



Prayer
Network

Prayer MATTERS

JULY - DECEMBER 2021



Greetings to all *Prayer Matters* readers,

Welcome to the July–December 2021 edition of *Prayer Matters* and the first in my new role of Assistant Secretary for Spiritual Life Development. How privileged I feel to be part of the Prayer Network Team and I look forward to supporting and working alongside you all.

My first words are of grateful thanks to Major Pauline Milner who for the last five years has provided passionate leadership to the Prayer Network. Hopefully by the time you receive this edition Pauline will have moved to the beautiful island of Ireland. We pray God's blessing on her and her family and that she will find rest in God's presence and the knowledge she has been faithful to his call. I know that the Prayer Network will always be special to Pauline and I am sure she will continue to bring blessing and challenge.

As I write, we are in the early stages of restrictions being lifted in each of the nations within The Salvation Army United Kingdom Territory with the Republic of Ireland. We do still need to exercise caution and follow Government advice about working from home. THQ staff are among those who work from home, so it has not been possible to send out print versions of this edition of *Prayer Matters*. However, we will continue to make it available as widely as possible electronically.

I am delighted to let you know that we are planning to hold an annual Prayer Gathering in 2022. The date will be 21–23 January and the venue will be The Hayes, Swanwick. Please look out for details of how to register soon.

I hope you find this edition of *Prayer Matters* both inspiring and helpful as you continue to pray for the many facets of mission and ministry within the Territory. I am so grateful to all our guest writers who bring a rich perspective to our prayer focus. Our Advent Focus this year is written by Major Simon Clampton from the Overseas Services Unit. Simon uses lines and words from carols and songs in our Salvation Army songbook to help us focus on Immanuel – God with us.

My grateful thanks also go to Major Pauline Milner who was involved in the planning of this edition and to Hannah Kingston (Resource Hub, THQ) who has collated and edited this issue.

July sees the commissioning of the cadets of the Messengers of Grace Session. Thirty-eight years ago I was commissioned as a Herald of Hope – or 'Hopeless Herald' as we affectionately became known. The years have brought times of great joy and blessing as I have witnessed the power and presence of God's Holy Spirit at work in my life and in the lives of people I have shared with. I have been blessed to see lives transformed and renewed by the power of his love. But it would be wrong to say there have not been times of challenge, times when the road has been difficult and seemed insurmountable, when I have had to trust in the God who called me, gave me strength and gave me the courage to go on. A few years ago, whilst I was going through a difficult time, God spoke to me through the words of a song written by General John Gowans:

'I'll not turn back, whatever it may cost. I'm called to live, to love and save the lost.'

In the darkest times these words have helped to keep my focus on the God who called me to follow.

May God bless you!

Chris

JULY

FOLLOWING GOD'S CALL

✞ MAJOR CHRISTINE KINGSCOTT (ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SPIRITUAL LIFE DEVELOPMENT)

🕒 **SETTING THE SCENE**

'Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."' (Matthew 16: 24-25 *ESV*)

God calls us to follow where he leads, to trust when the way seems dark, to proclaim his name when others doubt his presence and to love and serve a world that so desperately needs to know his grace and love. Over the next few days we will spend time reflecting on the words of General John Gowans's song: 'I'll not turn back' (*SASB* 649).

*If crosses come, if it should cost me dearly
To be the servant of my servant Lord;
If darkness falls around the path of duty,
And men despise the Saviour I've adored.*

*I'll not turn back, whatever it may cost;
I'm called to live to love and save the lost.
I'll not turn back, whatever it may cost;
I'm called to live to love and save the lost.*

📅 **THURSDAY 1 JULY**

*If doors should close then other doors will open,
The Word of God can never be contained.
His love cannot be finally frustrated,
By narrow minds or prison doors restrained.*

Gracious Heavenly Father, we pray for wisdom and discernment when following your call on our lives. Help us to know your truth and love and to be bearers of your grace. Amen.



FRIDAY 2 JULY

*If tears should fall, if I am called to suffer,
If all I love men should deface, defame,
I'll not deny the One that I have followed,
Nor be ashamed to bear my Master's name.*

Merciful and powerful God, when you called us to follow, you did not promise life would be easy. You gave us your Holy Spirit to comfort, strengthen and guide us through the dark and difficult times. Amen.

COMMISSIONING FOCUS

👤 CAPTAIN LYNLEY OLIVER AND CADETS FROM THE WILLIAM BOOTH TRAINING COLLEGE

🕒 SETTING THE SCENE

The second-year cadets from the William Booth Training College will be commissioned this week. Some of those cadets have contributed prayers with Captain Lynley Oliver (William Booth College Tutor and PSO) concluding with a prayer for their Commissioning Day.

📅 SATURDAY 3 JULY - CADET JOEL WATSON

Heavenly Father, we are called by your name, healed by your grace, and we acknowledge you as Sovereign Lord. As Commissioning Day draws closer, may your voice be heard by those you are calling. Give them courage to respond to your will, for the greatest joy is found in following you! We long for more of you, Lord Jesus. Holy Spirit, attend the hearts of your people, we pray, in the name of Jesus and for your glory alone. Amen.

📅 SUNDAY 4 JULY - CADET JAMES PEGG

Father God, we praise you and give you all the glory for calling your people to join you in the renewal of all things. As we, the Messengers of Grace, prepare to make our covenants and prepare for Commissioning, remind us that you call all followers of Jesus to share your grace and be a shining light in the communities where you have placed us. Amen.

📅 MONDAY 5 JULY - CADET PORTIA STIRLING-MACK

As we fulfil your commission to go out into the world, we ask that you would equip and empower us, strengthen our walk with you, and give

us a fresh anointing so that we can share your word faithfully with our corps and our communities. Help us to be people of your own heart and keep us ever sensitive to the leading of your Holy Spirit. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

TUESDAY 6 JULY - CADET ELLIOT KERVIN

Father God, we pray that you will bless each member of the Messengers of Grace Session as we covenant ourselves to you and are commissioned so that we might take up the ministry to which you have called us. We pray also that the Holy Spirit will continue to lead people into the ministry to which you are calling them. Amen.

WEDNESDAY 7 JULY - CADET KIT MAYSTON-KING

PRAYER OF COVENANT

Loving Heavenly Father,
We thank you for your faithfulness,
And that you speak to us through covenant.
We stand in the assurance of your promise
That you will never leave us.
As we come to this time of decision,
To take up your invitation to join your mission to the world,
May you speak words of comfort and support to our hearts.
May your Holy Spirit empower us to sign our covenants
With pure and open hearts,
That we might commit to your work in mind, body, and spirit.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THURSDAY 8 JULY - CADET NAZIA YOUSAF

Lord God, grant to me and to my friends the grace to embrace whatever difficulties, disappointments and achievements come our way, so that we can gain wisdom and experience and stay humble in our efforts to serve you and your Church. Make us more aware of how your will is unfolding for us and the people we represent. Amen.

FRIDAY 9 JULY - CADET MARY DUNN

Our lives are so busy getting ready to be commissioned, readying our homes and families for the move that will soon be here. In the busyness of this time, Lord, give us moments to rest in your peace and reflect on all that you have done for us. Give us the strength to continue to trust our future into your hands as we stand ready to step into the coming days and the continued calling you have on each of our lives. Amen.



SATURDAY 10 JULY - CAPTAIN LYNLEY OLIVER

The world is changing in ways we can't quite comprehend. We pause and thank you, Lord, that you remain constant – and that you continue to call people to you. Thank you for calling the Messengers of Grace Session of cadets and for their active response to your call. We pray that you would continue to equip and empower them for your service. Guide them in all your ways. May your Spirit prompt us each to daily response, and embolden us we pray. Amen.

LEADER DEVELOPMENT FOCUS

MAJOR IAN WOODGATE (DIVISIONAL OFFICER (LEADER DEVELOPMENT) SOUTH LONDON)

SETTING THE SCENE

The divisional officer for leader development is appointed to support the divisional commander with spiritual leadership within the division, spiritual leader development, mutual accountability, the appointments process, the candidates process, and in supporting the care and support of officers' children, administration of Silver Star Fellowship members, and retired officers.

SUNDAY 11 JULY - ISAIAH 43: 1-2

FOCUS ON THE LIEUTENANTS OF THE MESSENGERS OF GRACE SESSION AS THEY FAREWELL FROM WILLIAM BOOTH COLLEGE

Father, today we bring before you the lieutenants of the Messengers of Grace Session as they conclude their time at William Booth College and prepare, with officers and envoys throughout the territory, to move to new appointments on Thursday. We thank you for your work of grace in their lives and pray that they will know your strength and the Holy Spirit equipping them. We also thank you for these months of preparation, and for the work of tutors and staff at William Booth College. Amen.

MONDAY 12 JULY - 2 PETER 2:9-10

FOCUS ON THE MINISTRY OF SPIRITUAL LEADERS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY

Father, today we bring before you all those serving as spiritual leaders. Thank you for their commitment, dedication and leadership. Help

us to be people who love, encourage, bless and support them in all circumstances. We pray that the Holy Spirit will anoint them with vision and direction, that they will feel affirmed and confirmed by you in all they do. We also thank you for the ongoing ministry and dedication of retired officers, and the difference that their ministry has and is having in so many ways. Father, we ask that you would anoint afresh your called leaders for this generation. Amen.

📅 **TUESDAY 13 JULY – 2 THESSALONIANS 1: 3**

👉 **FOCUS ON THOSE WHO SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE PEOPLE IN SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP**

Father, today we pause to thank you for the Godly influence of so many. We acknowledge those who have influenced the lives of people who serve in spiritual leadership, and for the many who are part of the Silver Star Fellowship. We thank you for the way in which spouses support those serving as single spouse officers and envoys and we also acknowledge their friends and family. We pray for the children of officers, envoys and pioneers, whether living at home or away. God almighty, today would you send encouragement and blessing to all who influence, support and enable our leaders to serve. Amen.

