

SHINE Prayer Diary

Thanksgiving for God's character

Wednesday 1 October – Holy God

Our LORD and our God, we praise you and kneel down to worship you, the God of holiness! Psalm 99:5

Our Lord and our God, we thank you because you have always been holy, you are holy and you will always be holy. Inspire us to live out our lives in the light of this truth, seeking to be 100% holy. Amen.

Please pray for the International Management Summit taking place today and tomorrow at the BT Conference Centre in Liverpool. John Manwell (Together for the Harvest) has a large stall promoting the Church as an agent for change in the business arena. Pray that Christian businessmen and women from across Europe will be encouraged by it and others challenged by it. This is a holistic approach to transforming our region.

Thursday 2 October – Good and faithful God

They praised the LORD and gave thanks as they took turns singing: "The LORD is good! His faithful love for Israel will last forever." Everyone started shouting and praising the LORD because work on the foundation of the temple had begun. Ezra 3:11

Take a moment to think on all the good things that God has given you and the good things he has done in your favour. Thank him for his faithfulness towards you. Thank him for building firm foundations in your life.

Shine Prayer & Praise Event tonight at 7.30pm at Christian Life Centre, Atherton Street. Please pray, do come.

Friday 3 October – Miracle working God

Our LORD, no other gods compare with you – Majestic and holy! Fearsome and glorious! Miracle worker! Exodus 15:11

Ask God to bring to mind a miracle that is recorded in the Bible. You can thank him for being a miracle working God. And don't forget to thank him for the miracles that he has worked in your life and in the lives of others that you know.

Saturday 4 October – Merciful God

Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Because of his great mercy he gave us new life by raising Jesus Christ from death. This fills us with a living hope, and so we look forward to possessing the rich blessings that God keeps for his people. He keeps them for you in heaven, where they cannot decay or spoil or fade away. 1 Peter 1:3 + 4

Father God, thank you for your great mercy towards all you have made, me included! Thank you for giving me new spiritual life. Thank you for giving me a living hope and for rich blessings which can never be destroyed. Amen.

Sunday 5 October – Praise God our Shepherd

Make a joyful noise to Jehovah, all you lands.

Worship Jehovah with gladness; come before His presence with singing.

Know that Jehovah, He is God.

He has made us, and not we ourselves;

we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise;

be thankful to Him, and bless His name.

For Jehovah is good; His mercy is everlasting;

and His truth endures to all generations.

Psalm 100:1 – 5

Today you can choose to worship the Lord with a joyful heart.
You can choose to enter his presence with thanksgiving and praise.
God you are good, God you are merciful, God you are truth.

Monday 6 October – Trustworthy God

Pray that we may be kept safe from worthless and evil people. After all, not everyone has faith. But the Lord can be trusted to make you strong and protect you from harm.

2 Thessalonians 3:2 + 3

Take a moment to remember times when God has kept you safe from harm and times when he has helped you to be strong. Thank you, Lord, for the gift of faith and that I depend on you because you are trustworthy. Amen.

Tuesday 7 October – Truthful and Wise God

When God divided out the wind and the water, and when he decided the path for rain and lightning, he also determined the truth and defined wisdom. God told us, "Wisdom means that you respect me, the Lord, and turn from sin." Job 28:25 – 28

Thank you, God, you determined the truth and defined wisdom. Thank you that you are always honest and wise. Thank you for teaching me that wisdom means that I am required to honour you and to turn from my sinful ways. Help me Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer for SHINE

Wednesday 8 October

Please pray for the Hope 08 Journeys Course in Town Hall which has been running on Wednesdays 17th Sept to 15th October. Please pray for:

- a good response to the course
- good numbers of people who genuinely want to search for God
- wisdom for the team delivering the course

Thursday 9 October

Lord, thank you for those who have been Shine board members over the years. We pray for new board members. We humbly ask you for fresh vision for the work ahead and for more churches to actively engage with Shine and to actively support Shine. Amen.

