



# CHRIST CHURCH DOUGLAS-IN-PARBOLD CHRISTMAS 2017 PRAYER NEWSLETTER



## ENCOURAGEMENT

### 'Arise'

'Arise, shine; for your light has come' *Isaiah 60:1*

These words from Isaiah are very familiar, we've heard them many times but it's time now to move.

Time to **arise**, to get up, to move from sleepiness and darkness. We can easily accept how things are, get stuck in our own thoughts and expectations for years, not really thinking that things will change even when we pray.



But it's time now to **arise**. It's God's time. "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." *Ephesians 5:14*.

**Arise** and **shine** like stars in a dark world (*Philippians 2:15*).

Shine, have no fear, because 'the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world' *1 John 4:4*

Do we arise because we're super-spiritual. stirring ourselves up towards a New Year's resolution?

- No, we simply arise in response to what He has already done, in response to a Saviour who has come into our dark world, Emmanuel God with us. He is here.

'Arise, shine; **for** your light **has** come', Jesus the light of the world has come.

This Christmas time as we come to pray, let's believe again and very simply 'Arise'.

Sue

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

- **Carol Service 6.00pm this Sunday 17th December**
- **Christingle Service and Nativity - Christmas Eve 6pm** A service for all the family, everyone welcome.
- **Christmas Eve Midnight Communion - 11pm** at All Saints Church. All welcome.
- **Christmas Day at Christ Church 10.30am. Joint Service with All Saints.** Bring along your relatives and friends to this Family Communion Service. Also, it's a tradition at Christ Church for everyone (young and not-so-young) to bring one of their (unopened) Christmas presents to unwrap during the service - don't forget
- **New Year's Eve Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December 10.30am.** Joint Communion service to be held at All Saints, Appley Bridge. **PLEASE NOTE THE LATER TIME AND THAT THERE WILL BE NO SERVICE AT CHRISTCHURCH.**



## **PARTY TIME !**

**New Year's Eve** there will be a party at 327 Preston Road, Standish, if you haven't had a better offer then please come, all are welcome. Any time from 6pm probably have supper about 9 pm.



## **PARISH TELEPHONE PRAYER CHAIN.**

- a) 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.
- b) 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



## **JUST A THOUGHT!**

You do know what would have happened if it had been three wise **WOMEN** instead of men, don't you? They would have asked for directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and brought disposable nappies as gifts!

## **CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM ANDREW FANSTONE IN BRAZIL**

**But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great Joy that will be for all people." Luke 2v10**

Because there is such good news, that a saviour is born to rescue us, we must take it to all people throughout all the world and hence this can sum up the reason I guess we are in Brazil; to tell all people this good news of great joy!



We do love being here in Brazil but it is often hard especially at Christmas time to be away from family and friends. Recently I was back in England to visit my elderly father who continues to suffer with his health and this year my brother John will be back home in the UK visiting from Australia with his family for Christmas. He was diagnosed with leukaemia a few years ago and so I would appreciate prayers for my whole family at this time.

Here in Brazil we have a busy couple of weeks ahead of us with many events planned. We will put on a big Christmas banquet on the streets of the slums, run children's Christmas parties and also have a Christmas afternoon tea for the ladies involved in prostitution that we work with. Please do pray for us as we run these events that they will be full of great joy and the good news of this season can be shared clearly.

Happy Christmas and a Very Blessed New Year!

Lots of Love Andrew, Claudia, Jessica, Keziah and Noah.

## **EDUCAID**

Christmas Greetings to all at Christ Church Douglas-in-Parbold from everyone at EducAid. We at EducAid wish to thank everyone at Christ Church Douglas-in-Parbold for the continued support you provide to us. EducAid continues to provide total care to many pupils and students; that is accommodation, food, clothing, medical facilities (basic though they are, they are better than for many of the population of Sierra Leone) and education, whilst providing food and education to very many others



The past year has been difficult for EducAid, and others, in Sierra Leone. The heavy rains, allied to poor land management, resulted in mud slides that devastated whole communities and took many lives whilst taking everything that some survivors had, albeit that was very little. In addition, whilst the costs of providing the care and education continues to rise, it is increasingly difficult to raise the funds to support the work of EducAid.

