

PRAYER

January - March | 2019

DIARY

EVANGELISM

DARE

CHURCH ARMY
.ORG

WELCOME FROM MARK



At the beginning of a new year, I often have a sense of expectancy for the next 12 months; what it will look like and what I will see God doing.

One of Church Army's values is 'expectant' and as we enter 2019, the Church Army team are looking ahead, expectant of what God will do through us. As we walk alongside those who are hurting, feed those who are physically and spiritually hungry and share the love and grace of Jesus, we're expectant that God will continue to break chains of addiction, remove the weight of depression and anxiety, grant freedom and help people find a home and community.

We look back at last year and thank God for those we had the privilege of seeing find faith and experience Jesus' transformation in their lives. We can't wait to celebrate this year's stories and see communities that previously had no, or little, church presence be revitalised. We pray God will use us to share the Gospel even further than we've done before.

As you pray for us, do so with hopeful expectancy – we know God hears your prayers and we are so grateful for them as they underpin all we seek to do!

I pray God would bless you and your loved ones in the year to come,

Yours in Christ,

Canon Mark Russell

Chief Executive and Community Leader

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As well as *Prayer Diary* being available on the Church Army website, you can join us in prayer by email each week. To sign up for this, please visit www.churcharmy.org/prayerpoints

To order more copies of *Prayer Diary* for your friends, church or group, please telephone **0300 123 2113** or email comms@churcharmy.org

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The supplement is updated with each edition of *Prayer Diary* so that all Church Army evangelists and staff are prayed for throughout the year.

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New evangelists-in-training



Last year we welcomed eight new evangelists-in-training to Church Army - **Chris Falconbridge** (Weston-Super-Mare), **Sharon Deeming** (Kettering), **Allison Worrall** (Accrington), **Jo Leslie** (London), **Andy Wilson** (Harrogate), **Chloe Sheppard** (Hampshire), **Dan Burrows** (London) and **Mike Dare** (Glasgow) (pictured L-R). Join us in praying for them as they learn more about how they can be God's hands and feet in our world.

Please pray for the roles they work in as lay leaders in churches, resettlement workers for ex-offenders or the homeless, pastoral assistants and in a charity working with young people. Pray too for the other areas of their lives where they have opportunities to witness and share Jesus. Each of our trainees are passionate about mission and evangelism and we pray they step fully into this calling and all that it means.

**“COME, FOLLOW ME,’ JESUS SAID,
‘AND I WILL SEND YOU OUT TO
FISH FOR PEOPLE.’”**

Communications



As Christians we are called to communicate the Good News of Jesus to all we meet. Our evangelists do that through words and action every day. Our Communications staff provide support to all in Church Army with films, electronic communications and printed material to help tell our story and inspire supporters.

Please pray for all who seek to communicate the story of Jesus; for our Communications staff, **Neil Thomson** and **Hannah Ling** as they seek to maintain high standards whilst recruiting new staff to join them. We pray also for our Digital Communications Officer **Carolyn Kinsman** who is on maternity leave.

Please pray that all we communicate about our work and about Jesus through film, the internet, and printed materials, may be appropriate and reach the right people to help touch hearts and transform lives.

“LET YOUR SPEECH ALWAYS BE GRACIOUS, SEASONED WITH SALT, SO THAT YOU MAY KNOW HOW YOU OUGHT TO ANSWER EACH PERSON.”



North Belfast Centre of Mission

Led by **Karen Webb** and **Stephen Whitten**, the North Belfast Centre of Mission is based on one of the main roads running through Belfast. They reach out to the community in the greater Shankill area, one of the worst affected areas during the three decades of the Troubles. Stephen, alongside other local Church leaders, runs prayer walks in the area and invites both Catholic and Protestant leaders to come together to lift the area's needs and people to God. May God hear these prayers and may many see Him through this unity.

Karen and Stephen run school assemblies, sharing the message of Jesus using puppets, as well as after-school drop-ins on a Thursday. Please cover these with your prayers – may they connect with the young people and may God provide sufficient volunteers to run the drop-ins.

The centre of mission also partners with other charities; TLG (to mentor school pupils who're struggling or at risk of exclusion), Baby Basics (to support new mothers and families struggling financially and practically) and Christians Against Poverty (to help run a job club and life skills club). Please pray for these partnerships and that people's lives may be transformed through them.



Karen and Stephen collecting donations of blankets and other items for Baby Basics

**“NOW MAY THE LORD OF PEACE
HIMSELF GIVE YOU PEACE AT
ALL TIMES AND IN EVERY WAY.”**



The Wilson Carlile Centre



The Wilson Carlile Centre team

The Wilson Carlile Centre (WCC) in central Sheffield is a conferencing and accommodation centre as well as the home of Church Army. The team do an excellent job of running Church Army's conferences, hosting guests, dinners, and team building days! They've recently launched a brand new executive conferencing room which provides video conferencing and an interactive whiteboard.

