

[Matthew 25:35-40](#)

“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.’ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ...”



East Staffs and South Derbyshire Prayer letter January 2023

Monday OR Wednesday 9.00 to 9.30 am

If possible please join your brothers and sisters in prayer around the circuit at one of these times in your

If you feel it appropriate for you, just pick areas/ideas that appear most important and concentrate on them.

Give Thanks

- Give thanks for the world we live in, its beauty and glory, that we have been given so much by God.
- Give thanks for all those people who work to maintain and preserve God’s creation.
- Give thanks for all those who preach God’s word both inside and outside of the church.

EACH WEEK

- Pray for those caught up in the asylum system of the UK, riven with a backlog of applications and a Home Office which seems unable to implement an orderly and fair system to cope.
- All those people who raise money for charities, especially those who support the homeless during this winter period · For all those who are trying to solve the Climate Change problems whether scientists and engineers or wildlife organisations throughout the world. · For all our fellow Christian volunteers and activists who are working to spread the gospel through their work and actions.
- Please continue to pray for the people of the Ukraine who are being subjected to a senseless barrage of rockets designed to cause fear, cold and shortage of essentials during the winter months.
- Pray for the countries who have signed up for COP15 to seriously engage with meeting their targets designed to enhance the natural world, including our own government.
- Pray for the Government to realise that the public need effective public services and that confrontation after years of austerity is not the way forward. Pray for sensible negotiations to take place in all spheres of the workforce.

Week One
2nd Jan

[John 14:27](#)

“Peace, I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

This week we centre on PEACE. Christmas has just passed and one of the things we wish for at this time is Peace on Earth and with it we usually say and goodwill to all. There seems to be a marked lack of goodwill around at the moment in most areas of the world and in many of the situations ordinary people find themselves in. The 6th January is War Orphans Day.

Globally, millions Of children are orphaned due to war, and many more end up in single parent families. They are subjected to a life of hardship and emotional and physical neglect and damage. The aim of this special day is to make people aware of the problems war orphans and children in conflict areas experience. Pray for those charities working with children especially UNICEF (UN Children’s Emergency Fund) and the French organization SOS Enfants en deters which founded the World Orphans special day.

	<p>Pray for peace negotiations to begin in the countries around the world torn apart by conflict. Especially think of the wars in Ukraine, Yemen and Palestine.</p> <p>Pray also for the leaders of those countries who seem to be on the verge of military action, or where one careless incident could blow up out of all proportion. Areas such as the North/south Korea border, the straits of Taiwan, Brazil and Azerbaijan/Armenia.</p> <p>In many countries around the world right wing philosophies are being pushed by politicians trying to stay in power by popularising the politics of hate. In many countries there is a dramatic rise in right wing terrorism. Please pray for those who try to encourage talk not fighting, for those who encourage ideas and events such as the ‘Truth and Reconciliation’ meetings that helped in South Africa.</p> <p>On the 6th the Orthodox Christian Church celebrates Theophany. A remembrance of the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan. In the west we replace this celebration with Epiphany. Originally there was just one celebration in the Christian church. A feast which celebrated the wise men arriving, the baptism of Jesus, all of the childhood stages of Jesus mentioned in the bible and the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan beginning on Christmas Day and ending on the 5th January. Please pray for those churches celebrating Christ at this time in all Christian strands. Pray especially those new Christians who will have experienced the joy of the Christmas season for the first time.</p>
<p>Week Two 9th Jan</p>	<p><u>1 Peter 5:2</u></p> <p>“Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve;”</p> <p>The 11th January is National Human trafficking day.</p> <p>A recent survey done in the UK put the figure of 90% as the number of employees in car washes who were working without the proper documentation, many of these will be people who have been trafficked. A large number of asylum seekers who arrive in the UK by illegal means are here as a result of human trafficking. Pray for the victims who have often been promised a safe secure job with prospects to get them here then when they are here they are duped into slavery or prostitution. Pray for those services round the world trying to capture the criminals behind this trafficking and control the flow of vulnerable people being targeted by them.</p> <p>Pray for the many charities trying to help those in need, ones such as Agape International Missions, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, and Polaris.</p> <p>Pray for the care system in the UK. Fractured almost beyond repair we need to pray for the people who staff the care homes, those who work on community care and care for folks in their own homes. We also need to pray for those who manage the system, trying to balance need with available staff. We need too to pray for those who make decisions about the training, pay and conditions that the staff work in. There is a chronic lack of planning and reality about many of the decisions made by those leading. Please pray for those tasked with planning to be realistic and deal with compassion those who work within the service and those who need these services.</p>
<p>Week Three 16th Jan</p>	<p><u>Romans 15:4</u></p> <p>“For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.”</p> <p>The 22nd of January is the Ukrainian National Day of Unity. In a fractured world we need to pray for unity. In a secular world we need to pray for the unity of the body of Christ to be an example to all. Pray we (both as individuals and members of a congregation) can reflect the love of God, the Peace of Christ and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit both personally, through our local churches and through the church Universal as we live our lives.</p>

