

Prayer Diary

February to March 2021



"Binding up the broken hearted and setting the captives free" Isaiah 61:1



Urban Outreach Bolton



@UrbanOutreachUK



urbanoutreachbolton



UrbanOutreachBolton

www.urbanoutreach.co.uk

Company No. 3019108

Monday 1st February

Dear friends as we begin this prayer diary we want to say a huge thank you for walking with us through each day, week, month and year. To have the prayer support undergirding all that we do is priceless and to know as you touch heaven for those we work with, together we see lives and situations changed here in Bolton. We are in this together so let us praise God together.

Please pray daily for: -

- **All Urban Outreach staff. For wisdom and protection in the many varied situations they find themselves.**
- **Our humanitarian response as we provide food, gas & electric to over 400 vulnerable and shielded people each week.**

Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd February

You may be aware that both Chris and Dave received MBE's in the Queens New Year's honours list. They see this honour belonging to everyone that works, supports and volunteers with us. We have seen and continue to see God doing amazing things in the town and during this difficult season of Covid. We have seen how the Kingdom of Heaven has impacted the town and drawn communities together. Please pray that we hang on to Him for the renewal and recovery of the Nation and pray that we will continue "To act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God".

Thursday 4th February

Please give thanks for a young couple. They are living in a private rented property and are having difficulties with anti-social behaviour. Praise God they will soon be moving into a Bolton At Home property. Here they will be safe and able to access the services they need to move forward with their lives.

Friday 5th February

Join us as we thank God for a breakthrough in the life of a man who has been sleeping rough for months. He is now engaging with Street Life where his serious medical and accommodation needs are now being addressed. Praise God!

Saturday 6th February

Please join us in thanking God for the teams that have adapted and continued to support vulnerable young people through this difficult time. It has come with a lot of challenges with a rise in mental health through lockdown and at times only being able to support young people via a phone call. We thank God for small victories and the continued support.

Sunday 7th February

We thank God for the opportunities that Urban Outreach has had to work alongside others to bring support and poverty relief to Bolton. We thank God for all who have got involved with the work that is continuing to make sure people do not go hungry.

<p>Monday 8th February Today let us pray thanks for the community coming together through one of the toughest times we have faced. For people donating and helping to support people in their time of need and for all of the services being able to support young people, adults and families through this time. We also pray thanks for the continued donations and support from the community and agencies.</p>	<p>Tuesday 9th February Praise God for the good relationship we have with the Council. We thank God for the many people who have been supported through the Food Hub and through this partnership. We continue to lift up this vital work and pray protection over the staff and volunteers that work to make the project happen.</p>	<p>Wednesday 10th February Join us in thanking God for everything that has been provided in order that we can support people with food. We are particularly thankful for the provision of buildings, equipment and food that all enables us to carry out this work.</p>
<p>Thursday 11th February We praise God for being the ultimate provider. As we continue to pray for those out of work, we thank God for this awesome provision in making it possible for the Urban Outreach team to continue showing God's love through this uncertain time.</p>	<p>Friday 12th February Please join us today in praising God for keeping a woman in her home. She was told she had to leave before Christmas and that there was no chance of appeal. After some negotiation and prayer she can now stay and the tenancy is now in her own name! God is good!!</p>	<p>Saturday 13th February We have really seen God's provision in Eve's Space in abundance this last year. So much so that we have started a good news board just for Eve's Space. We don't want to forget anything God has done, however small. We want to always be reminded of how powerful our God is. Praise God, He can move mountains!</p>
<p>Sunday 14th February Today we thank God for bringing beauty from what was a difficult year past. In Eve's Space we didn't see as many woman face to face however, we were able to pursue new avenues of engagement with the women we work with. We delivered two focused sessions online over zoom which the women really enjoyed.</p>	<p>Monday 15th February Together let us; "Give praise to the Lord, proclaim His name; make known among the nations what He has done. Sing to Him, sing praise to Him; tell of all His wonderful acts. Glory in His Holy Name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice." Psalms 105:1-3</p>	<p>Tuesday 16th February Today let us thank our Father for all the infinite ways that He loves us and provides for us. What an amazing God who, whatever the circumstances continues to set the captives free and change lives.</p>

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all Your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