📅 **WEDNESDAY 14 JULY – MATTHEW 4:18-22**

👉 **FOCUS ON INVESTMENT IN SPIRITUAL LEADERS**

Father, we acknowledge that you have called us all to follow you and that calling varies from person to person. We recognise that your Spirit exercises gifts within our lives which are used to bless and edify your Church and this world. Father, we ask that you stir up afresh your gifts within us. May people consider how they are making a difference and whether they are giving their all to you, and the possibility that serving as an officer, envoy or pioneer could be what you are laying on their hearts. We thank you for those whom you have called to serve in the workplace, in other ministry opportunities and as local leaders. Fall afresh, we pray. Amen.

📅 **THURSDAY 15 JULY – LUKE 4:18-19**

👉 **FOCUS ON GOD'S WILL AND PURPOSE**

Father, we pray for those who seek your will and purpose for your Church and this Salvation Army. As people move to new appointments, we pray for them and for the conversations taking place with officers and envoys in preparation for potential future changes. May your Spirit anoint those who are entrusted with seeking your heart in the service of spiritual leaders and ensuring they are

in the right place at the right time. Help us to recognise the wider circumstances of leaders (children, spouses, family) and the needs of your people and your Church. We are concerned that there are appointments that are not filled. May your Spirit guide us as we seek to be holy people, because we need our holy God to work his holiness in us. Spirit divine, come as of old. Amen.

TURNING THE CORNER FOCUS

👤 COLONEL MICHAEL PRESSLAND

The apostle Paul wrote: 'By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ' (1 Corinthians 3:10–11).

📅 **FRIDAY 16 JULY**

👉 **'YOU ARE GOD'S HOUSE' (V16 MSG)**

Gracious Heavenly Father, in a world hurting because of disease, fear, and loss of confidence in ourselves and our own institutions, help us to rebuild a loving world to *turn the corner* away from pessimism towards rebuilding a spirit of hope and trust in each other. In our human need, help us to build upon the foundation of our Lord Jesus, who as the architect of our faith set us a living example of what that world should look like. **Help us to rebuild!**

📅 **SATURDAY 17 JULY**

👉 **'USING THE GIFT GOD GAVE ME' (V10 MSG)**

Father, help us to remember those who have lost loved ones; they need our love and care. Their lives have been turned upside down with grief and loss. May our own love find ways to introduce them to your presence in Jesus, within the communities we represent. May we turn towards them in a way which will bring them towards you, and may their hurt and sorrowing be softened by your loving presence. **Help us to care!**

📅 **SUNDAY 18 JULY**

👉 **'I DESIGNED BLUEPRINTS, APOLLOS IS PUTTING UP THE WALLS' (V10 MSG)**

Lord Jesus, you have called us to work with you to build your Kingdom here on Earth. We have much to share from our own life with you.

Help us make the refugee welcome, and the homeless to navigate ways towards stability. Free us from such attachment to 'things' that we become reluctant to give. May we encourage those who create laws to act accountably to relieve the helpless. You as our example gave up all for us. **Help us to share.**

📅 MONDAY 19 JULY

🕒 'REMEMBER, THERE IS ONLY ONE FOUNDATION' (V11 MSG)

We pray today, Lord, that as we turn the corner towards the end of life here, those who follow us when our retirement comes will benefit. Help us to quickly discover that we still have so much to offer. May we be an example and encouragement to children and young people that our life here is a preparation of our continued journey in the home you have for us in Heaven, the ongoing part of our existence. May we portray those qualities of gracious wisdom which will help them to see that there is another better world when we turn the last corner here.

Help us build a fearless world.

📅 TUESDAY 20 JULY

🕒 'THE ONE (FOUNDATION) ALREADY LAID' (V11 MSG)

Gracious Lord, in our world, influence, rank, possessions and security dominate human ambition. It is a world ready to take up arms against any who seem to be a threat and to look with suspicion at the good work of others perceived to be different. Help us to show a generous spirit, to be willing to pool resources with others who are also seeking to protect others and make their lives better. Help us, with an alert spirit of optimism, showing that you are in ultimate control, to exercise sound judgement and to bring peace where there is anger and selfishness. **Help us build a giving world.**

📅 WEDNESDAY 21 JULY

🕒 'EVENTUALLY, THERE IS GOING TO BE AN INSPECTION' (V13 MSG)

Lord Jesus, you warned people against the danger of building upon insecure foundations. Help us to make wise choices where we build, to follow your life's example and teaching. The tragedy of many unfair human structures militates against people because of race, faith and gender. Help us as we care for the vulnerable, to be willing as we move away from the Covid-19 scourge to build new ways to show that you love all, irrespective of our many differences. **Help us build consideration for others into our structures.**

📅 THURSDAY 22 JULY

👉 'EACH ONE SHOULD BUILD WITH CARE' (V10)

Heavenly Father, we confess that in our anxiety to provide alternative ways to worship, we may neglect our own personal spiritual growth. Help us in our individual devotions to be honest about our own faults and failings; to take your word and the life of prayer more seriously. You came for sinners like us, you taught us to spend personal time in prayer. May our worship never be that of shallow self-entertainment or self-congratulation, but genuine, submitting our whole lives for your glory. **Help us build for our own spiritual growth.**

📅 FRIDAY 23 JULY

👉 'YOU ARE OF CHRIST, AND CHRIST IS OF GOD' (V23)

Dear Lord, the example of your people as individuals and as members of Christian families is a powerful witness to our friends and neighbours. The experiences of the past year may have strengthened or weakened that witness. Help us to treat each other in our family life with respect and love; to remember that our profession must be the visible glue which makes our relationships credible! May our children see your likeness in each of us as they grow to become your own witnesses when we are no longer here. **Help us build our family life.**

ENABLED FOCUS

👤 CHRIS STRINGER (LEARNING DISABILITY INCLUSION DEVELOPMENT MANAGER AND CO-ORDINATOR FOR ENABLED)

📅 SATURDAY 24 JULY

The theme for this year's Enabled Summer School is 'In HIS Hands'. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic we decided not to meet in Cheltenham as we have before. We are instead hosting our second Summer School at home. We give thanks for technology that means that, though we are unable to meet physically, we can meet, share and worship virtually.

📅 SUNDAY 25 JULY

Today we will join online in a time of worship and praise. Sundays are special at the Enabled Summer School. As well as holding two meetings, we also have a time to reflect, remember and rejoice for the lives of those members who are no longer with us. We give thanks for the opportunity we have to be part of the lives of those who have gone before us.

MONDAY 26 JULY

In recent years we have hosted a community event on a Monday afternoon. We give thanks for the opportunities that we have had to share with our families and visitors the joy and atmosphere of the Enabled Summer School as they have joined with us in activities. We look forward to sharing again in the future.

TUESDAY 27 JULY

Normally on a Tuesday at the Enabled Summer School we go on a day trip. Those attending can choose between a full-day and half-day trip. In recent years we have been to Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwick Castle, Bath and Longleat. Today we give thanks that once again we are all able to go out and about on our own day trips.

WEDNESDAY 28 JULY

One of the activities that we enjoy at the Enabled Summer School is the choral sessions. We would usually meet as a whole school at least once a day to sing together. We give praise that it is about much more than singing. It is about being together and having a shared experience as we raise our voices to the Lord.

THURSDAY 29 JULY

The Enabled Summer School would not be possible if people did not give up a week of their time to lead activities and support people. Today we give thanks for those on the leadership team, those who facilitate activities and everyone who supports the delegates. We all come together to make sure the delegates experience a wonderful week.

FRIDAY 30 JULY

On the Friday evening we usually host the final festival. In a packed sports hall, everyone who attends the Enabled Summer School gets an opportunity to perform and showcase what they have learnt and rehearsed during the week. For most it is the highlight of the week. We give thanks for these opportunities and look forward to the final festival in 2022.

SATURDAY 31 JULY

The final Saturday is often a quiet day at the Enabled Summer School as we return to our own homes. We give thanks for the opportunities we have had to be together previously in Cheltenham and this week online. We pray that we will be able to join together once more in 2022 and ask that the Lord keeps all Enabled members in his safe care.



AUGUST

SUMMER FOCUS

⌄ MAJOR DAVID BETTERIDGE (DIRECTOR OF FAMILY MINISTRIES)

📅 SUNDAY 1 AUGUST

Loving Creator God,
We thank you for the gift of summertime,
For long days filled with light, warmth and leisure time.

Thank you for the beauty we see all around us,
For the sweet-smelling flowers, the deep blue of the sky,
and the restful green of the grass meadows.

We thank you for the opportunity summer brings
to spend more time with our families and friends;
For the laughter of children at play,
for walks, picnics and fun at the seaside.

May all these gifts of summer deepen our awareness of your love.
And help us to worship you as we enjoy this season of sunshine and relaxation.

📅 MONDAY 2 AUGUST

May you walk with God this summer
In whatever you do, wherever you go.

Walking with God means...
Walking with honesty and with courage,
Walking with love and respect and concern for the feelings of others.

May you talk to God this summer
And every day and in every situation.

Talking with God means...
Praying words of praise for the beauty of creation,
Saying prayers of thanks for friends and good times,
Asking God's help in all your decisions,
And expressing sorrow when you have failed.

May you talk with God every day. Amen.

(Anon)

TUESDAY 3 AUGUST

Father, we thank you for another summer. So much has happened since this time last year which has changed our lives significantly. We pray particularly for those who have lost loved ones during the pandemic and whose experience of this summer is tinged with sadness and loss. Surround them with your love, and may this summer be a time of healing and renewal for each one of them.

WEDNESDAY 4 AUGUST

Long warm days...
The pace of life slows...
A time for picnics and rest in the shade...
Lord, help me to rest awhile
In the cooling shade of your presence.
Slow down my restless heart
And fill me with gentle compassion for all your people.

(Anon)

THURSDAY 5 AUGUST

You've blessed me with friends and laughter and fun,
With rain that's as soft as the light from the sun.
You've blessed me with the stars to brighten each night,
You've given me help to know wrong from right.
You've given me so much, so please, Lord, give me too
A heart that is always grateful to you.

