

**Advent** is a time of preparation and expectation as we remember Jesus' first coming to earth as the baby born to be King, and look forwards to his return to earth to finally establish his kingdom here.

As we move through Advent, use these verses from Philippians 2 to reflect on the coming of the Servant King, Jesus.

*You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honour and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.* NLT

## World Events

**Use the news as a source of prayer pointers. Pray for:**

- the UN-brokered peace talks involving key-players in the Syrian conflict.
- that the new government in Zimbabwe brings real change and the restoration of human rights.
- Rohingya refugees being repatriated to Myanmar and back into the danger from which they fled.
- the security situation in Egypt, where Christians and Muslims alike are living in fear of terrorist activity.

## Personal Renewal

**The end of a year is a time to take stock, reflect and begin to think about any changes you'd like to make in 2018.**

- What one thing would enhance your walk with God?
- What one thing would improve the quality of your family life?
- In which spiritual discipline do you most want to make progress?
- What is the single biggest time-waster in your life, and what will you do about it?
- For whose salvation will you pray most fervently this year?
- How would you like your frontline witness to develop in 2018?

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following the way of Jesus

loving God, one another  
and the world



December 2017



## Frontline Mission - Law & Civic Authority

My name is Angela. I've been part of this church for over 10 years, and was baptised in February 2017.



I have been a nurse all my adult life and took partial retirement in June this year.

In 2015 I was asked if I would like to become a Town Councillor. I have always been interested in local politics and care deeply what happens in the town and local community. I decided to stand for election and was elected onto the town council in May 2015.

As a town councillor, I believe my faith in God helps me to make the right decisions on behalf of the local community and to do the best for the town. There are a few of us on council who are Christians and it is good to be able to represent the Church in this important part of local life.

**Please pray for:**

- wisdom for the council as they make decisions on behalf of the town
- the local community and their welfare
- all those in TBC whose work involves shaping the culture of our society through political or legal work.

## Community Mission

God is at work and our Prison Ministry Team have been having some great times at Eastwood Park Prison. We have a nucleus of about 20 women known to us and although they don't all come at once, numbers are back up to around 10 or so at the **Monday afternoon Bible Studies.**

### Please pray:

- that The Holy Spirit will continue to draw women in to hear the Good News, anoint the bringing of His Word and guide our sessions.
- for God's wisdom as the women share their deep needs and pray with us.
- for protection against the enemy's strategies. Of late a number have shared about their experience of occult practices and Ouija.
- many we meet are sincerely seeking freedom from addiction, so please pray that God will bless and support them on that journey and set them "free indeed!"
- for those who support and mentor in the community when prisoners are released.
- that God will add to our team those who are called to this ministry and stir up prayer for the women in prison on our doorstep.

## Local/UK Mission Partners

Nik and Tiffany Strode, and their daughter Beth, live and work in Bransholme, one of the most deprived areas of Hull. They are involved in serving the local community and in leading a local church on the estate.

### Please pray:

- for Tiffany's Dad who is declining in health and needing increasing assistance; and for Tiffany trying to care for him from afar.
- for the team leading the programmes at the Pennine, especially following the resignation of the children's/pastoral worker
- praises as the church continues to grow slowly - young people, and their families, all new to church.
- for three ladies who were baptised recently. All are getting more involved and one is now leading the tots group!
- for more Christian workers - and youth workers here.
- for the Christmas community celebration on Sunday 10th December at 4pm. This always draws lots of non-Christians.
- pray for Becca, a young person who has become a Christian and is sharing parts of her harrowing story alongside the Nativity - please pray for her as it opens up her vulnerability in doing it.

## Mission Partners

Carol Connolly is a member of TBC now living and serving in eastern Bulgaria. She lives in a village near Dobrich, and her ministry includes supporting local Roma families, working alongside the church in Dobrich for prayer and outreach, hosting a retreat space at Shalom apartment, and building 'The Ark' community facility.

### Please pray for:

- completion of the Ark - particularly the water situation.
- my support for a Roma family - where kids still not attending school. Father not returned from Germany since he left early 2016.
  - ▶ One daughter on her fourth gypsy marriage at only 17 yrs old.
  - ▶ Court case for two girls' abuse still pending.
- future programmes / teams / conferences at the Ark.
- more people to make use of retreat space at Shalom apartment.

Use the weekly notice sheet and e-news to pray for **healing needs** in the church.

## Children & Youth

Ministering among children and youth is not all about smiles, craft, games, fidget spinners and innovative ways of sharing the love of God: it can be about being there in the mess of life.

### So please pray for:

- the mental well-being of our children and youth. The shorter days, colder weather and the slog of a long academic term can make December a challenging month.
- children and young people experiencing difficult home backgrounds, help us to help them find love, stability and safety.
- those who are struggling with their faith, who are not sure that Jesus is real or that God exists.
- those trapped in the spiral of drugs, help them to break free.

## Salvation

**We believe that Jesus is the Saviour of all people, and that all people need to be saved.**

### Pray for:

- friends who you might invite to one of our Advent or Christmas services.
- the impact of our Christmas services on guests who attend.
- a move of the Spirit amongst our many community contacts.