Pray with us this week for the WCC team – for all they are and do. We pray that God's Spirit would rest tangibly on the centre, making it a place of retreat and peace for visitors and a place to encounter God's presence.

Please pray for **Karen Kiely** our Centre Manager, **Becky Ingram** and **Nick Beckett** our Conferencing and Events Team, **Michael Davies** our chef and his team of Catering Assistants, the Receptionists, the Porters and all the housekeeping staff.

**“SHARE WITH THE LORD'S
PEOPLE WHO ARE IN NEED.
PRACTICE HOSPITALITY.”**



Romans 12:13

27 JANUARY-2 FEBRUARY

King's Lynn Centre of Mission



James Hawksworth leads the centre of mission in King's Lynn, Norfolk which is reaching out to secondary school age young people who have little or no experience of Jesus. One of the ways James is looking to fulfil this vision is as a chaplain at the secondary school Springwood Academy and through the lunch club he runs there. Please pray for this work, especially as he draws alongside many vulnerable young people, and as he looks to work in other schools as well.

The Sea Bank Chapel Youth Club has been asking James to run more Bible-based discussions. He has been blown away by depth of thought and discussion from the young people. Join us to pray for James as he uses this space to point these young hearts to Jesus.

James is also working within the most deprived areas of North Lynn where many young people feel isolated, alone and fear going out of their front doors because of the dangers of bullies and thieves. Please pray for James and Becca (the vicar he's working alongside) as they develop key relationships in this community – may they be catalysts for a renewed community here.

**“RESTORE US TO YOU, O LORD,
THAT WE MAY BE RESTORED...”**



Lamentations 5:21

New members of the Community



Gary outside one of the churches he and Sue visited as part of a sponsored walk for Church Army between 13 churches in Norfolk

As a Mission Community, Church Army consists of commissioned evangelists, staff who work in our projects and offices, other evangelists or ministers who identify with us, and companions who support our work and believe in the need to share the gospel with people beyond the reach of traditional church.

We give thanks for the 13 people who have said their promises and joined the Church Army Mission Community over the past year. They are **Mavis, Jo, Chris, Chloe, Sharon, Alison, Matt, Dan, Tim, Garry, Sue** and **Andy**.

Please pray that these new Community members would receive loving support from local members and that they would discover their fit and how they can bless the Community.

**“HE HAS SHOWN YOU, O MORTAL,
WHAT IS GOOD. AND WHAT DOES
THE LORD REQUIRE OF YOU? TO ACT
JUSTLY AND TO LOVE MERCY AND
TO WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD.”**



Micah 6:8

Blackpool Centre of Mission



Blackpool's seafront promenade

This new centre of mission was launched last June, with a focus on bringing the Gospel to the people of Grange Park, an estate in North Blackpool. Grange Park is home to around 7,000 people, is in the top 0.5% most deprived areas in the country and has very little church presence. Pray for lead evangelist, **Matthew Rowley**, and his wife, **Lucy**, who supports him in the role, as they raise up a team to disciple those who are unchurched in the area and resource the churches of Blackpool in evangelism.

Blackpool Centre of Mission is working alongside Hope Community Church and @ the grange – a new community hub for the Grange Park area. Last summer they started Kidz Klub – an outreach project for primary school children with games, stories and Bible teaching. About 24 children attend and they have also been visiting around 28 families every week. Pray that, through this partnership, whole families will experience God for themselves and start to follow Him.

Matthew has also started a Tuesday fellowship meeting for senior members – pray that this group flourishes and that those attending may grow deeper in their faith.



“JESUS SAID, ‘LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME, AND DO NOT HINDER THEM, FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN BELONGS TO SUCH AS THESE.’”



Matthew 19:14

The Marylebone Project



The work of The Marylebone Project serves women experiencing homelessness. We think of those who have experienced trauma in their lives – who have suffered loss, been abandoned and faced hardship.

In our prayers this week we think of those who are alone, without the guiding and reaffirming support of others.

We think of those who have lost their way, their sense of self.

For those who have been abused, we pray healing and reconciliation for them in their journey – that they may find meaning and worth in their lives.

We pray for those who have lost hope for the future, and for all those who work to instil and reignite that hope, showing a path towards light and joy.

For those who have had to leave their homes, their countries and families - through war, destitution and persecution. That they may find solace and safety in the comfort of community. That they may be refreshed and renewed in their onward journey.