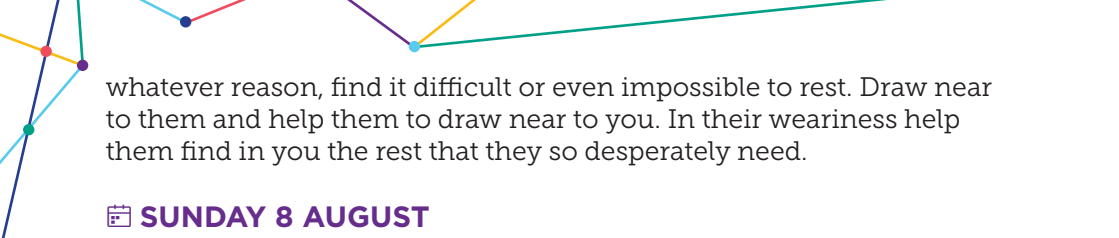
(A Celtic prayer)

FRIDAY 6 AUGUST

This summer take time to rest; it is a part of God's plan for you.
This summer take time to laugh; it truly is the best medicine.
This summer take time to re-focus; it's how we see the way ahead.
This summer give God first place in your life; it puts everything else into perspective.
This summer take time to enjoy God's presence; it gives you a peace which lasts longer than... this summer!

SATURDAY 7 AUGUST

Lord Jesus, you knew the importance of having a rest, of taking time off even if just for a little while. We thank you that we can follow your example, to value and to make the most of our holidays and times of relaxation. Lord Jesus, we ask you to draw close to those who, for



whatever reason, find it difficult or even impossible to rest. Draw near to them and help them to draw near to you. In their weariness help them find in you the rest that they so desperately need.

SUNDAY 8 AUGUST

That we can glimpse you within creation is a beautiful thought, but it also tells us that you desire to be seen, to be found and known. Open our eyes, Lord, as we walk through this world, to feel the wind and sunshine, see the majesty of creation unfolding before our eyes.

Help us to see you.

(John Birch / faithandworship.com)

WALES DIVISIONAL FOCUS

 **MAJOR NIGEL COLLINS (PRAYER CO-ORDINATOR WALES DIVISION)**

SETTING THE SCENE

Change within the context of The Salvation Army is something we all face. Divisions expanding by welcoming other corps means that one division ceases to exist. The new divisions of Wales and the North West are now active. We shall concentrate this week on the new Wales Division as that is where I am the prayer co-ordinator, but similar prayers could be said for the North West Division.

MONDAY 9 AUGUST

WELCOME TO WALES (CROESO I GYMRU)

Today we pray that the new Wales Division will be a beacon on the hillsides, in the valleys and in the towns and cities. We pray for protection of heart, mind and soul. Draw an imaginary circle around yourself and the country of Wales as you pray. The Celtic Christians called this a 'Caim'.

TUESDAY 10 AUGUST

CHANGE

Pray for settling thoughts, kind conversations and visionary action. Pray against disunity and discord in personal, corps and divisional

communication. 'So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets' (Matthew 7:12).

WEDNESDAY 11 AUGUST

UNIFIED

Pray for a 'unified and united nation' (Majors Roger and Noreen Batt) – unified in Christ and united as is our Triune God. Pray that each person will respond to their calling to help others but be held together by their common love of Wales and God. 'For God is not a God of disorder but of peace – as in all the congregations of the Lord's people' (1 Corinthians 14:33).

THURSDAY 12 AUGUST

LOCAL LEADERSHIP

Pray for the local leadership of corps, social centre, New Expressions, outreach and emergency response. Leading people and helping others is demanding and rewarding. Pray for strength, wisdom and joy in service. 'Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms' (1 Peter 4:10).

FRIDAY 13 AUGUST

HOMELESS AND POOR

Wales has some of the poorest and most disadvantaged communities in the UK. Pray for those in Government, that help will be forthcoming. Pray for visionary action and local response to perceived needs. Pray for those helping the homeless in our social centres, in outreach, Fresh Expressions and the Housing First projects. 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me' (Matthew 25:40).

SATURDAY 14 AUGUST

CALLING

Today we pray strongly for people to respond to their calling. 'Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ' (2 Peter 1:10-11).

📅 **SUNDAY 15 AUGUST**

➤ **FUTURE**

'There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off' (Proverbs 23:18). Today we take these words from Proverbs and pray for the positivity encapsulated by them. 'There is surely a future hope' for the Wales Division and we pray God's blessing upon it.

CREATIVE PRAYER FOCUS

👤 **STEPHANIE LAMPLOUGH (ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND CREATIVE ARTS)**

🎨 **SETTING THE SCENE**

Creative prayer helps to stimulate and focus the mind by using visual and physical aids whilst praying. This week's prayers encourage both, and to make the most of them it would help if you had the following to hand:

- Three pieces of wool approximately nine inches long in any colour
- Pieces of card
- Pens
- Local newspaper (either printed or online)
- Daily (national) newspaper (either printed or online)
- Highlighter

📅 **MONDAY 16 AUGUST**

➤ **ENTWINING PRAYERS**

Cut three equal lengths of wool (approx 9 ins or 22 cms) in the colours of your choice. The different colours represent yourself, God and other people. Plait them together until you have five clearly defined crossovers and then knot them together at one end. Keep this plait handy for use later this week.

Dear Heavenly Father, at the start of this week I offer myself and all that I have to you. I pray that as I spend time in prayer I will come to know you better and that you will fill me with your Holy Spirit and be present in all that I do and say. I think of others less fortunate than myself who may be struggling at this time, and others who do not know you but who may see your light and love shine through me. Amen.

📅 TUESDAY 17 AUGUST

👉 PRAYING FOR MYSELF

Draw out the letters of your name and pray on something that each letter prompts. It could be a subject or a need that begins with that letter, or it could be a theme that the letter suggests. These prayers may start to be about your relationship with God, but could turn into prayers about other people in your life. When we start praying about ourselves it often becomes about someone else intertwined, just as in the prayer plait from yesterday. Holding the prayer plait as you pray may help.

Well, Lord, the week has really started! I'm back into the routine of things – daily chores, at home, at work, at school. It's sometimes hard to see you in all of this, so I ask that you make your presence known to me. A kind word or a loving act, the beauty of the world around, or peace through the people I meet – all these are from you, I know. Help me to be aware of them, and to find you in them. In Jesus' name. Amen.

📅 WEDNESDAY 18 AUGUST

👉 PRAYING FOR OTHERS (LOCALLY)

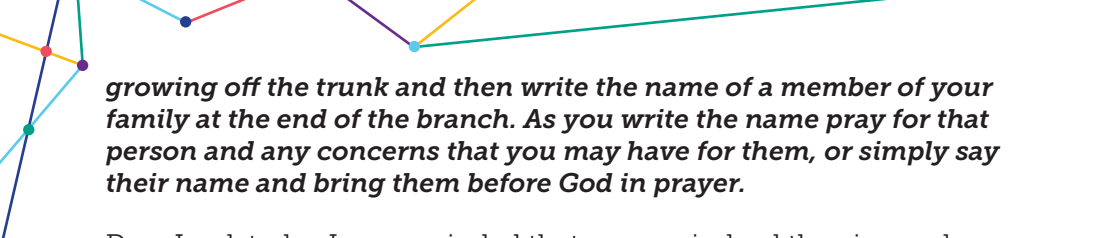
There may be situations around you that give you a sense of uncertainty – things beyond your control or may seem beyond your help. Prayer is always a positive action to take. Start with praying for others in your local community. Take a local newspaper and circle or highlight stories that catch your eye. As you read the article, think about those affected and pray into the situation. If you are doing this online simply highlight the article.

Dear Lord, we often feel helpless when we read about things on our doorstep which affect so many and yet which we seem unable to help with. Suffering seems to be so close and rampant. However, Lord, I thank you for those good news stories – people bringing hope, giving their time and helping those in need. Be with those who are celebrating as well as those who are suffering. Give me guidance on how to help others in my community and allow people to see you through all that I do. Amen.

📅 THURSDAY 19 AUGUST

👉 PRAYING FOR FAMILY

Take a piece of card and pens and draw a tree trunk. Write the word GOD in the centre of it. Using different colours, draw a branch



growing off the trunk and then write the name of a member of your family at the end of the branch. As you write the name pray for that person and any concerns that you may have for them, or simply say their name and bring them before God in prayer.

Dear Lord, today I am reminded that you are indeed the vine and we are the branches and that my help comes directly from you. Lord, be the centre of my family, be in our comings and our goings and our everyday lives. When times get busy fill us and energise us; we cannot do this in our own strength. Lord, you know my concerns and my love for those that I hold dear. Be with them and keep them safe from harm. Amen.

FRIDAY 20 AUGUST

PRAYING FOR THE OTHERS (THE WORLD)

Have a national newspaper in front of you or online, and as you come across stories that catch your eye either circle with a pen or use the highlighter on the screen. Stop and read the article and then pray into the situation. Do this for three different articles from three different areas.

God, the world often seems such a big place and I seem so small and insignificant to its events. But God, I know that I have a role to play and how I live my life can directly affect the world that I live in. Help me to live a responsible life – an informed and just life in the decisions that will impact others. Please give wisdom and discernment to all who make decisions on the global stage and make each voice heard in the search for peace for all in the world in which we live. Amen.

SATURDAY 21 AUGUST

GIVING PRAISE TO GOD

Have you ever tried a creative prayer walk? As you walk (either a short walk or just around your garden), take in the beauty of the world God has made. Stop and touch things that appeal to you. Thank God for the world in which we live and the bounty of creation that is ours. Find something that no longer has any life (perhaps a dead leaf), hold it and think about God's act of giving his own son to die for us. Now find something living, hold it or look at it and thank God for the assurance of new life, for Jesus' resurrection and the very real promise of eternal life for all.

Dear Heavenly Father, I want to thank you for the promise of new life and the evidence of it around me everywhere I look. You have created a world so perfect and beautiful, and I am sorry for the times when I have not appreciated or respected it. Lord, I just want to thank you for the gift of your son to me and that through his death I may receive eternal life. Amen.

📅 SUNDAY 22 AUGUST

As the week draws to a close, return to the wool plait and hold it between your fingers. Place your thumb on the first section where the wool strands cross over. Think about our first topic of prayer which was 'myself'. After a while lower the thumb to the next section and think about the second topic, 'others locally'. Continue to do this moving through the sections and thinking of family, others in the world, God's creation and promise of new life.