Next year let us reflect on the name of the capital of Sierra Leone - Freetown - and work towards all of the population being truly free, whilst remembering that to be truly free people have to be informed and the education provided by EducAid, supported by contributions, makes a significant contribution to the education of the population of Sierra Leone.

We hope that all the members, and congregation, at Christ Church Douglas-in-Parbold have a Very Happy Christmas, as we all reflect on the true meaning rather than the commercial aspects, and a Peaceful, Contented and Healthy 2018.

*Very Best Wishes from us all in Sierra Leone, Miriam Mason-Sesay, EducAid Country Director*

## **THE MESSAGE TRUST**

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for having me to speak back in September. It was great to share about the work of the Message Trust and to thank you in person for supporting me in my role. I thought I'd send through an update on the Higher Tour that took place in Manchester last month and ask you to pray for the next tour in 2018.

**Higher Tour Manchester** Part of my role over the past year has been to organise the Higher Tour across Greater Manchester – a three week schools' mission to high schools and gospel-centred gigs linking young people to local churches. During the tour, 6 mission teams visited 28 schools across the region and we were in front of around 13,500 young people. The gospel was shared with over 1300 young people at the Higher gigs and we saw more than 500 choose to follow Jesus. It was an amazing few weeks – please pray for all the young people we saw through Higher Manchester, especially those that responded to the Gospel and who are now beginning their journey of faith. Pray particularly for the local churches which are running follow up courses and discipleship programmes.



**Higher Tour Midlands** We're now in the final preparations for the Higher Tour in the Midlands which starts in February. We're aiming to be in 75 schools and to reach thousands of young people across 6 Higher gigs. Please pray for the schools' bookings over the coming weeks and for the partner churches who are gearing up to run follow up courses.

*Judith Townsley*

## MERCY RESCUE TRUST

Thank you for your generosity in giving to the Harvest Appeal, it seems so far away now. Just this week I have received the good news that the staff house has been completed and Eva and her family are all settled in. They are loving having the extra space and additional bedroom.

From the Trustees

This Christmas as you celebrate the birth of Jesus in what were far from perfect circumstances, we ask that you take a little time to think about the babies and children of Mercy Rescue Trust who also found themselves entering this world into tragic and challenging circumstances.

On this 10th anniversary year of Mercy Rescue Trust, we want to offer you the biggest possible thank you for your love, prayers and support for our ongoing work in Kitale, Kenya 2018 has so much in store as we continue to invest in our permanent home at Meru Farm. We look out into the community as we establish an onsite pre-school, employ a 2nd social worker and grow the home based care programme for families that can't afford to adopt without school fee support.

As a supporter of Mercy Rescue Trust, you one part of a small team and we ask that this Christmas you have one conversation about Mercy Rescue, share one Newsletter, share the website with one friend, or say one prayer to see if we can grow our as we grow the work of the Mercy Rescue Trust.

Thank you and have a very Happy Christmas. [mercyrescue.co.uk](http://mercyrescue.co.uk)



Eva's House

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for all the services over the Christmas period here and at All Saints that there will be a sense of the Joy and Wonder of Immanuel -God With Us
- Please pray for all the elderly and infirm who find travelling difficult in the winter months. And perhaps we can all make sure that no-one is forgotten or lonely in all the busy rushing around and preparations of the Christmas holiday season.
- Pray for all our links both here and throughout the world – Embrace, Mercy Rescue Trust, Iris Fortaleza, EducAid, The Oaks in Skem, The Message Trust, Tearfund, Parbold Academy and Douglas Valley Outreach. Give thanks for all the wonderful work they do in so many different areas.



## EMBRACE THE MIDDLE EAST

We thank all at Christ Church for your generous gift of £1000 which we will use where the need is most urgent. Your donations change people's lives.



One of these people is Amal. She is 65 and has been living in Beirut after fleeing Iraq 18 months ago. Amal has diabetes, hypertension and high cholesterol and has to buy all her medicines which can be very expensive. Her husband is too old to get a job and suffers from a heart condition which means they were finding it impossible to get by and stay healthy. But, because of your support, she and her husband now receive medication, care and support from the Karagheusian Medical Centre, "If the Centre wasn't here I don't know what we would do. God helps us through the Centre and I just really want to thank you." Says Amal.

We would like to add our thanks to Amal's. Your generosity can be a life saver. Thank you for everything you do to support people like Amal and to encourage a Christian presence in the Middle East.