Friday 10 October

Please pray for retiring Shine Board members Peter and Sally Bartlett, preparing to leave St. Peter's, Parr, in November, for:

- God's equipping with wisdom and courage
- radical de-cluttering and strength for the moves to South Yorkshire and then to Paraguay
- provision of financial support for the ministry in South America
- family members during this time of transition

Saturday 11 October

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for coming to earth and limiting yourself as a human so that we could be reconciled to God the Father. As Christmas shoppers start to fill the shops of St Helens we pray that the Holy Spirit would touch the hearts of folks in St Helens and would open spiritual eyes and ears, and minds to hear and receive the Gospel. We pray for the team preparing the St Helens Nativity (an outdoor drama, music and multimedia event) scheduled for 13th December in Church Square. We thank you Jesus that the Town Hall is very supportive and that College students are getting involved too. May this Hope 08 event have a great impact for the Gospel. Amen.

Sunday 12 October – Worship Jesus Light of the World

Let the World see Jesus

You stepped down from heavens' glory, humbly came to earth,
Sacrificed yourself for me and gave me grace and life its worth.
You were lifted up so that people would believe,
let the world see Jesus Christ in me.

Let the world see Jesus, shine Your light in my life today,
that all will know you like I do.
Let the world see Jesus, shine Your light in my life today,
that all will love you like I do.

Now this world you died for is the world I want to reach.
And this love you gave us is the Father's love that lives in me

Jesus light of the world will you shine in me?

Matt Hooper, Abundant Life Music 2005

Prayer for Saints – Chaplain Phil Pawley asks us to pray

Monday 13 October

Please pray:

- for players and their families whether they are here in England or 'down under' that they will enjoy a well earned break
- especially for the families of international players that they will experience God's grace whilst separated
- for Mick Potter, the new coach for 2009, for him and his family as they move and settle into a new role and environment
- for the chaplaincy that this service continues to find favour with the new coach and any incoming coaching staff, praying particularly that the relationship between the chaplain and the coach will be positive and fruitful

Tuesday 14 October

Please pray for Dan and Natalie Anderson and their family as they return to Australia and restart their life back home. Praise God for this lovely family, for the positive impact they have had on the town and for the role model in family life they have provided not only to the club but to all who have known them in St Helens. Pray for schooling, housing, and employment needs. Pray for their spiritual needs, that God will meet them afresh in their new situation and bless them with an even greater awareness of his presence and reality.

Prayer for the Church – Encouragements from St Paul's experiences in Corinth

From The Message Acts 18: 1 – 10

Wednesday 15 October

After Athens, Paul went to Corinth. That is where he discovered Aquila, a Jew born in Pontus, and his wife Priscilla. They had just arrived from Italy, part of the general expulsion of Jews from Rome ordered by Claudius. Paul moved in with them, and they worked at their common trade of tent-making. Acts 18:1 – 3

Heavenly Father, we realise that you love each member of your family and we thank you for all the members of your family who we personally know, and we appreciate their lives. Help us, your church here in St Helens, to honour each other, expand our horizons, to work together and to

witness together. May your name be glorified as your church maintains and lives in the reality of the unity that Jesus has made possible. Amen.

Please pray for Together for the Harvest Leaders Lunch taking place today at Grace Family Church, that this event will be well supported and that leadership teams are encouraged and equipped for their callings.

Thursday 16 October

But every Sabbath he was at the meeting place, doing his best to convince both Jews and Greeks about Jesus. Acts 18:4

Lord Jesus, when you walked on earth you met, Sabbath by Sabbath, with God followers in the synagogues of Israel. Thank you for including amongst your followers many such as St Paul who have done the same. We pray for all your followers here in St Helens that we would stand against discouragement. We pray that we would be encouraged by the Holy Spirit, no matter what challenges we face and that our nature will become more like yours Jesus, as you dwell in us and we dwell in you. Amen.

Friday 17 October

When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was able to give all of his time to preaching and teaching, doing everything he could to persuade the Jews that Jesus was in fact God's Messiah. Acts 18:5

Jesus, the Messiah, teach us, your bride, to value the proclamation of your message of Good News. Humbly we ask you to change us and transform us so that our lives would reflect who you are, and your saving power. We pray for all of your followers here in St Helens that our lives would be lived out in a way that is truthfully aligned to who you are. Amen.