Dear Lord, as I come to the end of my week of creative prayer, I bring all that has been on my heart and lay it at your feet. Lord, I do this knowing that you are indeed an awesome God and nothing is too big for you. I bring myself, my family, others whether near or far. I want to praise you for all that you are and all that I can be when I place my trust in you. Be with me and all whom I have prayed for this week. Amen.

LIVING IN GOD'S COVENANT FOCUS

👤 LIEUT-COLONEL JAYNE ROBERTS (SPIRITUAL LIFE DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY)

The theme of 'Living in God's Covenant' was explored in January and during Lent this year. For the rest of this month, you are invited to consider your personal covenant with God once again, reflecting prayerfully on verses from *The Song Book of The Salvation Army*.

📅 MONDAY 23 AUGUST

👉 SASB 670

*Reckon on me following thee,
Living for ever thy servant to be;
Cloudy or fine, Lord, I am thine
Until thy face I shall see.*



 **TUESDAY 24 AUGUST**

 **SASB 699**

*Every promise we can make,
Every prayer and step of faith,
Every difference we can make
Is only by his grace.*

 **WEDNESDAY 25 AUGUST**

 **SASB 635**

*King of endless worth, no one could express
How much you deserve.
Though I'm weak and poor, all I have is yours,
Every single breath.*

 **THURSDAY 26 AUGUST**

 **SASB 550**

*I stand in Christ, with sins forgiven;
And Christ in me, the hope of Heaven!
My highest calling and my deepest joy,
To make his will my home.*

 **FRIDAY 27 AUGUST**

 **SASB 615**

*I come to thee with quiet mind,
Thyself to know, thy will to find;
In Jesus' steps my steps must be,
I follow him to follow thee.*

 **SATURDAY 28 AUGUST**

 **SASB 616**

*O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.*

 **SUNDAY 29 AUGUST**

 **SASB 489**

*My changing moods do not control
Thy covenanted aid;
Thou hast the guarding of my soul,
And I am not afraid.*

📅 MONDAY 30 AUGUST

➤ SASB 604

*Lord, in the strength of grace,
With a glad heart and free,
Myself, my residue of days,
I consecrate to thee.*

*Thy ransomed servant, I
Restore to thee thy own,
And from this moment live or die
To serve my God alone.*

TUESDAY 31 AUGUST

➤ SASB 634

*By the love that never ceased to hold me,
By the blood which thou didst shed for me,
While thy presence and thy power enfold me,
I renew my covenant with thee.*

SEPTEMBER

BIG COLLECTION FOCUS

👤 MAJOR CHRISTINE KINGSCOTT

🕒 SETTING THE SCENE

The Big Collection is an opportunity for members, friends and volunteers of The Salvation Army churches to raise money to support the work of The Salvation Army in caring for those who are vulnerable and in need. The money goes towards:

- Supporting men, women and families who are experiencing homelessness
- Offering training and advice to people looking for sustained employment
- Residential care homes and day programmes for older people
- Reuniting families through Family Tracing
- Providing a place of safety for adult victims of human trafficking



WEDNESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER

Read Leviticus 19:9-10: What do these two verses say to you about caring for the vulnerable? Spend some time in prayer asking God to reveal to you those in need in your community. If you can, do some research on what community or support services are available in your area.

THURSDAY 2 SEPTEMBER

People experience homelessness for a variety of reasons: relationship breakdowns, eviction, loss of income, addiction, separation from family, fear and abuse. Father God, we pray for all who are experiencing or living under the threat of homelessness. We pray that they would find the support and care that they need to move forward towards a brighter future.

FRIDAY 3 SEPTEMBER

During the pandemic many people have spoken about that feeling of loneliness – not being able to share with family, friends, work colleagues, or to have that physical contact of touch or a hug. Imagine how hard it must have been for those who have lost contact with family and loved ones. Pray for the continued work of the Family Tracing Service in reuniting families.

SATURDAY 4 SEPTEMBER

The Salvation Army, through its Older Peoples care homes, day centres and weekly community programmes, provides vital opportunities for people in their later years to experience the practical care and support, companionship and friendship of others.

Almighty God, we give thanks for all who provide care and support for those who are older. Give them the compassion, energy and wisdom to provide for the physical, practical and emotional needs of residents and those who attend day provision. Help us to appreciate the wisdom and guidance that older people can offer. We also thank you for their memories which help us understand the rich tapestry of life, and for the fine upright example many have set before us. Amen.

SUNDAY 5 SEPTEMBER

Read Isaiah 61:1-3. These verses remind us that God wants all men, women and children to live in freedom. Sadly, though, there are many who are trapped by fear and enslaved by others.

Father God, we pray today for all those who have been coerced or entrapped, taken from their homes and families and forced into

unwanted work for the benefit of others. Lord, we pray for your guidance and wisdom for all those who work to bring freedom and hope to those who are held captive. In your name. Amen.

YOUTH FOCUS

👤 KEITH PYPER (DIVISIONAL YOUTH SPECIALIST, IRELAND DIVISION)

📅 MONDAY 6 SEPTEMBER

Dear God, today we come to you and thank you for all you give us. Thank you for the roof over our head, the sun in the sky and for the daily reminders of what an awesome God you are. Let us not take this for granted, but instead praise you for being a God who provides. Amen.

📅 TUESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER

Heavenly Father, we pray for all those who are returning or have recently returned to full-time education. For many who have been away for so long, we thank you for this chance to study face to face. We pray your protection over all students and teachers and that you will keep them healthy. We pray that this year will be like a normal year without the need for home-schooling. Amen.

📅 WEDNESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER

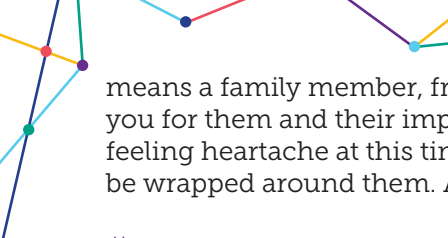
Lord, we want to focus today on praying for the mental wellbeing of all youth. They face so many pressures with education, the future, social media and just being a young Christian. Today, Lord, we ask for a sense of release from their shoulders. Let them know people are there to listen, to talk to and to pray for them. Today we pray for a sense of calm. Amen.

📅 THURSDAY 9 SEPTEMBER

Dear God, today we want to pray for all those who lead our young people. We thank you for the time and commitment that they give to each one. We pray that you will continue to inspire and guide them as they follow your call to lead. We thank you for the calling you give them and for all they do. Amen.

📅 FRIDAY 10 SEPTEMBER

Father God, after the last year we have had, Lord, we want to take time to remember those who have been called home to you. For some, this



means a family member, friends or people at our church. We thank you for them and their impact on us. Some young people will still be feeling heartache at this time and we ask for your comforting arms to be wrapped around them. Amen.

SATURDAY 11 SEPTEMBER

Lord, we take time today to pray for all those from our fellowships who no longer worship with us. Some may have gone to other churches; but, Lord, some have drifted from you. You see the names of the people we are thinking of on our hearts, and we just give them to you. Use us in some way to reach out to them and bring them back into a relationship with you, as they are precious. Amen.

SUNDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

Father God, we pray for our church. We pray that each corps has a new revival, that people are brought to Christ and that lives are changed. We ask you fill our churches with love, with acceptance, with your grace, and that your name is glorified. Spirit of the living God, fill us and fall afresh on us all. Amen.

HARVEST FOCUS

 **MAJOR GILLIAN MILLER (PRAYER NETWORK)**

SETTING THE SCENE

Harvest reminds us that 'All good gifts around us are sent from Heaven above'. It's a time to thank and praise the Lord for his plentiful provision. Traditionally the Harvest table includes an open Bible reminding us of God's word and his promises, a jug of water, a loaf of bread, salt and light and a candle representing fire. Then there is the display of produce to feast our senses on: colourful flowers, delicious fruit and tasty vegetables.

MONDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

BREAD OF LIFE; MATTHEW 6:11 AND JOHN 6:35

Loving Jesus, we rejoice in the truth that you are the bread of life. As we pray, 'Give us this day our daily bread', we remember your faithfulness. We acknowledge that everything we have comes from your gracious hand.

TUESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

➤ WATER OF LIFE:

Jesus said, 'Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life' (John 4:14).

Dear Lord, we give you praise for life-giving water and especially for the spiritual refreshment we find in spending time with you, be it talking, listening, quietly meditating, reading your word, listening to Christian music, praising, thanking, or being creative.

WEDNESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER

➤ SALT AND LIGHT:

'You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world' (Matthew 5: 13,14).

Just as salt flavours, Jesus, you encourage us always to flavour the world around us with goodness and so honour our Father God. As we are called to shine out our faith and positively glow, help us not to hide our love for you, Jesus, or lose our desire to share our beliefs.

THURSDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

➤ FIRE:

'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth' (Acts 1:8).

We stand in awe of your Holy Spirit power at work in us. Lord, burn in our hearts and keep our fire for you alive. We thank you for the power to witness to your love and care for all mankind.

FRIDAY 17 SEPTEMBER

➤ THE HARVEST OF SOULS:

'He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field"' (Luke 10:2).

Father, we ask you, our Lord of the Harvest, to send us out into the world to gather in all who are waiting to be called into your Kingdom. We realise this is not a solitary work but one we do together. Thank you for the joy of working with each other in gathering in the harvest of souls.



📅 **SATURDAY 18 SEPTEMBER**

➤ **A HARVEST PRAYER**

God of Harvest, Gardener supreme, you place us at the centre, feed us, equip us, and, having provided for us, look to a different Harvest – a fruitfulness of lives in service to you and others. God of Harvest, feed us, prune us, harvest us, that our lives might bring glory to you. Amen. (John Birch)

📅 **SUNDAY 19 SEPTEMBER**

➤ **PRAISE AND WORSHIP:**

‘For as long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease’ (Genesis 8: 22).

Father God, we celebrate your goodness and faithfulness to us as we give thanks for the Harvest. As we sing in our hearts and praise you with our prayers, our whole being bursts with thanksgiving for the abundant provision of good things we enjoy.

