pray that the course would run smoothly, and the children would have fun and enjoy learning some cooking skills.</p>	<p>Thursday 9th January Please pray for all those who are feeling financially strained after the Christmas period and are worried about food or utility bills. Pray that they would seek support and get help through this season.</p>
<p>Friday 10th January Please pray for a young woman who is making significant changes to her life after abuse as a child led to substance misuse and homelessness. She is now holding her sobriety and looking for stable accommodation so her children can live with her. Pray she continues on her journey to healing.</p>	<p>Saturday 11th January <i>"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)</i> It's easy to start to feel those winter blues after the business of Christmas. Take solace in our Lord who will refresh your hopes and fill you with joy for the year to come.</p>	<p>Sunday 12th January Please pray for a lady in a violent relationship. Pray she gets the courage to leave and get a safe place. Give her the strength to finally make the best decision and stop being manipulated into going back to the perpetrator.</p>

"...but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength." (Isaiah 40:31)

<p>Monday 13th January Please pray for a lady who has offended but has served her time and wants a fresh start and is looking for a job. Pray that someone will give her a chance and she can start again. She just wants to work and have some form of normality.</p>	<p>Tuesday 14th January We give thanks for all our amazing volunteers who give so readily of their time and abilities in helping the day to day running of the organisation. We give thanks for all that they do on a weekly basis and their will do attitude.</p>	<p>Wednesday 15th January As we are in the depths of winter, we remember all who access our food provision. Be with them as they struggle to cope with the rising costs of living. We give thanks to the donations that come in to help provide to those in need of help.</p>
<p>Thursday 16th January We give thanks to those who help volunteer at all of our food collection points that they enable us to meet with those in need in our local community and help serve there need.</p>	<p>Friday 17th January Please pray for God's protection of all young children across Bolton. For some, the weekend brings joyous time with families. For others, it brings fear - of abuse and exploitation, and in many cases a lack of warmth and sufficient food. Pray that the Spirit brings comfort, peace, joy and hope to all Bolton homes this weekend.</p>	<p>Saturday 18th January Saturday nights are often busier with young people being reported missing in Bolton. Please pray for protection over any young people that choose, for whatever reason, to not return home tonight. Pray for our RUNA staff, as they advocate for young people reported missing; by listening and creating dialogue that gives young people their</p>
<p>Sunday 19th January Psalm 4:8 'I will both lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety.' Please pray for peace and safety for all those without a place to call home today. Pray that God's love, grace and mercy brings a sense of comfort and hope to those in need of His presence today.</p>	<p>Monday 20th January Please pray for Street Life as they seek to find accommodation for a huge number of people. Some of these are waiting for properties that need repairs done before being released. Housing Associations and private rent are struggling to get properties repaired for the next tenants. Please pray this would be resolved soon and properties would be released.</p>	<p>Tuesday 21st January Could we ask you to pray for the families who have been placed in unsuitable temporary accommodation either in Hostels or B&B's while they wait for properties to become available. Pray that Street Life and the Housing department will be able to support and find them suitable long-term homes, to rebuild their lives.</p>

"He who dwells in the shadow of the most high will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." Surely, he will save you from the fowlers snare and from the deadly pestilence." (Isaiah 91)

<p>Wednesday 22nd January. Please pray for the people that Street Life support long term. This can be a number of things from, substance miss use, debt, and asylum seeker assistance. As the Street Life Drop-In happens today, please pray for those who attend will be given hope for the situation they find themselves in and for their future.</p>	<p>Thursday 23rd January Please pray for a young person who has had to move between schools multiple times in the last term. Please be praying that school staff would allow her to have a fresh start, not prejudge her and that she would be settled in a learning environment that best suits her. Please also pray for positive new friendships.</p>	<p>Friday 24th January Please pray today for a young person that is regularly reported missing. She is very vulnerable and often ends up in conversations, situations and places that are full of risk. Please pray protection over her and that she would begin to understand the dangers of leaving school, being out alone and meeting people that she doesn't know well.</p>
<p>Saturday 25th January Thinking of those who struggle with the harshness of winter and the weight of fuel poverty. Please pray that they find the support that they need and that the paths of assistance are opened to them.</p>	<p>Sunday 26th January On this day of rest and renewal please lift in prayer the staff of UOB. Pray that they find rest in God's presence and joy in His love. Pray that they be reminded that they are never alone in their mission and that their actions are a reflection of God's love in this world.</p>	<p>Monday 27th January Please pray for our families who at this time of year might struggle with heating their homes and feeding and providing for their children.</p>
<p>Tuesday 28th January Please pray for our government that they will be protected and have Godly wisdom regarding the financial decisions that they make.</p>	<p>Wednesday 29th January Please pray for all those young people who are moved from mainstream school into alternative provision or sent to behavioural units because of their challenging behaviour. Pray that they don't feel excluded and overlooked in these places and pray for the teachers, that they have patience and compassion for these young people.</p>	<p>Thursday 30th & Friday 31st January We thank God for the opportunity of being able to go into schools and speak into the lives of many young people. We pray for those delivering the emotional health sessions on the iThrive project and pray that they would have the necessary skills and wisdom to understand each young person's individual needs and anxieties.</p>

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11: 28-30)