

Weekly Prayer Diary

25th December 2020



⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Luke 2:8-12

For all of us, this Christmas and most of this year has been different and not what we imagined it would be. Each year in Advent we pray that people would see the real season for the Christmas celebrations. Whilst not wishing this situation on anyone, let us pray that people might look to Jesus for peace and answers to life's questions (use the prayers for Alpha as one way that this may happen and also pray for opportunities to speak to friends, family and colleagues).

- This time has also been a practical reminder of what many of our brothers and sisters around the world have to put up with (cut off from family and fellowship, losing jobs, income), let's pray for them and for organisations such as Open Doors, Release International, Barnabas Fund and BMS World Mission who seek to support them.
- In particular please pray for Zhang Zhan, a Chinese Christian journalist and human rights defender, who was one of the brave few who attempted to report the truth in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic in China. She has been imprisoned and will go on trial shortly.
- This crisis has also been a reminder of how badly we have stewarded God's creation. The poor are suffering from climate change and the Coronavirus makes their situation worse. Let us pray for organisations like Christian Aid, Tear Fund and BMS World Mission who are seeking to make a difference in people's lives.

Let us give thanks for the Hope that we have in Jesus. Let us pray for those who are finding the current restrictions difficult and are missing being with friends and family at this time. Let us pray to for those on the front line, especially in our health service and lets pray that the more contagious version of the virus would not take hold.

- Alpha on-line (alpha.org) will start on 4th February at 7:30pm (registration - tinyurl.com/y6cvu7ek) . Please pray:
 - that the take-up for the course is successful
 - that there would be enough participants and volunteers to help the course run successfully
 - for protection for all those involved in the course
 - for people whom you would like to see participate in the course, pray for them daily and then invite them to join the course (info at: www.alpha.org.uk Viewfield registration at: - tinyurl.com/y6cvu7ek or email for more information: alpha@viewfield.org.uk .
- Drop In – Due to the move into Level 4 restrictions, the opening of the drop-in project is being postponed. Please pray for:
 - Jo Albrock and the Drop-In volunteers as they wait and prepare for a suitable start date in 2021.
 - the vulnerable members in our community who need support at this time.
 - And give thanks for the organisations who are able to meet some of the needs during this time.

Advent prayer: love – written by Graeme McMeekin, Head of Tearfund Scotland – tearfund.org

May the one who is love teach us to love one another, for love comes from God.

As we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else,

Strengthening your hearts so that you will be blameless ad holy in the presence of our God and Father.

May the Spirit produce the fruit of love in each of our hearts as we live by and keep in step with the Spirit.

Amen

If you have any suggestions for what we could be praying for then please email: - or phone David Stewart on 01383 860476.