“FOR I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME FOOD, I WAS THIRSTY AND YOU GAVE ME DRINK, I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU WELCOMED ME...”

Active Evangelists



Evangelists Mike and Marjorie Griffin

Church Army evangelists work in a wide range of situations, some with the Anglican church, some with other agencies, and some in unpaid situations.

This week we pray for our commissioned evangelists, that they may be used by God to make known the love of Jesus to all those they meet through word and deed, by addressing physical needs like hunger and poverty, and spiritual needs brought about by being distant from God.

We pray that God will keep safe those who work in situations that can quickly lead to violence and threat, that he will walk with those who venture into the unknown and heal those who are suffering from illness.

“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. GO! I AM SENDING YOU OUT LIKE LAMBS AMONG WOLVES.’”

Fundraising



Fundraising Team

The impact we have on the frontline, the people we walk besides whilst pointing them to God, the hope in Christ that we impart, is only possible because we have been blessed with the finances to train and resource evangelists.

This week we invite you to pray for our finances and for our fundraising. We would particularly value your prayers that our supporters would be inspired to give what they can give, and do what they can do, to make a difference on the frontline.

Please pray for our Fundraising Team as they plan fundraising events and inspire people to join in. Pray also that businesses will see the value of what we're doing, recognise the impact that we're having and partner with us to grow the work. We'd also love your prayers for successful applications to trusts, foundations and community funds.

Finally, please give thanks for all those who support us with their finances, whether that's the loose change in a pocket, a monthly direct debit or a gift left in a will. Lord God, would you richly bless each one for their sacrificial heart and their joy in knowing that every good gift comes from you. Lord God, may each of us be good stewards of all that you've entrusted to us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

“EACH OF YOU SHOULD GIVE WHAT YOU HAVE DECIDED IN YOUR HEART TO GIVE, NOT RELUCTANTLY OR UNDER COMPULSION, FOR GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER.”



2 Corinthians 9:7

Selby Centre of Mission



Richard Cooke on the Bus Stop's double-decker bus

Our Selby Centre of Mission is based on the Flaxley Road estate and led by **Richard Cooke** with pioneer evangelist **Amy Hayes**. This estate is one of the most socially deprived estates in North Yorkshire. Loneliness and hopelessness are real challenges faced by some local people. One of the key ways Selby Centre of Mission seeks to tackle this is through their community drop-in on a converted double-decker bus. Please pray for them as they provide emotional support, befriending and help with bereavement.

Please pray for the Bus Stop project which provides the estates' young people with a space to explore faith and the issues they encounter in life.

Join us in praying for the many young people who face difficult life circumstances, that Richard and Amy would be successful in reaching younger teens, and they would have the volunteers to sustain this ministry.

We also pray for Richard and Amy as they build Christian community through Edge Community Church in partnership with St James' Church – may many find Jesus and experience the difference He makes to their lives.

“COME NEAR TO GOD, AND HE WILL COME NEAR TO YOU.”



James 4:8

17-23 MARCH

The Mission Community team

The Mission Community team support Church Army members, promote membership of Church Army, help people explore their calling and vocation to serve God through Church Army, and arrange events for members to gather together.

Please pray for the Community team: Local Mission Community Leaders around the country - **Kelvin, Andrew, Kathy** and **Andy**. Also, for those based at the Wilson Carlile Centre in Sheffield: **Louise** (Community Facilitator), **Alison** (Assistant Dean) and **Andrew** (Dean). Pray that they may be conduits of Church Army culture and agents of unity and love.



Alison

24-31 MARCH

Retired Evangelists

Commissioned evangelists may stop being paid when they reach retirement age, but many continue in some form of ministry well after they start getting a pension. This week we pray for the 168 evangelists who we now call “retired”. We thank God for the opportunities they continue to have in their church, their community, and the many situations where they minister as voluntary chaplains and evangelists. We pray for their health and energy to do what they feel called to do in God’s service.

“...IN CHRIST WE, THOUGH MANY,
FORM ONE BODY...”

 Romans 12:5

We thank God for those who have served him faithfully over many years and now need to take a rest from active ministry. We pray that God may continue to use them to be an example to others and share his love with those around them.

We pray especially for the retired evangelists who are in ill health or in nursing homes. We ask for God’s peace to be with them and for his love to surround them.

PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL SINCE 1882

Church Army is a Mission Community acknowledged by the Church of England and recognised by the other Anglican Provinces in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Commissioned evangelists are part of the ministry of the church and work alongside other ministers to engage in mission and outreach often where traditional church has little impact.

Your continued support in prayer and finance is vital for all we do.

Thank you.

CHURCH ARMY
ESTD 1882