HOMELESSNESS SERVICES IN THE NORTH EAST REGION FOCUS

📅 **MONDAY 20 SEPTEMBER**

➤ **MAJOR DAVID COATES (REGIONAL CHAPLAINCY OFFICER, HSU NORTH EAST REGION)**

‘For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me’ (Matthew 25:35).

I pray, Lord, that you will bless the work and ministry of our chaplains in our Lifehouses, as they seek to share your love and the message of the gospel. Amen.

📅 **TUESDAY 21 SEPTEMBER**

➤ **MAJOR RIA CAMPBELL (CHAPLAIN, LINCOLN COURT, SHEFFIELD)**

Lord, we see a lot of pain in the world. You have created each person with equal worth, and so we think of the marginalised in our society whom you call us to help. Women impacted by illness, physical or mental; those who have suffered from violence and addiction, or

those shunned. Women who endure damaging physical and relational effects of abusive relationships and drug use. May you quench the need of women longing for wisdom and a better life. Use us, Lord, and the resources we have, to be the salve that eases their pain. Amen.

WEDNESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER

MAJOR CHRISTINE COMELY (CHAPLAIN, THE ORCHARD, BRADFORD)

'God's Spirit is on me; he's chosen me to preach the Message of good news to the poor, sent me to announce pardon to prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to set the burdened and battered free, to announce, "This is God's year to act!" (Luke 4:16 *The Message*).

May Jesus be seen in all we are and do.

THURSDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

PAUL HUGGINS (CHAPLAIN, CHARTER ROW, SHEFFIELD)

We all have had a dodgy past. Some stuff is our own fault caused by bad decisions and their consequences. At other times we are the victim of another person's brokenness. The Bible is full of people where God sees past the brokenness. People like Peter, Mary Magdalene and Paul. Grace is how God sees past the brokenness and transforms us to be used by him. Let us today see past the brokenness and try to see what God sees.

FRIDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

JULIE JUDSON (CHAPLAIN, SWAN LODGE, SUNDERLAND)

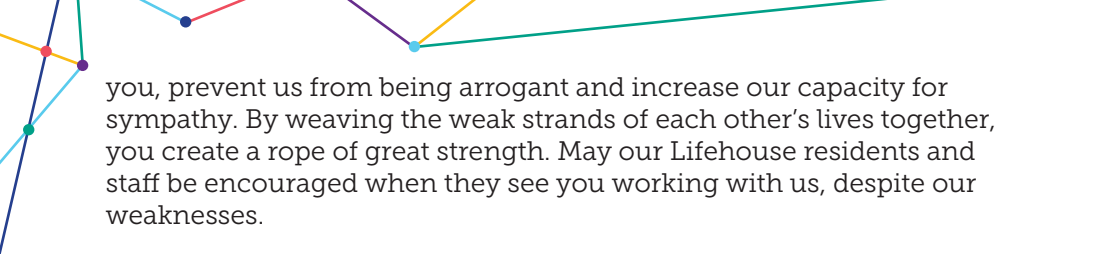
Prayer for Sunderland:

Heavenly Father, Sunderland is a City of Light. However, Lord, there are times in our lives when darkness surrounds us. My prayer for Sunderland is that through the ministry of your children, your light will shine bright through the darkness; that people will seek your light, your love, and that for whatever problems life throws at us, you are with us all the way, holding our hand. Come, Lord Jesus, pour out your Spirit, we pray. For you are the God of our city. Amen.

SATURDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

MAJOR DANIELÈ NORTON (CHAPLAIN, WILLIAM BOOTH HOUSE, HULL)

Father God, you are not limited by our physical, emotional or intellectual limitations. You are able to use them (if we do not deny, hide or resent them). May those limitations cause us to depend on



you, prevent us from being arrogant and increase our capacity for sympathy. By weaving the weak strands of each other's lives together, you create a rope of great strength. May our Lifehouse residents and staff be encouraged when they see you working with us, despite our weaknesses.

 **SUNDAY 26 SEPTEMBER**

 **RACHEL ROBINSON (CHAPLAIN, THE BOOTH LIFEHOUSE, GRIMSBY)**

Jeremiah 29:11: I refer to this passage often. It is not a promise of immediate restoration of our circumstances, but a promise that God has a plan for our lives and that he can guide us through it. We pray that our residents will take refuge and comfort in God's word and allow him to guide them through difficult times. Amen.

SOUTH EAST DIVISIONAL FOCUS

 **MAJOR CHRISTA BEELDMAN (DIVISIONAL PRAYER COORDINATOR)**

 **MONDAY 27 SEPTEMBER**

 **PRAY FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE**

Today we pray for the wellbeing and mental health of our young people. As they return / have returned to schools and universities in recent weeks, they might be anxious about what life looks like in the future. We pray especially for those who might find returning a particularly anxious experience due to bullying.

 **TUESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER**

 **PRAY FOR THE MINISTRY AMONG ROMA**

Thank you for the mission and ministry among Roma in our division. Please continue to raise up, call, train and release leaders for your work. We pray blessing on all leaders within the Roma corps and all those exploring service and leadership. Open doors and break down barriers that prevent your vision from being accomplished and protect your servants. Amen.

 **WEDNESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER**

 **PRAY FOR FRESH EXPRESSIONS IN OUR DIVISION**

We pray for the variety of Fresh Expressions of church and mission in the South East. We pray for those pioneering in Dover, Faversham and Sheerness and for corps embracing new ways of reaching out. We also

pray for brand-new opportunities for God's Kingdom to expand across the division.

📅 THURSDAY 30 SEPTEMBER

👉 PRAY FOR THE CONTINUING MOMENTUM OF APEST IN OUR DIVISION

Loving God, grant us:

The courage of the **apostles**: to push ahead to new frontiers;

The insight of the **prophets**: to call us back to your ways;

The joy of the **evangelists**: to reach out to all the world;

The compassion of the **shepherds**: to gather in those who are searching for community;

The knowledge of the **teachers**: that we might grow up with wisdom and stature.

OCTOBER

BUILDING THE KINGDOM HERE FOCUS

👤 LESLEY STRAFFORD

📅 FRIDAY 1 OCTOBER

Thank you, Jesus, for those that paved the way before us, who endured hardships to make sure the gospel was preached. They never gave up and many gave their lives. We pray that you would help us to be persistent and committed to be truth and light to a dark world. Strengthen and empower us to do the work that is before us.

📅 SATURDAY 2 OCTOBER

Lord, we wish to see our corps grow and new ones open; but for this to happen we must be obedient followers. Obedience is surrender, and if we are surrendering our will, we are well on our way to seeing souls come into your Kingdom. Give us wisdom to reach the lost at any cost.

📅 SUNDAY 3 OCTOBER

Lord, we pray for our communities. Help us to know your heart and your will for our cities. The early Church devoted themselves to prayer, they prayed without ceasing. How can we do less? Prick our hearts, help us see those who are hurting and struggling. Only with your help can we grow your Kingdom.



MONDAY 4 OCTOBER

Father, just as those before us preached your word with boldness, may we do the same. There are hungry, hurting and lost people. Help us not to be afraid or ashamed to proclaim the gospel; it was a commandment for us to follow, not a suggestion. Help us pray for Church growth. We know someone prayed for us to do the same.

TUESDAY 5 OCTOBER

Jesus, help churches to work together. In order to minister to those who do not know you, we must love those who love you first so that we can be beacons of light to our community. Help us to be sensitive to what you are trying to do with us and through us so that we may grow your Kingdom.

WEDNESDAY 6 OCTOBER

Lord, we know that sharing our personal testimony is a good way to share the gospel. People will listen more carefully and find us more believable if we tell them what happened to us. Help us to be bold in our sharing but gentle in the way we do so. There is no better way to build your Kingdom.

THURSDAY 7 OCTOBER

Dear Jesus, we want souls to be won for your Kingdom! Today we pray for people to respond to your call to serve you full time as officers or envoys; this is a sacrifice both for them and their families. But we need more, Lord. Thank you for our own officers. Help us to be appreciative of them and to support them.

FRIDAY 8 OCTOBER

Lord God, to build your Kingdom we need to know the Bible. When someone asks a question, help us to be ready and willing to share what we know. We believe that you will give us the right words and help us to call to our memory what we have studied right when we need it.

SATURDAY 9 OCTOBER

Jesus, we can sometimes be judgemental. Help us to realise that you had mercy on us and that same mercy is available to whomever. It is not our place to think we know who would be saved and who would not; we share the gospel and it is you who saves! Forgive us for any time we may have overlooked someone.

SUNDAY 10 OCTOBER

Lord, today we pray for the ministry of your Church amongst older people. May those nearing the end of life know your love for them and, through your grace, come into your Kingdom where they will find comfort, joy and peace. Teach the Church the importance of such ministry.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

 **LIEUTENANT ROB WESTWOOD-PAYNE**
(COMMANDING OFFICER, BASINGSTOKE CORPS AND
COMMUNITY CENTRE)

Psalm 107:1-16: Our God who seeks the lost

MONDAY 11 OCTOBER - THANKS AND PRAISE

PSALM 107:1 NLT

Give thanks to the Lord, asking that his people would extend his praise to the four corners of the Earth. Thank him for his steadfast love and mighty acts. Pray that our communities of faith would testify to God's presence and activity in the world and in human lives. May our buildings be places where we celebrate and realise his work.

TUESDAY 12 OCTOBER - THE MEMORY OF REDEMPTION

PSALM 107:2 NLT

Giving praise and thanks to God does not erase the memories we have of times of hurt and pain. We painfully recollect times in our lives when we were less ready to praise, and when God's presence was experienced with some difficulty. We may have known trouble, but we thank God again for his redemption and deliverance.

WEDNESDAY 13 OCTOBER - PRAYING FOR THE LOST

PSALM 107:4-5 NLT

We pray for those who are wandering in the wilderness. They may not even know they are lost, but wander from marriage to marriage, diet to diet, one spiritual path to another, one drug of choice to the next. Pray they will find the grounding, orienting love of God. Pray they will cry out and find the way out (v6).



