

JANUARY - MARCH 2024



PRAYER CALENDAR

Dear friends,

'...all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.' Colossians 1:16b - 17

By far the saddest part of the end of the Christmas holidays and the start of the new year is that carols are no longer belted out in our churches. I don't know about you, but I find them to be some of the most theologically rich worship songs. There's one lyric from the classic 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' that really sticks with me – 'The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.'

For some, New Year is a time overflowing with hope and excitement, bringing with it fresh starts and new opportunities. For some they enter the year riddled with fear and anxiety: 'will it be more of the same?' The reality is that hope and fear come to all of us without discrimination. To be human is to fear and to hope.

But here is the beautiful truth that 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' reminds us of: all our hopes and all our fears are met in the person of Jesus. The human longing and hope for a world without suffering, where death and darkness no longer rule, is met in Jesus. The fear of loneliness and rejection, the fear of the storms of life or the very real fear that our needs won't be met – all of them find their answer in the gift of salvation that Jesus gives to those who receive him.



When we place him at the centre and keep him as our focus, we will find that, no matter what this year has for us, all our needs will be met in him.

Please pray for us this year as we proclaim the hope of the gospel to those in prisons, in our groceries, on our estates and in schools. Pray they would place their trust in Jesus and find all their hopes and fears met in him, who is before all things and in whom all things hold together.

God bless,

Aaron Routledge
London Hub Leader



JANUARY PRAYER POINTS



1

Happy New Year from all of us here at The Message! Today we're starting the year by thanking God for all he did in 2023 and for all he'll do in 2024.

2

Thank God for those who responded to the gospel at outreach events the **Community Groceries** held over Christmas. Pray they'll go from strength to strength in their faith as they discover more about Jesus.

3

A group of missionaries from Norway are visiting **Neal Street Espresso** as part of their training and to be inspired by our enterprise work. Pray they'd be blessed by our team and leave with a new passion for supporting prison leavers.

4

Lift up **The Oaks** residents in South Africa as they're disciplined in their faith, develop new skills, and turn their lives around with Jesus.

5

We need to keep the shelves of **Ilford Community Grocery** stocked. Do be praying that God would open doors for more partnerships with food suppliers that will help us as demand continues to increase.

6

Our work doesn't stop at the prison gates. Pray for our **prisons** team as they help people through the resettlement process and get them plugged into local churches in London.

7

Thank God for all our amazing **volunteers** in London. Pray they'll be blessed as they give up their time to help make mission happen. You can get involved too at message.org.uk/volunteer

8

Pray for Daniel, our **Message Brazil** hub leader. Thank God for the doors he's opening into schools, and be praying for more opportunities to take gospel-packed music and lessons to young people.

9

We love seeing young people across London leading **Christian Unions** in their schools. Pray they'd be bold in sharing their faith with their mates this term.

10

This month, we're launching **Advance Youth** in The Netherlands. Pray many young people would be excited to come along and get trained to share the good news of Jesus with their friends and community in Haarlem.

11

Eden Farnworth (Bolton) are partnering with the local church to set up a coffee morning to run alongside their food bank. Pray this would be a great way to connect with the community.

12

This term, our **Message School of Evangelism** (MSE) students are out on placements with Eden teams, churches and communities. Pray they'd be able to share Jesus boldly in word and action.

13

Luiz is currently in America sharing about the work of **Advance** in prisons. Pray we'd see many prisoners coming to know Jesus, getting excited about evangelism and wanting to start Advance Groups in their prison!

14

Pray for **nghtnday**, our creative mission team in Germany, as they go into schools sharing lessons on identity, hope and purpose. Pray God would give them wisdom and that students engage with what they hear.

15

Lift up The Message's staff and volunteers as they gather for the monthly **Prayer and Vision Day**. Pray they'd be encouraged and spurred on by all that God is doing.

16

Pray that our new London **prisons** worker would settle in well and start building great relationships with those living and working in prison.

17

Our **No More Knives** tour is back in Blackpool this week. As young people are equipped to say 'no' to knives and invited to an evangelistic gig, pray lives would be changed by Jesus.

18

Pray that customers coming to **Neal Street Espresso** would experience the love and hope of God as they chat to our team members.

19

Message Germany are gathering together for a night of prayer and worship crying out to God for the young people of Erzgebirge. Pray it would be a powerful time where they see God do incredible things.

20

Thank God for each of the young people who are part of **Advance Youth** in London. Pray that as they learn how to tell people about Jesus, they'll be filled with boldness to put what they hear into action.