<p>Wednesday 17th February Together let us meditate on Psalm 138:1-2. "I thank you, Lord, with all my heart; I sing praise to you before the gods. I face your holy Temple, bow down, and praise Your Name because of your constant love and faithfulness, because you have shown that your name and your commands are supreme."</p>	<p>Thursday 18th February "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord.' Isa 55:8-9. When we commit our lives to God, it is a beautiful step to freedom. His plan is infinitely better than ours and we can trust in Him. Please give thanks with us that we have a God who allows us to be part of His perfect plan.</p>	<p>Friday 19th February One of the most beautiful and simple hymns of praise is "I stand amazed in the presence (How Marvellous)". It is a wonderful capsule of God's love being poured out on mankind through His Son. As you go about your day in all the busyness, as we will ours, please join us in taking a quiet moment to praise Him.</p>
<p>Saturday 20th February It is amazing to read through the Psalms and see just how many times we are called to praise God for all He has done. Please join us in lifting up His name for all He is. He is worthy of all our praise! "Praise the Lord".</p>	<p>Sunday 21st February Let us thank God that he grants us rest. That when chaos is around we are able to find shelter and peace within His love. Please pray that today will be a day of genuine rest for all the staff and volunteers at Urban Outreach.</p>	<p>Monday 22nd February Let us thank God for the many opportunities that arise throughout each day to be salt and light. Although darkness can seem so very dark, light always overcomes. Pray for the staff and volunteers that God's love shines through them in every situation.</p>
<p>Tuesday 23rd February Please thank God that He is good. When all seems lost and bad we can hold onto steadfast truths. God is good and His love endures forever. Amen.</p>	<p>Wednesday 24th February Please give thanks for two people who have been working with Support First and have successfully completed rehab. Please continue to pray for them now as they build back up a new normal and that God would heal their spirits too.</p>	<p>Thursday 25th February Praise God for a gentleman working with Support First. God has worked a miracle and taken someone who was so physically and mentally unwell with an addiction and healed them in two days. Please pray this healing would be long term and that he would come to know the God who healed him.</p>

"...let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith..." (Hebrews 12:1-2)

<p>Friday 26th February</p> <p>Praise God for the provision of a home for a single mum and 4 children. We asked God to provide a house within 2 months and He did just that. They are now in and settled and very happy to have a home that meets all their needs and space for the children to play. He is such a bountiful God.</p>	<p>Saturday 27th February</p> <p>Please thank God for those people who cheerfully and sacrificially give to the ministry of Urban Outreach. We pray that as they have given, they too will receive God's love, grace and provision.</p>	<p>Sunday 28th February</p> <p>Please thank God that He is with us in this time of change and chaos. Ask Him to whisper His words of comfort, encouragement and hope to all we know who are fearful and that He will draw close to those who are sick and all those who risk illness. Pray that He will care for them, protect and uplift them.</p>
<p>Monday 1st March</p> <p>Lamentations 3:22-23 says, "...His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is His faithfulness."</p> <p>For over 30 years we can testify to God's great love, compassion and faithfulness. Today let us give Him the praise and the glory as we not only look back but look forward to the 'new thing; God is planning and preparing us for!</p>	<p>Tuesday 2nd March</p> <p>Over the past few months we have sadly said goodbye to Steph, Emma, Simone and Tina. Please join us as we thank God for them; for their faithfulness and the contribution they have made to the life and ministry of Urban Outreach. Please pray for them, as they step into their new "God adventures." Amen.</p>	<p>Wednesday 3rd March</p> <p>Spring is a time of renewal. Let us pray today for each one of the Urban Outreach staff to be renewed in body, mind and spirit as they remember Jesus' words... "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you." (John 15:9).</p>
<p>Thursday 4th March</p> <p>Today let us thank God for the amazing responses to the Christmas hampers and the positive impact they had on so many families. Please continue to bring those in need to our service so we can bring God's love to them also.</p>	<p>Friday 5th March</p> <p>Please join us in thanking God for all the young people we support. We pray that they will keep making good choices and have peace during this time of uncertainty.</p>	<p>Saturday 6th March</p> <p>Praising God for His continued protection over our young people and families. Please pray for their continued safety and that they see God's light and hope in 2021.</p>

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14)

<p>Sunday 7th March</p> <p>Let us thank God for all those who have stood with us in prayer over the last 30 years. We have seen amazing answers to prayer over the years and continue to see God's blessing in all that we do.</p>	<p>Monday 8th March</p> <p>Lord we give thanks for the relationships with all the local churches, businesses, organisations, groups and individuals who bless and support Urban Outreach, the staff, clients and guests.</p>	<p>Tuesday 9th March</p> <p>Please join us in thanking God that He makes a way when we can't see one. He opens doors when they are closed. He is a voice when we are speechless. Nothing can defeat Him. God is always on our side. Praise him for the ways Urban Outreach has witnessed this in recent months.</p>
<p>Wednesday 10th March</p> <p>We thank God for His amazing power and work in our lives, and for His goodness and blessings over us. Let us thank Him that He is able to bring hope through even the toughest of times, strengthening us for His purposes especially through this pandemic.</p>	<p>Thursday 11th March</p> <p>"It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High, proclaiming your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night" (Ps.92). Please thank God for His ongoing provision and protection of the young people who are known to RUNA who go missing and are often out overnight but return safely.</p>	<p>Friday 12th March</p> <p>"But you, Lord, are forever exalted" (Ps.92). Thank God for coming into a young person's life and making positive changes. She is now going to school after being a school refuser, has been given a bible by Urban Outreach and is attending church regularly. She engages well with the RUNA team and is much more hopeful about the future.</p>
<p>Saturday 13th March</p> <p>"For You make me glad by your deeds, Lord; I sing for joy at what your hands have done" (Ps.92). Over the past few months, RUNA has seen God at work in the detail of everyday life. Praise Him for these encouragements to the team – good conversations with young people, a restored relationship at home and a more settled placement.</p>	<p>Sunday 14th March</p> <p>Join us in thanking God for the ongoing provision for vulnerable young people in schools and pupil referral units. Praise Him that quite a few RUNA young people are attending provision regularly and are therefore visible to professionals which promotes safety and has them engaging in education and a positive daily routine.</p>	<p>Monday 15th March</p> <p>"Perfect love casts out all fear" (1 John 4:18). Today let us focus on thanking our Heavenly Father for this amazing love and that in the midst of the unknown we can find strength and hope in this scripture.</p>

