

This Prayer Calendar is provided to encourage us to pray for one another within the fellowship of Affinity.

Information is provided each month by our Partners, Associates and Churches. If you wish information for prayer to be included in the Prayer Calendar please send it to us at least 10 days before the end of the month in which you would like it to appear.

1 Many Christian children around the world are more likely to face persecution at this season than receive Christmas gifts. Please pray especially for them; for refugee children fleeing persecution, for children living in poverty under discrimination, for children struggling to get an education in a hostile environment. Please lift up **Barnabas Fund's** Christmas appeal as they seek to channel aid to children through feeding programmes, family support, Christian schools and health programmes.

2 Pray for the final **Grace Baptist Partnership** weekend workshop for prospective church planters and their wives at Diss Baptist Church today.

3 **Christchurch, Harpenden**, ask us to pray for their Family Carols at 4pm and Carols by Candlelight at 7pm held in Harpenden Public Halls today. These carol services are well known in the town and usually attract 750 - 800 guests altogether. Please pray that the word of God will be spoken boldly and that hearts and minds will be turned to Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world.

4 Pray for the **AECW churches** in university towns. Pray the churches in Cardiff, Swansea, Carmarthen, Lampeter, Aberystwyth, Wrexham and Bangor will be able to reach out both evangelistically and pastorally to students, especially those at university of the first time.

5 **Crossteach** teams will be running many Christmas Experience events this month, hosted by churches for school pupils. Thousands of children will hear what Christians believe about Jesus and why they celebrate Christmas. Pray for enough volunteers for the events to run well and that host churches would take the opportunity to connect with the pupils, and that the children would understand more about what Christians believe about Jesus.

6 **Trinity Road Chapel, Tooting**, London, have a week of Gospel distribution and carol singing starting on 11 December, culminating with a Family Carol Service on the Sunday Morning. Pray also for their Carols by Candlelight, Christingle and Christmas Day services, which usually draw quite a crowd. Pray that they would be faithful witnesses and that those hearing would have their hearts softened.

7 **Tots2teens** are currently trying to find opportunities to speak to churches firstly in the North East but also further afield as the Lord allows, to share the vision of Tots2teens, share opportunities to volunteer, train teachers, pray for and support in various ways the work of Tots2teens.

8 Pray for **OSCAR** as they, along with SWAN, run a world mission evening at Southampton University Christian Union today.

9 **Union School of Theology** ask for prayer for good recruitment of students for their campus-based programmes.

10

Shrewsbury Evangelical Church plans a delivery of Scripture calendars this month, together with an invitation to their carol service in the neighbourhood nearest to the Community Centre where they meet. Please pray that the recipients will read the Bible verses and respond positively to the invitation.

11

Time for Change Ministries ask us to continue to remember those in prison over Christmas and New Year. Pray for light where there is darkness and that people will think about the real meaning of Christmas, not just the re-runs of classic TV. Pray for those who are doing the Christianity Explored course; that they will discover new things and that next year really will be a new year for them.

12

The **Association of Grace Baptist Churches (South East)** home mission team supports churches in outreach and evangelism and helps coordinate church plants and relaunches. Nigel Hoad leads this work. He also puts theory into practice as he works as part of the church planting team in Ebbsfleet. Pray for effective and fruitful evangelism across all their churches.

13

Christian Concern ask for prayer for the wide readership of Samuel Burgess' recently-published book, 'Edmund Burke's Battle with Liberalism'. In the book Samuel explains the very explicit Christian basis for Burke's politics.

14

Crosslinks is thankful to God for answering their prayer to send out more labourers into the harvest field as we are in a season of plenty. Pray that they, with local churches, would be diligent in the processes of selection and deployment.

15

Pray that **Daylight Christian Prison Trust** services and Bible studies over the holiday period would be an encouragement to prisoners who are finding it difficult being away from their families and that their hearts would be touched as they hear the Christmas message.

16

Pray for **Brian Edwards**, speaking at Alfold Chapel, Surrey, tomorrow evening at their "Carols by candlelight" service.

17

Peterhead Congregational Church ask for prayer for all their Christmas services as they engage with all ages in their community sharing the Good News. Pray especially for the outdoor meetings on the Saturday before Christmas as they share in street evangelism.

18

SASRA ask us to pray for all their workers over the Christmas period; that it may be a refreshing time spent with family, friends and home church fellowships. Many of the military units will just have a skeleton staff for a while, as most are on Christmas leave. Pray for those left behind and for those Scripture Readers who will endeavour to continue to visit and minister to them.

19

ReachAcross thank the Lord for an increase in the number of applicants for long-term service as missionaries in Muslim majority nations. Pray that the Lord will stir UK churches to recognise the call of God on some of their members to missionary service, and will send them out to bring the gospel to those in places where there is not yet any Christian witness or church congregation among the local people.

20

Blenheim Free Church, Maidenhead, ask for prayer that those they have contacted through various outreach events will come to their Community Carols on Christmas Eve and will seriously consider the incarnation of Immanuel.

21

Cuckfield Baptist Church, Sussex, ask for prayer that the Lord would give their leaders wisdom as they seek to train and equip people for the different parts of the church's ministry.

22

York Evangelical Church are thankful that all the church are involved in some way or other in serving the Kingdom. The disciplines of corporate prayer and inviting outsiders to events are often the first casualties in busy lives, particularly for the young marrieds with kids. Pray that they strike the right balance as elders between exhortation and sympathetic understanding for people whose secular jobs and family lives often leave them frazzled.

23

Wheelock Heath Baptist Church would appreciate prayer as they embark on a church plant in the nearby town of Sandbach in the coming months. Pray that the Lord will help them to reach out to many people with the gospel in Sandbach, and also in the village of Winterley where the existing church is.

24

Pray for all those in our churches for whom loss and tragedy this past year makes Christmas a painful time. Pray that as churches we will look after all such in need among us as the family of God.

25

*Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.*

26

Give thanks with **True Freedom Trust** for the Lord's goodness in providing a recent large gift from a Christian trust. Pray for Stuart and Rob, and potentially for others in the team, as they take on additional responsibilities in light of Director Jonathan Berry's imminent departure, and for the Lord's protection over, and continuing provision for, the ministry during this significant period of transition.

27

London Seminary request prayer for those attending their visit days, and considering applying for seminary, that they will be guided as they consider their future ministry.

28

Since 1986, God has used **Gospel for Asia**-supported radio programmes to bring his message of love to people across Asia. Listeners often contact radio stations to ask questions and receive prayer, encouragement and discipleship. Radio broadcasts are forerunners for other forms of ministry. There are times when national missionaries arrive in new areas only to find fellowships already thriving there because of radio. Pray for GFA-supported radio in Asia and for the lives God is touching through its messages.

29

Give thanks and pray for **Immanuel Brentford International Presbyterian Church** as it prepares to be particularised as a congregation with its own elders after less than two years as a church plant from Ealing IPC.

30

The **Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Ireland** asks for prayer for the deteriorating political situation in Northern Ireland.

31

Pray for the **Evangelical Movement of Wales'** Welsh Language house party over new year (1-4 January) at Bryn-y-groes in Bala, with all ages and backgrounds attending. The theme is: 'Made to Shine – the church flourishing in gospel days'.

If you would like more information about the Affinity Partners and Associates mentioned in the Prayer Calendar you will find their website addresses on the Affinity website – www.affinity.org.uk.

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Please send entries for the January Prayer Calendar to us by 20 December.