

SEPT - DEC 2025

# [PRAYER] *Diary*]



**CHURCH  
URBAN  
FUND** ⊕



## FROM INSIGHT TO IMPACT: WEBINARS THIS AUTUMN

Our popular webinars are a place to be inspired and challenged, to learn and grow, and get equipped to make a positive difference.

This autumn we have an exciting range of topics:

**24 September: People of Power:** An introduction to faith-filled community organising

**21 October: Project Essentials:** Top tips for planning, funding and evaluating your community project

**18 November: Stories for Change:** The power of stories to help us listen to our neighbours and see our communities differently

**Sign up to attend one or more of our webinars this autumn: [cuf.org.uk/events](https://cuf.org.uk/events)**



## Many gifts, one mission

Much of the content for this edition of the prayer diary has been written by members of the CUF team. You can meet some of them in the December section where they share their prayers for hope, joy, love and peace. We are grateful for the skills, experience and commitment that they bring to the work that we do.

The bible is clear that we all have something of value to contribute and a role to play, so that together we can serve others and build up community. Throughout this edition of the prayer diary we celebrate the gifts, skills, knowledge and passion of the many people who serve their community and challenge injustice.

We hope you find the content of this prayer diary helpful and inspiring. You could set aside a day each month to pray for our work and the communities we serve, focus on one prayer suggestion a week, or find your own way of fitting the prayer diary into your regular pattern of prayer.

Thank you for praying with us.



# September

## Everyone's invited

The expression 'to break bread together' carries several powerful meanings. It can be a symbol of acceptance and friendship, a gesture of peace and reconciliation, and, for Christians, the sacrament of Holy Communion, which unites us with Christ and with one another.

At the centre of all these meanings is a radical message: everyone is welcome. No one is excluded. All are invited to the table - to be strengthened, known, valued, and loved. CUF supports churches, faith groups, and communities to live out this message by building relationships, offering hospitality, overcoming differences, and loving their neighbours.



“

James wanted to “put something back” after receiving support to overcome addiction. He started Curry On The Street in Nelson, a Place of Welcome which now feeds and supports hundreds of people each year.

They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people.

**Acts 2:46-47**

## Prayer suggestions:

- Pray for James and the team at Curry on the Street in Nelson as they feed and support people facing adversity and vulnerability. Give thanks for the local partnerships they are establishing that are providing health and mental health services.
- CUF's sister charity, Near Neighbours, hosts regular Big Conversations that bring people together to talk about local issues and to build connections. Pray that these opportunities would be safe spaces that help build community across differences, and result in shared action on issues that matter.
- Tonbridge Road Methodist Church have set up an after school club for local young people. Thank God for the volunteers who provide a welcoming, safe and creative space each week.

**What does the expression, 'to break bread together' mean for you? Reflect on how you can extend friendship, foster peace and serve others this month...**

## Faith in the city

CUF CEO, Rt Revd Rob Wickham reflects on the 40th anniversary of the publication of the Archbishop's Commission report, Faith in the City:

"The report reshaped the Church's understanding of poverty, challenging both the Church and government on the structures that enabled poverty to flourish. Commissioners dared to listen to those who lived in poverty across the country, and these experiences shaped the recommendations, of which the creation of Church Urban Fund was a small part.

This report ignited imagination, channelled energy, stirred up deep-rooted passion and brought collaboration across the Church in parishes, dioceses and businesses to raise funds towards projects in urban priority areas. This task continues today, in an England that still experiences vast inequality, and where, in some places, over 50% of children grow up in poverty. The mission continues, and you are invited to be part of this mission."



## Prayer suggestions:

Dr Alan Billings was involved in the work on the Faith in the City report 40 years ago and shares his prayers:

- Give thanks for the vision and commitment of Archbishop Robert Runcie and those who worked tirelessly over two years to visit the urban priority areas and compile the Faith in the City report. Give thanks for the many projects that were funded and the volunteers who supported them.
- Pray for those who continue to work in urban ministry. Pray that the original vision of Faith in the City may be rekindled in them and the wider church may support them as they seek to transform unjust structures and share God's compassion.
- The populations of urban areas are ethnically and religiously more diverse than 40 years ago and this can lead to people living parallel lives. Pray for those Christians who seek to engage with those of other faiths and cultures on a continuing basis. Pray for all those who work to bring communities together.