21

As our **Ilford Community Grocery** members shop in the store and get the affordable food they desperately need to feed their families, pray they also find the life-changing hope Jesus offers them.

22

Thank God for our amazing **supporters** who help keep our work going! Could you stand with us financially? Visit message.org.uk/donate

23

We'd love to take our truth-filled **Respect ME** lessons to more schools across London. Please pray that God would help us build relationships with teachers across the city to make this happen.

24

Pray that as our **enterprise team members** here in London are disciplined and trained, they'd grow in their faith and find their full value in God.

25

Our **Respect ME** team are out delivering lessons to Year 11 students that will help them identify and challenge abusive behaviour. Pray the young people would engage well and learn about their identity in Jesus.

26

Tonight, **Message Wales** are running another Youth Nights event. Pray that each young person there will be grow in their faith as they seek after God.

27

Today is **Global Advance Day**. As thousands of people around the world gather for the first time in new Advance groups, pray each of them is refreshed in their faith and equipped in evangelism.

28

Lift up our **prisons** team as they run chapel services today. Pray many would come along, be impacted by Jesus' love for them and respond to the gospel.

29

Andy Hawthorne and Sam Ward are visiting our **Community Grocery** church partners across the North East today. As people hear about all God is doing through our stores, pray they're encouraged.

30

Thank God for Georgia who's heading up **Street Pastors** in Cardiff. Pray that as she and the team go out into the city centre sharing Jesus' love in action, they'd have great conversations with those they meet.

31

Pray many young people would come to know Jesus on board the **Message Bus** as the team share the gospel with them.





FEBRUARY PRAYER POINTS



1

Eden Gurnell Grove (London) are running a kids' club on their estate. Pray that as families come along, they'd experience Jesus' love and want to find out more about him.

2

Thank God for all the lives being transformed through **Ilford Community Grocery** in London as members and their families have come in store for their shopping and found Jesus.

3

Advance groups are now training evangelists in 93 countries around the world! Thank God for how he's expanding the work of Advance and equipping thousands of people to share his good news.

4

Pray for our **community hub** teams in Parkwood and Nyanga (South Africa) as they continue discipling and supporting young people through sports, creative arts and maths tutoring.

5

We start a **No More Knives** tour in schools in Enfield (London) today. Please pray for the team, that the message of peace is communicated well, and that lives are changed this week.

6

Today, team member Darren is celebrating a whole year working at **Neal Street Espresso**! Pray he'll continue to grow in his faith as he works with us.

7

Praise God for the community outreach events happening in our new **Woodseats** building in Sheffield. Pray the building would become a hub where people can find out more about God.

8

Tonight is our **Message Business Network** (MBN) dinner. As people hear about all that God's been doing, pray they're encouraged and inspired to stand with our work.

9

It's our end-of-tour **No More Knives** gig in London tonight. Pray that as young people come to hear more music from the bands they've seen in school, they'd listen to the gospel message and respond to it.

10

Our **Advance Youth** in East London are holding a discipleship dinner to inspire young people with what it looks like to live a life on mission. Please pray many come along and feel God speaking to them.

11

The **prisons team** are running Bible studies and the4points courses in prisons across London. As they do this, pray they'd have great gospel-filled conversations about the forgiveness and love Jesus offers.

12

We'd love to launch an **Eden** team in The Netherlands. Pray we'd find the right people to join us as we do this.

13

Thank God for the young people going along to Youth Alpha being run by **Eden Top Valley** (Nottingham). Pray that as they learn more about what Jesus did for them on the cross, they'd grow in faith.

14

We now have 26 **Advance Ambassadors** working across Africa! Pray God would open doors for each of them to partner with new churches to launch groups that will equip people in their evangelism.

15

Message Germany are running Hope Camp in partnership with local churches. As young people get involved in the dance and music production sessions, pray they'd learn more about their worth and identity in Jesus too.

16

We've just started to work in a new **prison**! Please pray for good relationships with the governor and chaplaincy, and that relationships with the men in the prison would be built quickly.

PROXIMITY: THE URBAN MISSION CONFERENCE

FRIDAY 14 - SATURDAY 15 JUNE 2024

Be refreshed and equipped for urban mission at Proximity Conference 2024 through powerful teaching and worship.

17

A **LIFT** evangelistic gig is happening in Manchester tonight! Please pray that many young people would step out and invite their non-Christian friends along for a fun night of music and getting to hear the gospel.

18

Message South Africa is 10! Thank God for all he's done and the lives he's changed over a decade of mission. Be praying for the team as they look to take mission to the next level.