Saturday 18 October

But no such luck. All they did was argue contentiously and contradict him at every turn. Acts 18:6a

Jesus, Rabbi, our Teacher, we know that you understand what it is like to face opposition and people who are contentious. We pray for your church here in St Helens, for all your followers, that they would be given wisdom and grace for the times when they face opposing attitudes and actions. We remember that our struggle is not with flesh and blood, but with spiritual principalities and forces that oppose you Lord. We pray that you will equip your followers to face opposition and we ask that we will be joyful in all circumstances. Amen.

Sunday 19 October – Offer praise to God

Offer praise to God our Saviour because of our Lord Jesus Christ! Only God can keep you from falling and make you pure and joyful in his glorious presence. Before time began and now and forevermore, God is worthy of glory, honour, power, and authority. Amen. Jude 1:24

Take time today to praise God who saves you, thinking about how he has kept you in his paths and presence. Choose to honour him by worshipping him in Spirit and in truth, for he alone is worthy of glory, honour, power and authority.

Monday 20 October

Totally exasperated, Paul had finally had it with them and gave it up as a bad job. 'Have it your way, then,' he said. 'You've made your bed now lie on it. From now on I'm spending my time with the other nations.' He walked out and went to the home of Titius Justus, a God fearing man who loved right next to the Jews' meeting place. But Paul's efforts with the Jews weren't a total loss, for Crispus, the meeting-place president, put his trust in the Master, his entire family believed with him. Acts 18:6b – 8a

Holy Spirit, we thank you because you guide and lead the people of God. Thank you that the Mission of the church in St Helens is your responsibility and we ask that the churches of St Helens would listen carefully to your leading and directing. We ask that we would be enabled to change

direction, when and where, it is part of your plans. We pray that many homes in St Helens would become open to the possibility of receiving your followers with your message of hope. We pray that entire families would believe and join the church. Amen.

Tuesday 21 October

In the course of listening to Paul, a great many Corinthians believed and were baptised. One night the Master spoke to Paul in a dream: 'Keep it up, and don't let anyone intimidate or silence you. No matter what happens, I'm with you and no-one is going to be able to hurt you. You have no idea how many people I have on my side in this city.' That was all he needed to stick it out. Acts 18:8a – 10

Holy Spirit, we thank you that it is promised that you will be poured out on all mankind. We pray for an outpouring of prophecies, dreams and visions in St Helens that will encourage, lead and empower the people of God. Please fill believers with strength so they are able stick out the tough situations that many are currently facing. Amen.

Prayer for St Helens Sustainable Communities Plan 2008 – 2018

I pray that the LORD will bless you from Zion and let Jerusalem prosper as long as you live. Psalm 128:5

St Helens Council is planning for the next ten years. This week let's petition God Almighty, *El-Shaddai* for well being and the blessing of St Helens. *El* indicates to the power of God Himself. *Shaddai* comes from another word meaning breast, implying that *Shaddai* signifies one who nourishes, supplies, and satisfies. It is God as *El* who helps, and it is God as *Shaddai* who abundantly blesses with all manner of blessings.

Wednesday 22 October

We thank you, Lord, for prospering the Town of St Helens over the years. We thank you for the recent survey which rated St Helens 14th out of 100 on a happy chart, according to researchers from the Universities of Manchester and Sheffield. St Helens residents rate themselves as having a sense of well being based on factors like employment, health, and qualifications. Amen

Take a few moments to personally thank God for all the things which you appreciate about St Helens.

Thursday 23 October

Please pray for the economic development of St Helens and for Business enterprise, asking God, El-Shaddai, for:

- the creation of more jobs
- help for businesses to grow
- an improvement in skills levels
- improved support for disabled people who want to work
- a reduction of the number of people on benefits

Friday 24 October

Please pray for healthier communities and for older people asking God, El-Shaddai, for:

- improved health and well being for the older residents of St Helens
- support families needing to take action on causes of ill-health
- the modernisation of social services
- more independence for vulnerable people

Saturday 25 October

Please pray for safer communities asking God, El-Shaddai, for:

- a reduction in crime

- tackling of antisocial behaviour
- promotion of respect within our communities
- reduction in levels of substance and alcohol misuse

Sunday 26 October – Worship God in your present situation

Jacob woke up suddenly and thought, "The LORD is in this place, and I didn't even know it."