	<p>Throughout the world there are many millions of people living with little or no hope of a better future. If this was not so there would be no migrants and asylum seekers. Pray for the work of charities and governments trying to bring the vulnerable and dispossessed some form of hope. Pray especially for those charities trying to not just bring shelter and warmth, food and water, but for those trying to help people to stand on their own, to develop self-reliance and provide hope through jobs and education. Think especially of the continent of Africa where the worst effects of climate change are already causing immense problems.</p> <p>Right now, thousands of people at the sharp end of poverty are at risk of being pushed into homelessness. People are being forced into making unthinkable choices between eating, heating or keeping a roof over their head. Pray for those charities, such as Crisis at Christmas, who are trying to provide food, warmth and shelter for these folk. Pray also for the food banks which are struggling to meet the demand for their services, that businesses and the public will continue to support their efforts.</p>
<p>Week Four 23rd Jan</p>	<p>Revelation 22:2 “down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.”</p> <p>Jan 29th is World Leprosy Day. Between one and two hundred leprosy cases are diagnosed each year. Without treatment it leads to long term disability. In the 20th century drugs were developed which control and cure the disease. Please pray for the scientists that have worked to create the drugs we rely on for our day-to-day health. Pray for those countries where there is little or no health service, where people are left to their own devices when there is a health problem or where the only real health support may be hundreds of miles away.</p> <p>Pray for our country’s health system which is creaking and in danger of total meltdown. Pray for a realistic programme of training for all the services which make up our NHS. Pray that the drug companies, managers and politicians will come together to produce a plan for the future of the NHS which puts patients and workers at the centre. Pray for those who have been affected by the failure of parts of the NHS due to lack of planning and foresight (e.g. Maternity care, Mental Health services and lack of suitable care for folk who should not be in hospital).</p> <p>Pray for those working ‘for the healing of the nations’ in a Christian sense. Those working in the areas of need round the world sometimes as missionaries, more often just serving those in need in the communities they find themselves in. Pray that the Holy Spirit will give them the strength to carry on whatever circumstance they find themselves in.</p>
<p>Week Five 30th Jan</p>	<p>1 Corinthians 12:27 “Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”</p> <p>Please pray this week for the Methodist Church, our circuit and the individual churches.</p> <p>Pray for the leadership of the Methodist Church to be led by the Holy Spirit in its planning and management of the denomination and its future. Pray for The President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Graham Thompson and the Vice-President, Anthony Boateng. For our District Chair, the Reverend Helen Camero, and for the Deputy Chair, Reverend Andy Fyall, and his recovery from his accident last year.</p> <p>Pray for our presbyters and supernumeraries, our leadership team and our Circuit staff.</p> <p>Pray this week for the church you personally worship with and those whose voluntary work keeps it up and running.</p>

A big thank you for joining in with the prayers. Obviously if something from one month becomes a burden on your heart then keep praying for it and I will endeavour to provide feedback where that is possible. Please feedback to me any things you would like the group to pray for and any ideas you might have to improve the way the group works. God Bless Steve 01283 820096

If at any time you wish to stop receiving this prayer letter, please let me know either by email or the phone number above.