They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

**Isaiah 61. 4**

**Use this space to add your own prayers or reflections, focusing on the places and people who need to experience God's love and transformation...**

# November

## Treasure in your community

Our work is based on the foundation of a faith that sees God at work in our communities, however beleaguered we feel, and however hard things might be. Our faith is that God is there with us, in all that is good. Our role is to find what God is doing and join in.

Looking for God at work among us, and seeking the gifts that God has already given to us in our communities but that we may not immediately see, are the principles of Asset Based Community Development (ABCD)<sup>1</sup>. It is to look for abundance and generosity and gifts among us, not to focus on needs and deficits. This is the treasure among us.

## Prayer suggestions:

- Thank God for a hidden hero in our community who quietly and faithfully is doing God's will among us; and give thanks for those who have nurtured our own faith.
- Pray that we may have eyes of faith to see God at work, trust in His promises, and build our lives on the solid foundation of Jesus, whatever we face
- Following the Growing Good course, Tonbridge Road Methodist church got involved with a regular community litter pick which has opened up new connections. Thank God for all the small, often hidden, acts of service and kindness that make a difference.

1. CUF has a new resource to help individuals and churches explore this:  
[cuf.org.uk/resources/abcd-guide](http://cuf.org.uk/resources/abcd-guide)



**“** We wanted the church to become more visible in the community to share God's love. Joining in with the litter pick has been a real step towards increased presence and visibility.

**Revd Naomi Oates**

This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. ... As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.

**Mark 4:26-29**

**Use this space to add your own prayers or reflections on where you see God at work in your community...**



# December

## Advent presence

Advent reminds us that we are not alone. The coming of Christ brings hope - the promise that God is near. His presence offers peace that calms our fears, and joy that lifts our hearts. Through community, we reflect His love, creating spaces where people are known, valued, and welcomed.

We asked members of our team to share their Advent prayers for the projects we support and for our communities.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**John 1 :14**



“

**Catherine Morgan Hickey, Partnerships Manager:**

Organisations in CUF's Together Network are working around the country, building hope in the communities they and their local partners work in through many different projects and initiatives.

Please pray that discovering hope will be a turning point in many lives. May each person supported find renewed purpose, healing, and the confidence to build a brighter future for themselves and those around them.

“

**Ifeoma Uzoka, Fundraising Supporter Development Coordinator:**

John's story was transformed through Lighthouse, a mentoring scheme supported by CUF that walks alongside people facing homelessness, helping them rebuild their lives.

Let us pray that more services like Lighthouse can reach those who need them most. And may each person be met with God's peace, which transcends all understanding, to guard their hearts and my minds in Christ Jesus.

“

**Jose Santos, Communications Officer:**

As we move through Advent, we give thanks for the glimpses of joy and light that shine through community life. Thank God for moments of laughter shared, burdens lifted, and connections made across difference.

Near Neighbours works to build relationships in local areas, helping people of different cultures, races and ages come together in practical and meaningful ways. Pray that this work continues to bring joy and healing, especially where there has been division or disconnection.

“

**Jo Holland, Places of Welcome Manager:**

God is love, and at our Places of

Welcome we try to follow His lead by showing love and friendship to everyone who enters, regardless of faith or circumstance.

At this special time of year we give thanks to God as we celebrate His greatest gift of love through the birth of his only son, Jesus Christ. And we pray that all those who come through the doors of any of our Places of Welcome will find genuine warmth and kindness and a true message of hope, belonging and above all, love.

For we are what he has made  
us, created in Christ Jesus for  
good works, which God prepared  
beforehand to be our way of life.

**Ephesians 2:10**

# CHURCH URBAN FUND<sup>+</sup>

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