Then Jacob became frightened and said, "This is a fearsome place! It must be the house of God and the ladder to heaven." When Jacob got up early the next morning, he took the rock that he had used for a pillow and stood it up for a place of worship. Then he poured olive oil on the rock to dedicate it to God, and he named the place Bethel. Before that it had been named Luz.

Jacob solemnly promised God, "If you go with me and watch over me as I travel, and if you give me food and clothes and bring me safely home again, you will be my God. This rock will be your house, and I will give back to you a tenth of everything you give me." Gen 28:16-22

Today wherever you are and whatever the circumstances of your life, worship God and dedicate your life to him. God is generously watching over you and your life situation. Praise his holy and awesome name!

Monday 27 October

Please pray for St Helens communities and neighbourhoods asking God, El-Shaddai, for:

- the provision of clean safe neighbourhoods, parks etc
- improvement in the choice and quality of housing
- improvement of the transport system
- tackling climate change issues

Tuesday 28 October

Please pray for St Helens' children and young people asking God, El-Shaddai, for:

- improvement in health
- reduction of the number of children in care
- raising of educational standards
- reduction in substance abuse

Prayer for Merseyside

First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, requests, and thanksgivings be offered to God for all people; for kings and all others who are in authority, that we may live a quiet and peaceful life with all reverence toward God and with proper conduct. This is good and it pleases God our Saviour. 1

Timothy 2:1 – 3

Wednesday 29 October – Law and order

'I would also like to offer thanksgiving for our local 'Riverforce' (Christian Police Association) meetings. I have now held two meetings with colleagues, and on both occasions we have been really blessed!' Rowland Moore

Lord, we pray for the Merseyside Police as they endeavour to implement law and order in this region. Grant them the necessary resources. Grant them favour with the vast majority of Merseyside residents who are law abiding and grant them safety and success in their work. We pray for all police officers who are followers of Jesus that they would be light and salt in their workplaces and in their dealings with the general public. Please bless the ministry of Riverforce. Amen.

Thursday 30 October – Students

By your teachings, Lord, I am warned; by obeying them, I am greatly rewarded. Psalm 19:11

Lord Jesus, we thank you for all of Merseyside's centres of learning. As record numbers of students have chosen to study in Merseyside this year we pray for:

- students to be given the opportunity to come to you and to learn from you
- those who fear failure and who are perplexed by the world in which they live
- those who are isolated and without friends
- those whose work is a joy to them, that they may share it with others
- those engaged in research and discovery, that they may carry it out to your glory
- those active in student affairs, that their actions may be for good
- those studying abroad, that they may be preserved from loneliness and discouragement
- foreign students, that they may be welcomed and helped
- Christian students, that they may consider foreign students as a God-given responsibility
- all student pastors and university chaplains, that they may be given the necessary discernment and love

Prayer for our Nation

Friday 31 October – for protection from terrorist attacks

Lord God, we remember in prayer those who work in the Home Office, the Serious Crime Agency and the other security forces responsible for protecting the public from terrorist attacks and other serious crimes. We pray that any undiscovered plots will be discovered, aborted and those who are responsible brought to justice. We pray especially for judges and juries as they deliberate that they would be enabled to see clearly the evidence presented and have the courage to take just decisions. We pray for a reduction in racial tensions in places where previously there have been attitudes of suspicion and intolerance. We pray for communities faced with dealing with the consequences of plots and actual crimes that there would be a growing desire for racial and religious understanding and a following of ways of thinking and living that seek to dialogue and bring life rather than to maim. Amen.

Saturday 1 November – Prayer for atheists and non-believers

There are a growing number of vocal non-believers in Britain. Membership of groups of non-believers is rising, along with bestsellers attempting to derail Christianity. New groups of non-believers are sprouting on university and college campuses, anti-religious blogs are being set up on the Internet, and generally many more people are publicly declaring that they have no religious faith.

Worldwide more than three quarters of the population of the world consider themselves religious, and those with no faith are a minority. But in nations such as ours, increasingly people are saying that they don't believe in anything other than the material / physical world that can be seen and touched. Some sociologists think that the increase in the 'nonreligious movement' is a result of 11th September 2001 terrorist attacks.

