



CHRIST CHURCH PARBOLD FEBRUARY 2025 PRAYER NEWSLETTER



ENCOURAGEMENT. THE WORD FOR TODAY

I have been reading the booklet The Word for Today from UCB for many years (they come by post every quarter) and always found their daily thoughts and readings most helpful. When I read the readings for Feb 3rd last week, I thought it was so relevant that I would share it as an encouragement here. We are allowed to reprint it so long as it is for Church newsletter purposes. So I looked it up this morning – but could not find it!! I went on the website in case it was an earlier one which I no longer had – but it wasn't there!!

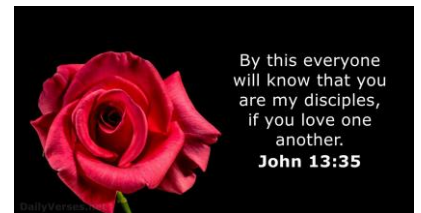
I thought "I'm going doolaly in my old age." I went back to the book and it fell open on the reading for 3rd March and there it was!! I misread it last week and read the wrong month. So I'm only a bit doolaly!

Here it is:

You are commanded to love

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another. John 13 v 34

Love is not an emotion, because you cannot command someone to feel a certain way. Loving someone is a choice that manifests itself in your attitudes and actions towards that person. Jesus said, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another,"



Jesus called this a New Commandment. What is new about it? These words "as I have loved you." Since Christ lives in you, you can love others with His love. Jesus always put His disciples first – washing their feet, saving them from storms, patiently teaching them. He didn't look out for number one. You say, "But how can I love someone I don't even like?" Jesus answers "As I have loved you"

C.S. Lewis tells of how he came to view other's faults differently.

"There is someone I love, even though I don't approve of what he does. There is someone I accept, though some of his thoughts and actions revolt me. There is someone I forgive, even though he hurts the people I love most. That person is me.... If I can love myself without approving all I do, I can also love others without approving all they do"

And what Jesus commands you to do. He empowers you to do.

"The love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us." Romans ch5 v 5.

Food for thought indeed.

I recommend The Word for Today to everyone – Every Quarter Jean Berry offers them in church for anyone to have them for free. If you don't already do so then please see Jean.

*God bless,
Lin*

PARISH TELEPHONE PRAYER CHAIN.

- Anyone who has a prayer need can phone his/her request to Brian and Frances McGucken (01257 462058) between 6pm and 6.30pm any day, or for urgent needs, at any time. A team of people is on hand to pray immediately for your need.
- If neither is available to take your call live - please do not use the answer phone for this purpose - but contact Lin Milne on 463523 or John Mountain on 463919.

Your prayer request will be treated as confidential – unless you state otherwise

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray for a peaceful return of hostages in the Middle East and success in the negotiation process to bring the war to end.
- Pray for our elderly and housebound church family during the cold winter months.
- Pray for our children, teachers and all staff this coming half-term. May they have a fun and restful break.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

New Wine 'Reset' Women's Day, Manchester - January 2025

This day of teaching and worship had booked up very early, but three of us from Christ Church had managed to get tickets. Saint Philips Church in Salford was packed. There were three really challenging speakers plus testimonies from two others. The worship band was lively - and loud! Prayer ministry was available throughout the day and, before leaving, we were all encouraged to set aside the things that we manage to 'collect' in day-to-day life that 'block' our connection with God. We'd taken a packed lunch but drinks were available throughout the day. There was a book stall and a couple of Christian craft stalls.

If you'd like to attend a similar event then you should put this date in your diary - **Saturday 27th September** when the **Northern Women's Christian Convention** will be held this year in **Wigan**. More information to follow when tickets are available.

Forthcoming Social Events for the Christ Church family (that means all of us!)

- Have you got your tickets for the **BEETLE DRIVE** to be held in Parbold Women's Institute on **Saturday 1st March from 7pm till 9pm**. This is an opportunity to get to know each other better. Lots of fun! Tea, coffee, juice and cake available. It's free of charge but we need to know numbers so make sure you get your tickets as soon as possible ohigham@christchurchparbold.co.uk
- **PICNIC & GAMES ON THE FIELD - Sunday 8th June following the morning service**. Bring your own picnic lunch and a chair/picnic blanket if you have them. Lots of fun and games for all ages - but it's ok to just sit, watch and chat if you prefer.
- **SAFARI SUPPER on Saturday evening 28th June in Parbold**. It's a few years since we had one of these, so for some of you it might be a new thing. You can offer to host and prepare one course of a meal for 6 or 7 people or, alternatively, offer to take a course to someone else's home. This is not Master Chef! You don't have to be a great cook; it can be something very simple. The 'safari' bit means we all move around the village to different homes - a starter in one house, mains in another, dessert in yet another - and sit with different people for each course! Then, after the meal, we all meet together in one home for coffee. More details to follow, but put the date in your diary now.
- Still in the planning - a possible **HARVEST SUPPER** and/or **BARN DANCE** in the autumn
- **CHURCH FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY** at the WI again. **Saturday 13th December from 5pm till 8pm**. If you enjoyed this last year then please make sure you tell others about it .