"...those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." (Isaiah 40:31)

<p>Tuesday 16th March</p> <p>“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me. Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.” Psalm 23:4</p> <p>Let us thank Jesus that our hope and confidence come through Him and that there is nowhere where God’s presence isn’t.</p>	<p>Wednesday 17th March</p> <p>Pray for our weekly full team meeting which takes place this afternoon. Give thanks that we can still come together in person and via zoom to share stories and news and to pray for those we are working with. Thank God for His continuing guidance and blessing on the work we are doing across Bolton.</p>	<p>Thursday 18th March</p> <p>Thank God for the wonderful partnership we enjoy with supermarkets and food manufacturers - for their generosity in supporting our daily collections. Pray that as we continue to engage with households in need of food, we will also help them satisfy a greater hunger - for Jesus “has come that they may have life, and have it to the full”. (John 10:10)</p>
<p>Friday 19th March</p> <p>As we seek to distribute more food amongst those who need it most in these Covid19 times, we give thanks for the way God has inspired so many to step forward and help. Give thanks for every small opportunity to spread God’s love far and wide, “Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” (Luke 10:2)</p>	<p>Saturday 20th March</p> <p>Please get excited with us as we watch a miracle happen before our very eyes! A woman who is now drug and alcohol free, having given birth and fallen in love with her baby and prayed, is now waiting for baby to come home to “mummy”. Praise God.</p>	<p>Sunday 21st March</p> <p>John 3:16. Praise God today for another life saved! Once in the depths of drug misuse and working in dangerous conditions, this woman is now free having given her life to Christ and moved into a safe place to live.</p>
<p>Monday 22nd March</p> <p>How God changes lives and opens doors of opportunity is incredible! We praise Him today for one such life, that of a woman who faced death and is now alcohol free, has her own tenancy and is enjoying her new found life in God.</p>	<p>Tuesday 23rd March</p> <p>Praise God that we have seen a number of those we support go to detox and rehab centres and do so well. It is often a time of struggle initially when they enter the centres, but with a covering of prayer over their lives we have seen good fruit!</p>	<p>Wednesday 24th March</p> <p>We are so privileged to have been able to pray for and with a number of people over the year and see God at work, from turning a mother’s life around so that she can be with her new born baby, to seeing a man addicted to alcohol stop drinking, start working and being reconciled to his family.</p>

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

<p>Thursday 25th March</p> <p>We give thanks for the people and charities who have supported adults and families to access activities during the pandemic. Thank you to those God has used in this way and many other ways to bless others.</p>	<p>Friday 26th March</p> <p>Give thanks today for teachers and other school staff who are working hard to keep children safe and helping to educate them. Thank God for our school system, and pray for continued blessing for those working there. Give thanks also for those foster carers and social workers who are looking after children.</p>	<p>Saturday 27th March</p> <p>Please give thanks today for those children who are in difficult circumstances but this year have made progress in their lives, with relationships and regarding other issues. Please pray for continued progress and thank the Lord for both professionals and volunteers who are working to make children’s lives better.</p>
<p>Sunday 28th March</p> <p>Please give thanks for a young couple who have turned their lives around. Now with a young child and a new life with Jesus their life that was a mess is now a real message of Hope. Praise God!</p>	<p>Monday 29th March</p> <p>Thank the Lord for a young woman who completely turned her life around. Going from a life of prison and drugs, she has now got a lovely healthy baby, a very supportive partner, and a new house.</p>	<p>Tuesday 30th March</p> <p>Isaiah 61:3 “...to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes...and a garment of praise instead of a Spirit of despair”. We “shout out” our praise to God who out of a woman’s despair is bringing rays of hope as she finally agreed to go into rehab this month. Please pray all goes well.</p>
<p>Wednesday 31st March</p> <p>Every Wednesday there is a meeting that looks at the Humanitarian issues facing the town including poverty and issues facing communities. Let us thank God for this fantastic expression of partnership and our involvement and contribution. Through this group we are able to look at individual situations but also global issues like free school meals and the implication of poverty across the Borough. Please continue to pray for the relationships and partnerships within this group that they will always be forward looking and responsive.</p>		

“I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High.” (Psalm 9:1-2)