Please pray that:

- believers will have great understanding of how worldviews are formed and how they affect the way they themselves think and the way others think
- believers in our nation will increasingly adopt a biblical worldview and be willing to honour Christ, letting him be Lord of their lives
- believers will be ready to give a kind and respectful answer about the hope which we have as Christians
- non-believers will be befriended by godly and respectful believers
- the very literature that is designed to disprove God would in fact become a means of opening debate and interest in the things of God
- Britain's Christian heritage would be valued in our multi-cultural and multi-faith society
- there would be increasing media opportunities for the telling of faith driven, true-life stories which glorify Jesus' name

Sunday 2 November – Worship Jesus – Alpha and Omega

Look! He is coming with the clouds. Everyone will see him, even the ones who stuck a sword through him. All people on earth will weep because of him. Yes, it will happen! Amen. The Lord God says, "I am Alpha and Omega, the one who is and was and is coming. I am God All-Powerful!"
Revelation 1:7+8

Jesus, although many others do not worship you, because they do not know you, my life has been deeply changed because you are living in me and so today I reverently worship you. I realise that one day all people will see you and confess that you are Lord. Until that day (which only the Father knows) arrives, I ask you to teach me more and more what it means to worship you in both spirit and truth. Amen.

Prayer for the Nations

Monday 3 November – USA

Our LORD and our God, victory doesn't come from the east or the west or from the desert. You are the one who judges. You can take away power and give it to others. Psalm 75:6 +7

On the eve of the election of a new President in America, we thank God that he is sovereign and appoints leaders. We pray for the United States of America that this powerful nation will be governed by men and women who are God fearing. We ask that a new President will be elected who will show wisdom and courage in leadership. We pray that this person will be committed to upholding the right religious freedom to worship. We pray that amongst the new Senators, there will be men and women who will be an effective Christian presence and influence in political debate.

Tuesday 4 November – for Tribal peoples across the world

Forget what happened long ago! Don't think about the past. I am creating something new. There it is! Do you see it? I have put roads in deserts, streams in thirsty lands. Isaiah 43:18 – 19

Praise God for:

- the many, many tribal peoples who have experienced a revelation of Christ's love
- open doors and church growth amongst tribes

Ask God for:

- disarming the powers of darkness and evil forces which seek to keep tribal people in spiritual darkness
- the implementation of secular laws that protect religious freedom in the countries with tribal peoples
- a spirit of unity amongst tribal peoples
- a reaching out to unreached villages, communities and tribes with the Gospel, for one church and one trained leader to be established in each community
- God's protection of tribal people in the event of natural disasters including floods, landslides, earthquake, etc. and timely relief for the victims
- for employment opportunities, praying that the hopelessness that has often led them to substance misuse to be replaced with hope for the future

Prayer for St Helens

Wednesday 5 November – Mayor John Beirne

Lord, today we pray for John Beirne asking that you to prosper:

- his work as mayor of St Helens
- his business and family life
- his spiritual journey

Thursday 6 November – Children and Young people of St Helens

Please pray for all who have input into the care of young people and children in St Helens, including, parents, youth and children's workers, teachers and teaching assistants, speech therapists, doctors, nurses and other health care workers, social workers, guardian ad litem, judges and court staff, and all therapists.

Please pray that:

- these people will become inspirers and encouragers of children and young people
- they would become servant leaders, blessed with humility and wisdom
- God would draw these people to himself
- that their motivation would be rooted in Jesus and his ability to do the impossible and transform lives

Friday 7 November – Homeless in St Helens

Today we pray for all who are homeless in St Helens. We pray for an outpouring of:

- reconciliation of fractured relationships
- enabling to build positive and stable relationships
- love and prayer
- shelter, emergency or transitional
- food and clothing and transport needs to be met
- health care and mental counselling services
- job skills training and placement including budgeting skills
- addiction recovery
- parenting skill mentoring

Saturday 8 November – Members of the Armed Forces

Lord, this weekend we honour all the men and women of St Helens who have served in the Armed Forces. We remember all who died or who have suffered injury. Thank you for their sacrifice and courage. We also honour all who are currently on active service. We ask you to watch over them and their loved ones. We also remember the Forces chaplains and all who work within the Armed Forces seeking to share the Gospel and to encourage faith in Jesus, please prosper their ministries and so blessing those serving our nation at this time. Finally, we pray for all those who have recently left the Armed Forces that they will be able to access adequate provision for their spiritual, emotional, mental and physical needs. Amen.