The Events Team would love it if you'd like to join them and get involved in planning opportunities for the Church family to mix and get to know each better. If you're interested or want to know more, please speak to Olwen ohigham@christchurchparbold.co.uk

Mercy Rescue



2024 had highs and lows as I sure it did for many of you!

- We rescued 36 Babies we reunited 20 of them with family
- We found forever families for 20 children
- 6 of our Older Teenagers started Higher Education courses
- We raised the money needed to support our 3 children living with complex need or sickness.

But we cannot move into 2025 without grieving for the special lives that have been lost.

- We had to say goodbye to 2 babies, Gloria and Lauren.
- We then lost our dear staff member and friend Sarah. It will take some time for us to heal from this great loss.

Six of our older teenagers entered Higher Education, either University, College or a Trade School like our apprentice scheme.



Denis is a little fighter although now 18 months old still has lots of complex needs. He is now back at Mercy Rescue after spending some time in hospital, and continues to be fed through a nasal tube, he is slowly gaining weight but still below what he should be.

This year has begun as 2024 ended so far, we have rescued 5 babies and found forever homes for 3 babies.

As we enter 2025, we are thankful for your ongoing support that allows us to keep rescuing vulnerable babies and giving them safe family homes either biological, foster or forever families.

Take care, God Bless
Barbara



THE MESSAGE TRUST

Thank you so much for your ongoing support for the Message Trust. I returned to work part time in January having had a year 'off' on maternity leave. Hope was born in November 2023 and she's a true delight! I miss spending every day with her but it's great to be back and I've been really encouraged by all that the team achieved whilst I was away and all that we've seen God do. So much so, I thought I'd share some highlights of 2024, as well as ask for your continued prayers for our working moving forwards in sharing the Gospel with young people across the UK and beyond.



JANUARY

We took the No More Knives Tour to Blackpool. 488 young people came to the end of week gig and 136 young people said 'yes' to Jesus.

FEBRUARY

The creative mission teams went to Wales visiting 4 schools in The Valleys. They delivered the Still Standing Tour, sharing their testimonies with over 2,500 students and teaching on Resilience and Wellbeing.

MARCH

The No More Knives Tour visited Preston and Hartlepool and we launched the new No More County Lines Tour in Wythenshawe, helping young people say 'no' to drug crime. At the Preston concert, 173 young people said 'yes' to Jesus!

APRIL

The Still Standing Tour went to Lincoln and Teesside. At a Teesside youth group the team shared the gospel with 35 young people, 13 young people said 'yes' to Jesus.

MAY

With school exams, May was a great opportunity to train and equip staff for upcoming mission.

JUNE

We took the No More Knives Tour to Coventry and visited Sunderland with our Still Standing lesson. 72 young people came to the end of week concert in the Midlands and 41 young people said 'yes' to Jesus. It was such a pleasure to be at the concert, to see the response team support the young people in their decision to follow Christ and handing out copies of Luke and Acts.

JULY

The Message HQ staff took part in Love Wythenshawe. We ran outreach events in the town centre, helped to tidy some local gardens and litter picked the streets, ending the week with a gospel centred fun day for the local community.

AUGUST

Our teams visited festivals across the UK, performing at youth venues and helping to raise support, sharing about all the Lord is doing through The Message Trust.

SEPTEMBER

The No More Knives Tour went to London and 74 young people responded to the gospel. SoulBox joined the team in Germany, visiting schools and sharing the gospel at Exodus Festival.

OCTOBER

We took the No More County Lines Tour to Blackburn visiting 11 schools. The end of week concert was held at Blackburn Cathedral where we saw 295 young people and 119 young people said 'yes' to Jesus. The team also took the Still Standing Tour to The Netherlands.

NOVEMBER

The No More Knives Tour went back to London and visited Rochdale. 234 young people joined us at the concert and 67 said 'yes' to Jesus!

DECEMBER

In partnership with our friends from iSingPOP we visited 9 primary schools in Manchester, inviting the children and their families to the Christmas Extravaganza held at The Message Trust HQ. It was a fantastic opportunity for Message Community Church (based at The Message Trust) to connect with their local schools. The children were taught the true reason we celebrate at Christmas as they learnt 3 pop songs and dance routines, students and staff had a wonderful time. Message Community Church have already been invited back to one school to share more about the Christian Faith.

It's incredible to hear that over 600 young people said yes to the Gospel in 2024, just through the work of one department at the Message Trust. Please pray for each of these individuals; would they all continue to grow in their faith and know God's love deeply. Please also pray for all of the events and tours that we have coming up over the next few months. The teams are heading to Derby, Coventry, Manchester, London, Teesside, The Netherlands, Glasgow, Tameside, Sunderland and Sheffield, all before summer! Pray that young people would come to know Jesus through all of our schools' work and events.