19

Pray for our team members at **Neal Street Espresso** as they meet for their weekly Bible study today. Pray God would continue to move in their lives as they grow in faith.

20

Our **Genetik Sessions Winter School** starts today. Packed with drums, dance, music and production workshops, pray young people would have a great time but also say 'yes' to Jesus.

21

Thank God for our church partners who're passionate about taking the **Message Bus** to more young people in the North East. Pray that as young people step on board, they'd be excited to hear more about God.

22

Pray that God would protect our **Community Grocery** distribution drivers and keep them safe as they travel to stores making deliveries.

23

Thank God for the three people **Eden Ragworth** (Stockton) have been getting to know who came to church, responded to the gospel and are getting baptised!

24

As our **Advance Youth** press into prayer and worship and learn more about sharing their faith with their mates, pray they'd be emboldened by God.

25

We're hiring! Pray we'd find the right people to join our teams as we take mission to the next level. Want to join the Message family? Visit message.org.uk/jobs

26

The **MSE students** are getting stuck into their studies about apologetics, theology and practical evangelism. Pray they'd be inspired by God as they do this and feel him speaking to them.

27

Pray for **Hope Community Church**, who partner with Neal Street Espresso, as they reach out to those experiencing homelessness in central London. Pray that as they show God's love today, lives are changed by Jesus.

28

As prisons worker Kez runs **Hope Explored** courses introducing people to Christianity, pray many people would discover the hope and peace of Jesus.

29

Our schools team are in Merthyr Tydfil (South Wales) with **Respect ME** lessons. Pray the young people would feel encouraged by the truth-filled lessons and want to find out more about Jesus.

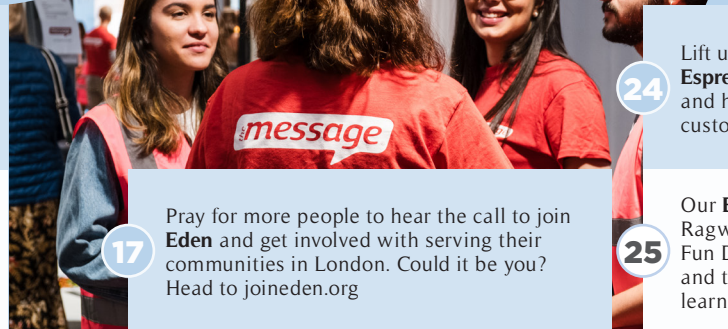
Book your place today at

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MARCH PRAYER POINTS



1

Eden Parkfield (Stockton) are using the Message Bus to create a coffee drop-in point for the community. Pray the team would have great gospel-filled conversations with those coming along.

2

Today, Sam Ward is speaking at **Project 24**, a conference all about encouraging people in their 20s in their faith. Please pray that many are challenged and inspired to step out in mission.

3

As we continue to employ and disciple ex-offenders through our **Gangstar enterprise cafés** in South Africa, pray team members would discover more about how loved they are by Jesus.

4

Thank God for all the **volunteers** at Neal Street Espresso and Ilford Community Grocery. We wouldn't be able to support the people we do without their tireless dedication and generosity.

5

Please pray that as we start to recruit new **MSE students** for September, the right people would hear about the course and want to join. Find out more at message.org.uk/mse

6

Thank God for the relationships our **prisons** teams are making with those living and working in prison. Pray for more opportunities to share the love and hope of Jesus with them.

7

Our **Respect ME** team are delivering a Girls' Course this week. Pray the girls feel comfortable to open up about their struggles and that our team can share the love of Jesus with them.

8

Every Friday, **Ilford Community Grocery** hosts 'Toastie Friday' where grocery members come for free toast and a hot drink. Pray that this is an opportunity for them to also hear the gospel and meet with God.

9

Please pray for our **Advance groups** meeting in countries where Christians are persecuted. Pray they'd continue to grow in boldness and that God would protect them.

10

Thank God for our **new prisons worker** in London. Pray they'd grab every opportunity to share the love of Jesus with everyone living and working in prison.

11

As our **Message Bus** team continue to build relationships with local churches and youth groups, pray we'd be able to share the gospel with even more young people on board the mobile youth centres.

12

Eden teams across the nation are inviting their community to Easter outreach events and services. Pray many would come along, hear the good news of Jesus and respond to it.

13

We're excited to grow our schools work and Love Where U Live social action projects in **The Netherlands**. Pray for our hub leader, Daniël, as he plans mission over coming months.

14

We're planning to launch a second London **Community Grocery** in Gurnell Grove soon. Pray for all the plans and preparations that are underway to make this happen, and that it will be a beacon of hope for the community.