THURSDAY 14 OCTOBER - PRAYING FOR THOSE IN OTHER WILDERNESSES

➤ **PSALM 107:4-5 NLT**

We pray for those lost in a wilderness not of their own making: those who are grieving the approaching or recent death of a loved one, those struggling with the silent maze of dementia, those who face abandonment of a spouse, a sudden depression or a public failure. Pray they will know that God is reliable and faithful in every circumstance.

FRIDAY 15 OCTOBER - PRAYING FOR THOSE IN PRISON

➤ **PSALM 107:10-11 NLT**

We pray for those in prison. May they know God loves them no matter how far they have fallen. We intercede for those imprisoned for their faith, or who are suffering as victims of injustice. We pray for those who minister to them, taking God's message of love and forgiveness to them.

SATURDAY 16 OCTOBER - CONFESSING OUR REBELLION

➤ **PSALM 107:10-11 NLT**

Today we seek God's forgiveness for the times we have rebelled against his purposes for us, rejecting his word and going our own way. Praise him that when we turn back to him, he is always there for us. He dispels the darkness and breaks the chains of our sin so we can come home.

SUNDAY 17 OCTOBER - MY CHAINS FELL OFF!

➤ **PSALM 107:14-15 NLT**

As we join in worship today, we sing:

*Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray;
I woke; the dungeon flamed with light.
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.*

(Charles Wesley (1707-1788) SASB 241)

MODERN SLAVERY FOCUS

🕊 MAJOR ESTELLE BLAKE (TERRITORIAL CHAPLAIN - ANTI-TRAFFICKING AND MODERN SLAVERY UNIT)

📅 MONDAY 18 OCTOBER - ISAIAH 58:6

Father God, we thank you for our freedom. At the beginning of this week, we turn our thoughts to those who are trapped in modern slavery. We ask that you come close to them and open our eyes to them in the world around us. Amen.

📅 TUESDAY 19 OCTOBER - ISAIAH 58:12

We turn our hearts to those that are helping the survivors of modern slavery rebuild their lives. Today we pray for the International Strategy led by Priscilla Santos. Lord, we want to partner with those rebuilding their lives in a place of safety and trust. We pray for our worldwide Salvation Army working together across international boundaries and cultures to help individuals be restored and have hope in their brokenness. Amen.

📅 WEDNESDAY 20 OCTOBER - ISAIAH 58:7-8

We pray for our safe houses in the UK. May they be places of refuge to those who have survived and are now awaiting more support. May they be aware of their own strength and the strength that they have in God. We pray that they will feel safe in our safe houses. We pray for the staff in the safe houses who journey with them in these strange days. Amen.

📅 THURSDAY 21 OCTOBER

We pray for the chaplains in our safe houses and volunteers who respond when called. May they know that they are part of the plan of God to bring hope and refuge to those who may feel frightened and alone. We pray for their unseen ministry in the wider world. Amen.

📅 FRIDAY 22 OCTOBER - ISAIAH 58:10-11

We pray for the Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Unit and the departments within it. We pray that you will guide each individual to understand that they are a part of your plan and call for freedom for the enslaved in our country. May we be courageous in our dreaming and believing in a slave-free world. Amen.



SATURDAY 23 OCTOBER - LUKE 19:1-10

We pray for the enslavers and traffickers. May they encounter Jesus in the same way that Zacchaeus did and so change their ways. Help us to put aside our own prejudices and pray that they too would seek out Jesus and the power of his love and redemption in their lives. Amen.

SUNDAY 24 OCTOBER

Help us today, Lord, to realise that fighting modern slavery is not a 'once a year' idea but a daily prayer. Help us to believe that freedom is the business of prayer and not just action. Allow our hearts and minds to choose clothing, food and supplies that are slave-free. Allow us to be bold in our prayers because our freedom is bound up in the freedom of those who are survivors and victims of modern slavery. Amen.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOCUS

 **HAYLEY STILL (UK ENGAGEMENT CO-ORDINATOR)**

MONDAY 25 OCTOBER - INTRODUCTION

The Salvation Army International Development UK (SAID UK) provides financial and technical support to more than 40 projects around the world. As we focus on a different area of work each day this week, pray for the project community members who are working to overcome the injustices they are experiencing and for The Salvation Army officers, employees and volunteers who walk alongside with love and compassion as they give practical and emotional support.

TUESDAY 26 OCTOBER - ANTI-TRAFFICKING

In Ukraine, young people leaving government care with limited skills and resources are vulnerable to human traffickers. The Salvation Army provides skills training and guidance, so they are less vulnerable and have the confidence to provide for themselves. Pray that these young people know that they are loved and recognise their inherent worth as children of God.

WEDNESDAY 27 OCTOBER - CLEAN WATER

In Malawi, the provision of clean water and sanitation facilities means that community members are no longer vulnerable to waterborne diseases. It means women can take up income-generating activities rather than spending hours collecting water, and it means girls no longer miss school due to the lack of a private place to use the toilet. Pray for the hope and possibilities that access to clean water provides.

THURSDAY 28 OCTOBER - EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Whilst the UK Territory provides financial support to short-term emergency response projects, the local Salvation Army is a constant in the country where the project takes place. It is not only there for the emergency, but also part of the community long term. Pray for The Salvation Army as it provides ongoing practical, spiritual and relational support, and thank God that as one, global Army we are able to support our brothers and sisters around the world in times of crisis.

FRIDAY 29 OCTOBER - FOOD SECURITY

In Burkina Faso, 100 small-scale farmers are being trained in new techniques so they can increase their crop yields, feed their families and sell surplus at the market. Pray for them as they adapt to a new way of approaching familiar work, and as they go on to train others in their communities.

SATURDAY 30 OCTOBER - GENDER JUSTICE

In Argentina, women who have experienced domestic violence support one another through group therapy. Pray for those who have already begun their journey of healing and for the women whose pain remains unknown, that they will find safety from their abusers.

SUNDAY 31 OCTOBER - INCOME GENERATION

In Kenya The Salvation Army facilitates community savings and loans groups. Members regularly contribute small amounts of money to build up a communal fund. They can then each take loans from this shared pot to start or expand their business or pay for unexpected costs. In a setting where individual competition and conflict could so easily prosper, praise God that community is flourishing.

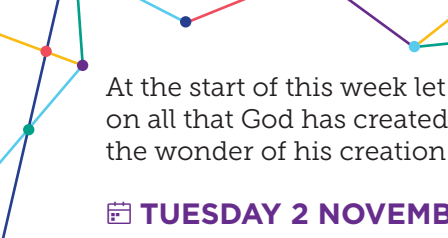
NOVEMBER

PRAISE FOCUS

 **KAREN FINDLAY (CORPS SERGEANT-MAJOR, WELLINGBOROUGH)**

MONDAY 1 NOVEMBER - GENESIS 1:31 (NLT)

'Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!'



At the start of this week let us just take a moment to pause and gaze on all that God has created. God saw that it was good – praise him for the wonder of his creation.

📅 TUESDAY 2 NOVEMBER – 1 KINGS 8:56 (NLT)

‘Praise the Lord who has given rest to his people Israel, just as he promised. Not one word has failed of all the wonderful promises he gave through his servant Moses.’

What amazing truth is found in this verse! Not one promise of God has failed. Today as we pray, focus on the promise of the truth of God’s word. God’s word never fails. Lord, we praise you.

📅 WEDNESDAY 3 NOVEMBER – 1 CHRONICLES 23:30 (NLT)

‘And each morning and evening they stood before the Lord to sing songs of thanks and praise to him.’

Here we read of a rhythm of prayer and praise. As we come before the Lord we intentionally focus on all the things we would want to praise God for, especially the little things that we may overlook. Lord, may our eyes be opened! We commit to a rhythm of praise.

📅 THURSDAY 4 NOVEMBER – PSALMS 108:1 (NLT)

‘My heart is confident in you, O God; no wonder I can sing your praises with all my heart!’

God is faithful to us and will not let us down. We can therefore be confident in God. It is because of that confidence that today we can praise him, even if there are times when it is hard.

📅 FRIDAY 5 NOVEMBER – ISAIAH 12:5 (NLT)

‘Sing to the Lord, for he has done wonderful things. Make known his praise around the world.’

As we focus in these days on our praises to God, let us celebrate by making it known in the places where God leads us. The wonderful things that God has done are too great to keep quiet about. There is power in the sharing of our praises to God.

📅 SATURDAY 6 NOVEMBER – MATTHEW 15:31 (NLT)

‘The crowd was amazed! Those who hadn’t been able to speak were talking, the crippled were made well, the lame were walking, and the blind could see again! And they praised the God of Israel.’

Father God, we stand amazed in your presence and fall on our knees in adoration and praise.

SUNDAY 7 NOVEMBER - REVELATION 19:6-7 (NLT)

'Praise the Lord! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns. Let us be glad and rejoice and let us give honour to him.'
AMEN!

MISSION FOCUS

 MAJOR GILLIAN MILLER (PRAYER NETWORK)

Using words by Brindley Boon (SASB 682)

MONDAY 8 NOVEMBER

*Thou hast called me from the byway
To proclaim thy wondrous love;
Thou hast placed me on the highway
That to all men I may prove
There is mission in my living,
There is meaning in my word;
Saviour, in my daily striving
May this message yet be heard.*

Loving Father God, thank you for the privilege of being involved in mission. Through your Holy Spirit at work in us, may we share the joy of being loved by you and declare how much you love every person ever created. In our daily living help us to show your love in our interaction with each other. Thank you for your amazing love to us shown on the cross and through the resurrection of our Saviour, Jesus.

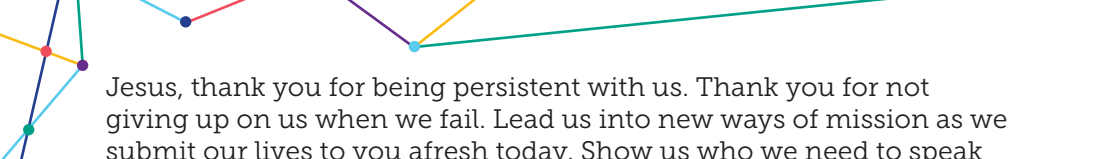
TUESDAY 9 NOVEMBER

*Have I lost that sense of mission
That inspired my early zeal,
When the fire of thy commission
Did my dedication seal?*

O Lord, forgive us for the times we have failed to live up to the promises we made to you. Reignite the passion in us to be lights in the darkness, leading others into your glorious light. Fill us again with the fire of your Holy Spirit who gives us spiritual energy and purpose. Thank you, Lord.