Thanks so much, Judith

GROWING IN FAITH

These days there are lots of opportunities around for us to learn more about, or deepen, our faith. What might be the right 'fit' for you? Here's some information about just a few of them;

- At Christ Church we have **weekly House Groups on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and on Thursday afternoons**. We meet in a home for Bible study and discussion - an opportunity to ask questions and learn, with time for a cuppa (and occasional social times). Speak to Geoff christchurchparbold.admn@gmail.com, Sue revsuetimmins@gmail.com or Olwen ohigham@christchurchparbold.co.uk if you want to know more.
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- There's a whole host of '**Apps**' out there that encourage daily Bible reading or prayer. Most of them take between 5 & 15 minutes. Many of us use **LECTIO 365 from 24/7 Prayer**. It has morning, afternoon and evening meditations each day (you can do one or all of), with readings from both the Old and New Testaments and challenging reflections on day-to-day living, praying for others and ourselves. It helps to get you into a rhythm of regularly praying and it's free to use. Check out others from **Scripture Union, CWR or Bible Reading Fellowship**. Some of these have a subscription.
- Bible apps like **BIBLE** from You Version, **FRUITFUL** from the Blackburn C of E Diocese, or **BIBLE PROJECT**, have reading plans plus lots, lots more like articles, podcasts and Christian music. Some are free and some have a subscription.
- If you prefer a daily email, Scripture Union's **WORD LIVE** has the Bible reading and commentary sent to your inbox (free) early each morning. Some others from Scripture Union offer an email but have a subscription.
- Or maybe you're someone who prefers a book in your hands? In addition to the free copies of **WORD FOR TODAY** (available on the table at the back of church), there are publications obtainable for a subscription. Some are available in large print. The EDEN website eden.co.uk has a link entitled "How to Pick a Bible Reading Guide" (click on 'Christian Books', then 'Bibles and Bible Study', then 'Dated Studies'). Or talk to Barbara at church - she volunteers at Two Worlds Christian Book Centre in Chorley and can order a regular subscription for you. Better still, visit the shop and browse the resources available.



Greetings to everyone at Christ Church, Parbold

from us all here at EducAid in Sierra Leone.

The new year presents new challenges and new opportunities for EducAid. With your support we continue to work with pupils, students, teachers, parents and elected representatives to make a contribution to making Sierra Leone a better country through education.

The Deputy Minister of Education - Emily Gogra



The work of EducAid continues to be focused on providing education in EducAid schools but increasingly works with Government and other agencies to improve the quality of teaching and learning in other schools funded by the Government and others.

Towards the end of last year, on the 29th October, EducAid staff and pupils/students worked with the Government Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education in the Port Loko District with the aim of promoting improvement through providing a greater degree of focusing of resources, attention and awareness based on foundation strategies. Based on the 30+ years of providing education in Sierra Leone was able to provide the Top ten EducAid Strategies for Teaching and learning to lead discussion.

Five of the strategies focus on how to establish an appropriate, kind, and respectful environment in the school and classroom. The other five strategies focus on teaching styles and help the teacher take responsibility for the pupil's/student's learning.

Thanks to the generous support of our partners, including Christ Church, Parbold, EducAid has been working with the Ministry of Education in Sierra Leone to bring resources that best meet the challenges that schools, teachers, learners and parents face across the Port Loko District.

On 28th January, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Director of SQARM (also known as School Quality Assurance and Resources Manager) visited EducAid at the Rolal and Maronka Schools as part of the initiative to improve School Attendance. The focus was on schools in the Port Loko District which is an area in need of a great deal of support both in promoting pupil/student attendance and in improving the quality of teaching and learning.



The CEO/Director of SQARM was guided round by an EducAid Minister - more of the EducAid Ministers next time !!

Miriam, the Country Director for EducAid Sierra Leone has sent the following message –
Thank you all at Christ Church, Parbold for your ongoing support. We couldn't continue our work to make Sierra Leone, and the world, a better place through education without you.

Miriam Mason-Sesay, PhD Country Director, EducAid Sierra Leone

Further details of the work of EducAid in Sierra Leone are available from Pat Horn - patval@sky.com or 07941 577 436

And finally ... some very corny jokes!!

- Why is Adam considered the fastest person in the Bible? Answer: He came first in the human race.
Why did the unemployed person get excited while reading the Bible? Answer: They thought they saw a Job.
Why is Abraham considered the smartest person in the Bible? Answer: He knew a Lot.
Where was Solomon's temple located? Answer: On the side of his head.
What kind of man was Boaz before he married Ruth? Answer: Ruthless.
What type of lights did Noah have on the Ark? Answer: Floodlights.
What is a mathematician's favourite book of the Bible? Answer: Numbers.