15

Eden Latchford (Warrington) are supporting Iranian refugees. Please pray for a strong partnership with the local council as they do this, and for opportunities to share more about the hope and peace of Jesus.

16

We're passionate about partnering with **local churches** in London so those we meet on mission can get plugged into discipleship. Pray that we'd continue to build great relationships with churches.

17

Pray for more people to hear the call to join **Eden** and get involved with serving their communities in London. Could it be you? Head to joineden.org

18

Thank God for City Gates Church who partner with us at **Ilford Community Grocery**. Pray that they will hear God speaking to them about the next steps for their church and feel encouraged by him today.

19

Pray for our **MSE students** as they head out on mission this week. Pray they'd be a blessing in word and action to those they meet and would see God use them powerfully to share his love.

20

Eden South Bank (Middlesbrough) are seeing so many people from their estate wanting to find out more about Jesus that they're now running three discipleship groups! Pray those coming along would grow in their faith.

21

We are holding a **fundraising vision night** tonight. Pray many would come along, hear the amazing stories of what God's doing across London and want to stand with us financially.

22

Each week, the **Cardiff Street Pastors** head into the city centre to offer practical support and pray. Lift up the team as they do this tonight.

23

As our **Advance Youth** gather in London today to be equipped in sharing their faith, pray they'd see God use them powerfully.

24

Lift up our new staff members at **Neal Street Espresso**. Pray they'd settle in well to the role and have boldness to share their stories with customers.

25

Our **Eden and Community Grocery** teams in Ragworth are joining forces to run an Easter Fun Day with bouncy castles, craft activities and the gospel. Pray many come along and learn about the real meaning of Easter.

26

We'd love to find more **volunteers** to support us as we grow in mission across the UK. Pray we'd find the right people to join our teams. Could this be you? Find out more at message.org.uk/volunteer

27

Thank God for our friends at **Coastal Church, Vancouver (Canada)** who're running an Eden Café enterprise helping those with barriers to employment get skills and Christian discipleship.

28

We're celebrating the first anniversary of **Ilford Community Grocery** today. Thank God for the lives that have been changed, and the people who have come to faith because of the grocery this year.

29

Today is **Good Friday**. Thank Jesus for what he did for us on the cross, taking our sin and exchanging it for salvation.

30

Please pray for all the **Easter outreach events** happening across The Message. Pray that many will hear the gospel, respond and be connected to local churches.

31

Happy Easter from everyone at The Message! Join us in thanking God for all he's done for us, and for the miracle of Jesus rising again!





Raising Up The Next Generation

From Cardiff to Sunderland, and London to Manchester, every month you'll find young people gathering to worship, press into prayer and get equipped in mission as they get involved in Advance Youth. And the best bit? Every time they meet, they put what they've been learning into practice by taking to the streets to share the good news of Jesus.

As they do this, God's using them and they're growing in their faith.

Gabriella is one of the young people who's been coming along. Recently she and a team were out prayer walking and, after asking God who they should chat to, they met Ellis and Omar. The group asked if there was anything they wanted prayer for and Ellis told them he had a new baby and wanted to pray for the baby's health.

As they prayed together, Omar looked unsure and Gabriella asked if he was okay. 'I'm a Muslim', he replied, and knowing this was a chance to share her faith, Gabriella said, 'That's okay, could I share the gospel with you?' Omar agreed and Gabriella, remembering what she's learnt in Advance Youth, boldly told him about Jesus' love using the 4points.

Listening in, Ellis was so touched by what he heard that he said he wanted to find out more about Jesus! As they left, Gabriella and the team were encouraged how God had used them.

Lily is another young person who was blown away by how God used her. She came to Advance Youth having had a really tough week at school and told the group that she was feeling nervous and discouraged about sharing her faith. So, they all prayed that she'd have the boldness to share the gospel with someone that day.

Later that morning, Lily met Shannan who was looking nervous. As they chatted, Shannan shared that she was anxious about a job she'd applied for. When Lily offered to pray for her, she accepted straight away, and as they prayed for peace, she started to relax. After praying, Shannan said, 'I've never really thought about faith before', so Lily decided to grab the opportunity to tell her about Jesus. As she shared the gospel, Shannan was amazed and left wanting to explore more about what it means to have a faith in Jesus. Lily was so happy that, despite feeling nervous and underqualified, God gave her everything she needed to share about him with someone.

**Find out more about Advance Youth and
get your young people involved at
message.org.uk/advanceyouth**