

## PERSONAL & CHURCH RENEWAL

Reaching out to God for a deeper awareness of his life in us

**As we enter Advent, use the words of this old hymn as a reflection and prayer, inviting Jesus to come into your heart afresh.**

*Lord, you left Your throne and Your kingly crown  
When You came here to earth for me;  
But in Bethlehem's home was there found no room for Your holy nativity.*

*Chorus:  
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus; there is room in my heart for Thee.*

*And You came, O Lord, as the living Word, that would set Your people free;  
But with mocking scorn and with crown of thorn, they led you to Calvary. (Chorus)*

*For my sin and shame, Heaven's King was slain,  
Crucified upon the Tree.  
Lord, You took my place, Your atoning grace was poured out at the cross for me. (Chorus)*

*When the heav'ns shall ring, and her choirs shall sing,  
At Your coming in victory,  
Let Your voice call me home, saying "Yet there is room, Come and stay here forever with me" (Chorus)*

### SALVATION

*Praying for those we long to see come to faith*

**Pray for those being invited to our Advent services or Christmas events. Pray that they would encounter God when they visit us.**

**Pray specifically for anyone that you would like to invite to one of the events.**

**Pray for opportunities to share the love of Jesus on your frontline this month.**

**Pray for 'frontline friends' to come to faith, and for the courage to share your faith with them.**

**Continue to pray for the many friends that we have made during 2016 in our outreach activities, especially Coffee Shop, Lunch Club, Foodbank, Community Week and our Youth Cafes**

### HEALING

*Seeking God's healing and wholeness for those with health problems*

**Pray for . . . Sarah Britten, Jean Cannon, Alison Collett, Noel Defraigne, Rosemary Howell, Ruth Hulse, Joan Jones' niece Carol, Natalia Kent, Marie Merrick, Len Steele, young Conan, and others who are suffering with ill health.**

**Pray for . . . all those known to us who have recently been bereaved.**

following the way of Jesus

loving God, one another  
and the world



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## DASHER IS A REINDEER'S NAME BY JEFF LUCAS

In the baubles and blur that is Christmas, we can so easily miss the point of it all, because Dasher has become our name, borrowed from the reindeer. It's been said that, on all gravestones, there is one thing shared, whatever the specific details of the deceased—that's the dash.

*John Smith, 9 April 1903-6 January 1893. 80 years or so. But there is still the dash.*

*Sarah Giles, 7 March 1960-24 May 1980. Just two decades. A quicker dash than most.*

Life is a dash, never more so than at Christmas.

In our fervent hunt for the right pair of socks for Uncle Sid or slippers for Aunt Vera we neglect to think about the fact that Christmas means wondrous international rescue by the God who refuses to just watch from a distance. Our world is not an abandoned planet spinning in lonely space. We are a visited people. Christ has come. Give yourself the luxurious gift of ten minutes to ponder that wonderful truth. Unpack it with gratitude.

### FRONTLINE MISSION

*This month: Law and Civic Authority*

*Each month we pray for an individual and for all those who share the same area of life and work. Their Frontline!*

Working as a family lawyer I see people at one of the most painful times in their lives as they experience the breakdown of their marriage or relationship. Sharing my faith directly with clients is difficult in a professional setting, particularly as clients are paying for my time, but as far as possible I try and encourage my clients to deal with issues in as non-confrontational a way as possible, often using mediation or a collaborative process rather than fighting cases through the courts.

I also pray for some of my clients where there is a particular need that has touched me and I have seen some intractable situations resolved.

I am fortunate to have a couple of Christian colleagues at my office and I hope that as well as being open about my involvement in church life I also show God's love in the way I behave to other staff particularly when work is very stressful.

**Please pray** for wisdom and guidance in my work and management responsibilities and for more opportunities to share my faith on a one to one basis .