WEDNESDAY 10 NOVEMBER

*Let me hear thy tender pleading,
Let me see thy beckoning hand,
Let me feel thee gently leading
As I bow to thy command.*



Jesus, thank you for being persistent with us. Thank you for not giving up on us when we fail. Lead us into new ways of mission as we submit our lives to you afresh today. Show us who we need to speak to, pray for, lead to you. We love you Lord.

 **THURSDAY 11 NOVEMBER**

*Lord, release that latent passion
Which in me has dormant lain;
Recreate a deep compassion
That will care and care again.*

Father, thank you for your care of us and for placing in our hearts compassion for the lost and the lonely, the poor and the sad. As we explore the mission you have given us, to care for all people, lead us to the person who needs to know they are loved by you. Use our voices today for your glory, we pray.

 **FRIDAY 12 NOVEMBER**


*Needy souls are still my mission,
Sinners yet demand my love;
This must be my life's ambition,
This alone my heart shall move.*

Father God, we are sorry when we hear the word 'mission' and feel it's for someone else. Move our hearts to want to reach out to those who need you, those who need your love, your grace, your peace, your mercy. Give us the desire to care and give us the words to say. In Jesus' name.

 **SATURDAY 13 NOVEMBER**

*For thy mission make me holy,
For thy glory make me thine,
Sanctify each moment fully,
Fill my life with love divine.*

O Father, we desire holy lives so we can fulfil your calling to be missionaries in this world. We declare our love for you and our desire to do our part in bringing into your family those who have not yet had a taste of your glory and those who need to be loved back into your Kingdom of light. Amen.



⊙ REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – MAJOR GILLIAN MILLER (PRAYER NETWORK)

📅 SUNDAY 14 NOVEMBER

Dear Lord, our hearts are heavy as we remember all who have given their lives in past and present conflicts to enable us to live in freedom. As we thank you for each one, we pray for their families, those who have allowed their sons and daughters, husbands and wives, to follow their calling into service for their country. Give them courage and strength, we ask, comfort all who mourn and be close to those who still suffer from injuries sustained in conflict. We also remember those who today serve in our Armed Forces and pray for their safety and protection. Bless us, Lord, with your peace as we remember and help us all to work towards a peaceful world. In your name we pray. Amen.

A GOSPEL FRAMEWORK

🕊 MAJOR NOEL WRIGHT (TERRITORIAL EVANGELIST)

📅 MONDAY 15 NOVEMBER – READ 1 CORINTHIANS 15: 1-11

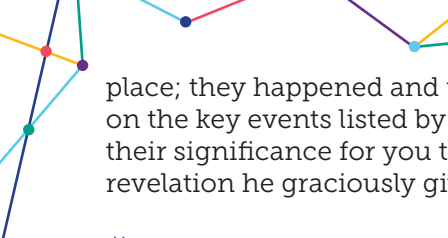
Contained within these verses Paul presents a 'gospel framework' which, when applied to our daily living, can keep us true to the gospel in how we both experience and express it. The gospel is primarily God's good news about his Son, Jesus is the gospel and the gospel is Jesus. Read vv3-5 again several times and note Paul's focus on Christ. Reflect for a few moments on who Jesus is and pray that you will represent him well in all you say and do today.

📅 TUESDAY 16 NOVEMBER – READ 1 CORINTHIANS 15: 1-11

Note Paul's use of the phrase 'according to the Scriptures' (v4). The validity of the gospel is rooted in the revelation of Scripture. The Jesus who is central to the good news is the Jesus who is at the heart of the Bible. The early Church witnessed to the Christ who was the fulfilment of biblical prophecy, their Jesus was the Jesus of Scripture – so must ours be. Reflect on a Bible verse that speaks about Jesus, praying that the Spirit of illumination guides you into a fresh understanding of your Saviour.

📅 WEDNESDAY 17 NOVEMBER – READ 1 CORINTHIANS 15: 1-11

In his 'gospel framework' Paul lists certain key events and he does so because they happened. The Christian faith is anchored within historical happenings (see Luke 1:1-4). The gospel isn't hearsay or rumour, it's not philosophy or fantasy nor is it simply sound advice. The good news is divine truth revealed through things that took



place; they happened and they have a timeless relevance. Reflect on the key events listed by Paul and think through something of their significance for you today. In your prayers thank God for the revelation he graciously gives through his word.

📅 THURSDAY 18 NOVEMBER – READ 1 CORINTHIANS 15: 1-11

‘For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance’ (v3). Someone, somewhere, had given these foundational gospel truths to Paul and he had shared them with the people in Corinth because they were ‘of first importance’. They still are! These truths are non-negotiable and remain central to the gospel. Reflect on the centrality of Christ, his cross and resurrection, praying that the Spirit of truth will help you in living true to these foundational truths.

📅 FRIDAY 19 NOVEMBER – READ 1 CORINTHIANS 15: 1-11

The gospel is universal in its message, good news for all that requires a personal response. Read v1 noting that the believers in Corinth had chosen for themselves to believe the gospel, a past response that was still a present life-impacting reality for each of them. Might the question asked of himself by Pilate be life’s most important: ‘What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?’ (Matthew 27:22). Reflect on those people who have helped you in your personal journey of faith, praying that God will use you to play your part in others coming to know Christ for themselves.

📅 SATURDAY 20 NOVEMBER – READ 1 CORINTHIANS 15: 1-11

In the closing verses Paul shares something of his own experience of the transforming impact of the gospel. Jesus is still in the business of changing lives: ‘he can save fully and completely those who approach God through him’ (Hebrews 7:25 *JBP*). There is no life beyond Christ’s power to transform. This remains the good news of the gospel of transformation. Reflect on your experience of God’s transforming grace, thanking God as you do. Ask God to give you opportunities to share your story with others.

OFFICER WELLBEING AND HEALTH FOCUS

👤 LIEUT-COLONEL EIRWEN PALLANT
(ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PERSONNEL (DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH))

📅 SUNDAY 21 NOVEMBER – BOUNDLESS SALVATION

Catherine Booth once said this about salvation: ‘It is not a scheme

of salvation merely – it is a scheme of restoration. God proposes to restore me – brain, heart, soul, spirit, body, every fibre of my nature – to restore me perfectly, to conform me wholly to the image of his Son.'

Our God, Father, Son and Spirit, we give thanks for the boundless salvation that you have provided for all people. We pray for our officers, that they may have a deeper understanding of its immensity, that it may enrich their lives and those to whom they minister. Amen.

MONDAY 22 NOVEMBER - WORKING FOR THE KINGDOM

'All ministry comes out of relationships.' – Such a simple and yet profound thought. To build God's Kingdom, all Christians need to build their relationship with God and with those around them.

Lord Jesus, we pray for officers of the UKI Territory, for their refreshment and restoration as they deepen their relationship with you. May their strength be renewed as they engage in self-giving relationships with their neighbours. Amen.

TUESDAY 23 NOVEMBER - COVENANTAL LOVE IN COMMUNITY

The Officer's Covenant is central to their service. It calls for faithfulness, belonging to the church community, seeking inclusion of all, seeking to meet the needs of others and seeking reconciliation wherever alienation exists.

O Lord, we pray for our officers who are seeking to be faithful in their calling, striving to build covenantal communities, that the love of God will shine through them and the power of God be visible in their situations to encourage them on their journey. Amen.

WEDNESDAY 24 NOVEMBER - THE TOLL OF MINISTRY

From Hebrews 12:1,3 *The Passion Translation*:

'We must let go of every wound that has pierced us... Then we will be able to run life's marathon race with passion and determination.

Consider carefully how Jesus faced intense opposition... so that you won't become worn down and cave in under life's pressures.'

Dear Lord, you understand how ministry can be mentally, physically and spiritually draining. We pray that our officers may be able to let go of hurts, that wounds will be healed and that they may be strengthened to withstand the pressures of life in their ministry. Amen.



THURSDAY 25 NOVEMBER - WELLBEING OF UK OFFICERS SERVING OVERSEAS.

'Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?... If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast' (Psalms 139:7,9,10).

Officers serving in places outside of their own territories face added challenges as they minister in unfamiliar places that lie outside their comfort zones.

Our Father, we pray for our officers who are serving outside their own territories. When they feel isolated, enfold them within your loving presence. When they feel uncertain, guide their way. When they are frustrated, impart to them your patient grace, and may they find rest and peace in the shadow of your protection, Almighty One. Amen.

FRIDAY 26 NOVEMBER - WELLBEING OF TERRITORIAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEADERS

'And those who have been entrusted with great responsibility will be held more responsible to their master' (Luke 12:48b *The Passion Translation*).

O Lord, we pray for all officers whom you have called to lead your people within The Salvation Army, that they may use their authority wisely. Today we pray especially for those in senior leadership positions. Despite their heavy burdens, may they experience the freedom of spirit found in you as they seek earnestly to follow your leading. May those they lead be committed to compassionate and prayerful support in working together to build your Kingdom. Amen.

SATURDAY 27 NOVEMBER - PRAYER FOR THE APPOINTMENTS CONFERENCE

'So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers... so that the body of Christ may be built up' (Ephesians 4:11,12).

O Lord our God, the author of our faith and the rock on which the Church is built, we ask your presence with all those attending the appointments conference this week. You have gifted your people with leaders and equipped those leaders with the gifts they need to build your Church. Inspire those tasked with appointing officers, that they may be deployed to a situation where they find fulfilment in their ministry and employ the gifts you have given them to build your Kingdom. Amen.



ADVENT FOCUS

 MAJOR SIMON CLAMPTON (OVERSEAS SERVICES UNIT)

SETTING THE SCENE

This Advent, as we journey together in preparation to celebrate Jesus' birth, we will be using lines from carols to help us in our prayers and reflections. We recognise that God is already with us, Immanuel, and we pray that the Holy Spirit will speak to each of us as our guide in our Advent journey. Each carol used is found in the Christmas Collection carol book (published by SP&S).