*Alison Dukes*

connect

December

2016



## CHILDREN & YOUTH

*Helping to grow a faith that lasts*



*Please pray for*

- Our primary schools as the message of Christmas is proclaimed through nativity plays
- Mollie, Jesse and Nat following their baptism
- The increasing signs of spiritual engagement shown by those in Basement Café and Attic Café.
- Fun Factory on 22 December as this popular activity seeks to embed in young children the love of Jesus this Christmas

## NATIONAL & GLOBAL ISSUES

*Crying out to God for the deep needs of our nation and our world*

*Please pray*

- For Syria and all places where there is war and conflict
- For the fair treatment of refugees and asylum seekers
- For the USA as the country prepares for a new presidential term
- For the UK government dealing with the exit from the EU

## WORLD MISSION *This Month: The Ark, Bulgaria*

*Touching the world through praying for our wider mission links and for the persecuted Church*

**Carol Connolly is a TBC member who has been living in Bulgaria for just over 9 years. Based in a village near Varna she is involved in a number of ministries.**

*The Ark—a centre for rest, restoration and outreach—is based in Carol's back garden! Half completed, it has already brought much blessing to others - in time Carol would like the Ark to provide employment to men from the local homeless shelter and provide care and nursing for those with medical needs. Carol also supports the local Roma community in her village and in Varna ghetto*

**Carol's vision is for the Ark will be in line with God's will. She says: "it WILL be done in HIS time. I struggle with this waiting, but I have been on a journey of learning to TRUST in his perfect timing. After all, Noah took a while building his Ark!"**

**Carol is currently on Sabbatical in the UK.**

*She asks for prayer:*

- For protection over the work and buildings while Carol is away, and for rest and refreshment while on sabbatical, that God will provide all that is necessary for the coming season
- For protection over the children and their families especially against abuse and trafficking
- For her architect to complete the necessary papers for the Ark, and for the funds to complete it
- That God would raise others for the ministry, that the right Teams would come, and those needing "time out" would be able to do so.

## TBC MISSION *This month: Prison Ministry*

*Soaking our many outreach activities in prayer*

**We are a small team from TBC that serves as chaplaincy volunteers. Two members of the team go into Eastwood Park prison each Monday afternoon, to share Bible study with a group of women prisoners.**

*We have no set programme, but seek the Holy Spirit's leading on the words of Scripture, to take in. It is a great privilege to encourage those who have a faith, and to share with those who are seeking the Lord for the first time. It is also a great opportunity to share the love of Jesus with women who have reached a very low point in their lives, and to pray with them.*

**The women come from many different backgrounds and ethnic groups. We have to be adaptable to their needs and abilities. We are so grateful to God who has given us a great love for these women, and enables us to minister to them, through the power of his Holy Spirit.**

### **PRAYER NEEDS**

1. Please pray for us to be sensitive to the guidance of the Holy spirit.
2. Please pray for the Chaplains, who do an amazing job. Pray for strength and wisdom, as they encounter and deal with difficult situations.
3. Please pray for all prisoners who come into the chapel, that they encounter God's love and find peace.

*Thank you from: Shelagh Wicks, Pam Durrant, Mair Vaughan, Brenda Hucker and Isobel Burnham.*

## LOCAL & UK MISSION *This month: Nik & Tiff Strode*



**Nik and Tiff and their daughter Bethany live and work as missionaries on the North Bransholme Estate in Hull, one of the most deprived areas of the city. They are involved in living out their faith through a number of initiatives from a former pub, the Pennine Rambler, which is now a growing community hub and worship space.**

### **They give thanks:**

- For their loyal staff Kate and Iain: Iain works 20 hours a week as centre manager at the Pennine; for Bill & Joyce, in their 70s, who live above the Pennine. Bill acts as caretaker and Joyce is amazing at welcoming in people who struggle with day-to-day living. They both deliver food parcels and visit vulnerable people who come to the café.
- For a partnership with FareShare and Tesco to get surplus food and distribute it to support local families
- That their council youth work contract has been extended to June 2017, which allows some breathing space to organise further funding.

### **Please Pray:**

- For more youth and church staff at the Pennine. They have a part-time youth worker but need more volunteers
- For a community nativity service (in a new room with the chairs from TBC!) on 11th December—that people will encounter God
- For relief of tensions (They recently had to suspend a volunteer and there is anger from his family)
- For rest in the midst of a hectic life; and for good health