SUNDAY 28 NOVEMBER

How far is it to Bethlehem? Not very far. (No 39)

Lord, as we journey to the stable in our minds once more, may we recognise that you are not a distant God, remote or unfeeling, but that you have made each of our hearts your home and your Holy Spirit is our constant companion. Amen.

MONDAY 29 NOVEMBER

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set thy people free. (No 82)

Maranatha! O come to our hearts, Lord Jesus, you who were foretold from long ago, to be born to die but to rise again – to set us free from who we were, to become the people you want us to be. Amen.

TUESDAY 30 NOVEMBER

Teach us to resemble thee In thy sweet humility. (No 76)

Lord help us model our lives on you, to be worthy to be called Christians and recognised as such. Help us through your Spirit to boldly show your light and love to this world, not in weakness but clothed in meekness, not in spiritual arrogance but in humility. Amen.

DECEMBER

WEDNESDAY 1 DECEMBER

Open wide the stable door, Monarchs rich and shepherds poor... (No 91)

Lord, we recognise you are Lord of all, and our status in life is no bar in coming to you in adoration and worship. Indeed, your everlasting arms are open wide to all of humanity to draw us to your side. Amen.

THURSDAY 2 DECEMBER

*There's a song in the storm, Though the storm be long;
It's the song that my heart loves the best.* (No 92)

Thank you, Lord, that whatever storms there are in our lives, one thing we know is that you came to save us. In return may we praise your wonderful name with all our heart, soul and voice. Amen.

FRIDAY 3 DECEMBER

Holy Jesus! every day Keep us in the narrow way. (No 9)

By your Spirit, Lord, where there are choices to be made in our lives, please guide and lead us on the paths that you would choose. Help us to trust you in every moment so that your way will always be clear to us. Amen.

SATURDAY 4 DECEMBER

The bells ring out at Christmas time Their message loud and clear.
(No 83)

Lord, we pray for your blessing on all our carolling programmes. Be with each player, singer and collector. May those who hear the message clearly realise that you are the reason for the season as the Saviour for us all. Amen.

SUNDAY 5 DECEMBER

Then let us all with one accord Sing praises to our heavenly Lord. (No 86)

Heavenly Lord, whoever we are, wherever we may be, may we be united in your Spirit to praise you, as you are the only one worthy of praise, the Almighty, King of creation, the one who is first in our lives. Amen.



MONDAY 6 DECEMBER

When wise men came seeking for Jesus from far... (No 102)

The Magi came seeking the place where you were to be born. In our lives, Lord, may we, too, be wise to seek you with all our heart and help us to find you. Then we will truly know you and see you as you are. Amen.

TUESDAY 7 DECEMBER

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray. (No 12)

Lord, when we feel we are far from you, help us by your Spirit to know that your love surrounds us, that you are close by us right now and have promised never to leave us. Amen.

WEDNESDAY 8 DECEMBER

Child of Glory, Son of Man, Thou who wast ere time began... (No 19)

Lord Jesus, we praise and glorify you as the first and last, the alpha and omega, the living Word there from the beginning. You are the same today as yesterday and will always be our glorious risen Saviour and great unchanging friend. Amen.

THURSDAY 9 DECEMBER

Ye who now will bless the poor Shall yourselves find blessing. (No 35)

Lord, may our faith in you be our motivation to help those in need. Move us by Christian compassion, and not just charitable social service, to put our faith into action through a practical outpouring of love for others. Bless us all in this, we pray. Amen.

FRIDAY 10 DECEMBER

Joy to the world! the Lord is come. (No 49)

Lord, we rejoice that you came down from Heaven to us on Earth. Thank you that you became one of us to save us, as we can do nothing to save ourselves, and it is only by your grace through our faith that we can join with you in Heaven. Amen.

SATURDAY 11 DECEMBER

He knows our need, he guardeth us from danger; Behold your King!
(No 64)

Saviour, Lord and King, you know us all by name. We come to you as needy individuals knowing all our needs can be met in you. Protect us, shield our souls from sin and harm, and enfold us in your loving arms, we pray. Amen.

SUNDAY 12 DECEMBER

Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love divine. (No 56)

Lord God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we worship and adore you, for by your great love you have made us yours. You gave your all to save us, and in return it is only right that the little we have we offer back to you. Amen.

MONDAY 13 DECEMBER

He hath op'ed the heav'nly door, And man is blessèd evermore. (No 34)

Lord, you have opened the life gate of Heaven that all may go in. Help us to follow in your steps on Earth and lead us on the path of life to Heaven that you have prepared for us so we can dwell with you for eternity. Amen.

TUESDAY 14 DECEMBER

Light and life to all he brings, Risen with healing in his wings. (No 38)

Lord, in love, shine on each of us to heal and cleanse us from all sin and dross to bring us new life through your Spirit. May your light, life and love be seen in us so that others will be drawn to you. Amen.

WEDNESDAY 15 DECEMBER

Suffering Saviour, glorious risen Lord. (No 89)

Lord, you were born to die for us all. You came not to be served but to serve. But the victory is all yours, for you have conquered death and sin. Just now, we bring our lives as an offering to you as our Servant King, Lord and Saviour. Amen.



THURSDAY 16 DECEMBER

Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today. (No 66)

O Lord, save us, set us free from all the sin in our lives which leads to death. Recreate us through your Spirit. Come into our lives and our hearts afresh right now and set us on the path to life. Amen.

FRIDAY 17 DECEMBER

Thou must leave thy lowly dwelling, The humble crib, the stable bare. (No 90)

Thank you, Heavenly Lord, that you were born as the Babe of Bethlehem, but you became the Christ of Calvary. Help us to remember you are no longer in the manger nor still on the cross, for you live and reign within our hearts. Amen.

SATURDAY 18 DECEMBER

What can I give him, Poor as I am? (No 42)

Lord, in love you have given your all for us – you were born for us, you lived for us, died for us and rose again for us. In return may we give you our hearts to show our love to you and to others in your name. Amen.

SUNDAY 19 DECEMBER

Come and worship, Worship Christ the new-born King. (No 6)

Lord, bless all our carol services as we sing your praises again to celebrate your birth. Be with all who will join with us today. May your Spirit fall afresh on those who already know you and enter the lives of those who do not know you yet. Amen.

MONDAY 20 DECEMBER

While shepherds watched their flocks by night. (No 105)

Lord, as our Good Shepherd, guide us all to care for and be watchful over our congregations, both for the 99 and the lost ones too. Help us to be watchful and alert for the time when you will come again. May we be found faithful on that day. Amen.

TUESDAY 21 DECEMBER

He comes, the broken heart to bind, The wounded soul to cure. (No 37)

Thank you, Lord, that you came to heal our hearts and souls, to give us life in all its fullness. Help us to respond to your love in our adoration of you and as your co-workers on Earth to show that great love to others. Amen.

WEDNESDAY 22 DECEMBER

And our eyes at last shall see him Through his own redeeming love. (No 68)

Saved and kept by your grace, Lord, we thank you for redeeming us through your sacrifice on the cross, and for your promise that we will see you face to face at the end of time. Amen.

THURSDAY 23 DECEMBER

O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord! (No 61)

As we near the end of our Advent journey, in all that we are and in all that we can be, may we adore you as the Lord of our lives, as King of kings, as Christ our Saviour, and step out in faith into the future with you. Amen.

FRIDAY 24 DECEMBER

Silent night! Holy Night! All is calm, all is bright. (No 77)

Lord, amidst the anguish and gloom in this world, remind us through your Spirit that you are the Light of the World who shines in that darkness – a light that is never extinguished which brings calmness to our souls right now and in all our tomorrows. Amen.

SATURDAY 25 DECEMBER

Christians awake, salute the happy morn Whereon the Saviour of the world was born! (No 20)

Thank you, Lord, that you were born on that first Christmas, past tense, but that you are Immanuel, God with us, present tense; and because of that it is Christmas every day as you bring your hope, peace, joy and love to us each day. Amen.



SUNDAY 26 DECEMBER

At his feet we humbly fall, Crown him, crown him Lord of all! (No 106)

Thank you, Lord, for sharing our faith journey through Advent to Christmas. In the days ahead may we continue to humbly come to you, Lord of all. Change and renew our hearts by your Spirit through the grace that we find in you. Amen.

MAJOR CHRISTINE KINGSCOTT

SETTING THE SCENE

The period between Christmas and New year can easily pass unnoticed and forgotten as we wait in anticipation for the hope that a New Year offers. Although the festivities are over, the Christmas lights continue to shine – a reminder that Jesus Christ came to bring hope and light to a world in darkness.

MONDAY 27 DECEMBER – PSALM 119:105

Have you ever been out in the dark and felt completely lost, unable to get your bearings, when suddenly the headlights of an approaching car illuminate a familiar landmark and you realise you are on the right road? Take a moment today and ask God to reveal those areas of your life where you need to receive the light God brings.

TUESDAY 28 DECEMBER – JOHN 1:6

‘There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe.’

John came to bear witness to the light. Today give thanks to God for someone who made a difference in your life by telling you about the Light of Life.



📅 WEDNESDAY 29 DECEMBER - JOHN 8:12

Lord Jesus, you said, 'I am the Light of the World.' Lord, help me to be the bearer of light, to bring hope and joy to those who are finding life difficult and struggling to find meaning and purpose. Lord, may they see rays of your light today. Amen.

📅 THURSDAY 30 DECEMBER - MATTHEW 5:16

Today spend some time thinking about these words... Are you a bearer of the light, or do your actions block the true light? Why not share your testimony with someone who needs to hear the words, 'You are precious and loved', today?

📅 FRIDAY 31 DECEMBER - PHILIPPIANS 2:14-16

We stand on the threshold of a New Year; the past year has brought challenge to many. Tonight, when it's dark, go outside, look up into the night sky and spend some time looking at the stars and thanking God for the beauty of his creation. How awesome is it to be a part of God's creation and know that he (the Creator) is the Lord of Life! Pray that 2022 will be a year where God's light shines brightly bringing hope and joy.



CALLING
CONNECTING
Releasing
DYNAMIC KINGDOM-BUILDING
PRAYER

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