Sunday 9 November – Praise the Lord of the years

Lord, for the years Your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for our land in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer

Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us –
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
past put behind us, for the future take us:
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

Timothy Dudley-Smith

Monday 10 November – Willowbrook Hospice

Teach us to use wisely all the time we have. Psalm 90:12

Lord God, we thank you for the provision of a hospice for the dying in St Helens. We thank you for the work of the hospice and ask that the plans for the new building project will prosper. We pray for the provision of an Outpatients' Suite, for new consulting rooms, clinics and the hospice's bereavement service. We also thank you for all who fund raise on behalf of the hospice. We pray for all who are dying in St Helens that they will be comforted and enabled to use the remaining time here on earth wisely and we pray for their families and loved ones to be granted strength and courage. Amen.

Tuesday 11 November – St Helens becoming a 'Fair Trade Town'

St Helens has nearly met all the criteria to gain 'Fair Trade Town' status. Please pray that:

- the Fair Trade Forum led by the council will be able to encourage more catering outlets to offer a fair trade option and that by Christmas all the criteria will have been met and Fair Trade status gained early next year
- Judith Price will find the way forward of developing her fair trade business GIFT. If you are holding an autumn event and want a Fair Trade presence you could contact Judith. email: judithatgift@live.com
- all high street coffee shops will offer Fairtrade options to customers.

If you visit coffee shops why not ask for a fair trade option and make the staff aware that of customer demand?

Prayer for Churches of St Helens – challenges before us

But seeing the crowds, He was moved with compassion on them, because they were tired and scattered like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few'. Matthew 9:36+37

Reconnecting with those who are not following Jesus means that we need to change the way we view others. All human beings are created in God's image, and many are 'sheep without a shepherd'. Jesus calls and commands us to love others, loving them enough to want them to know about the exciting possibility of having a personal relationship with him.

Wednesday 12 November – Leadership

Later the Lord chose seventy-two other followers and sent them out two by two to every town and village where he was about to go. He said to them: "A large crop is in the fields, but there are only a few workers. Ask the Lord in charge of the harvest to send out workers to bring it in."

Luke 10:1+2

We pray for all church leaders here in St Helens:

- praying that they may be rescued from the opposition of those who try to destroy their ministry
- praying that they may find that their service is appreciated and used by those to whom they are ministering
- praying that God would continue to use them, and to use them in different and new ways, to His glory

We pray for all churches in St Helens currently facing the challenge of a shortage of leaders and we ask God to raise up and provide godly leaders.

Thursday 13 November – preparation for service and ministry

It was he who 'gave gifts to people'; he appointed some to be apostles, others to be prophets, others to be evangelists, others to be pastors and teachers. He did this to prepare all God's people for the work of Christian service, in order to build up the body of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11+12

Today, we thank God for ourselves and all God's people here in St Helens, thanking him for:

- the spiritual gifts he has given
- faith, love and perseverance
- many and varied ministries
- spiritual growth

Today, we pray for ourselves and all God's people here in St Helens asking that:

- we will be prepared for the work of Christian service
- we will remain focused on the Kingdom valuing the things of God and not the things of this world
- we will be filled with a knowledge of God's will so that in all areas of life we can please God by living His way, and bring glory to His name by being obedient and good ambassadors for Him

Friday 14 November – ministry to children and young people

In 1987, singer Whitney Houston had a hit song which began, "*I believe the children are the future...*". Children are the future of the church in one sense, but they are also part of the church today! Some of the greatest victories in the Bible have involved children who had great faith. God used them to do incredible things for the Kingdom. There are few mission fields riper for harvest than schools. What an exciting thought: a child comes to know God and takes that new-found joy to the playground and shares with all his friends the story of salvation.

Imagine if there were three or four children on the playground sharing their new-found salvation story; dream what it would be like for that to happen in every school in St Helens. Let's pray for this!

- Father, may your Spirit move in the hearts of children across St Helens as they share Christ with their friends
- Lord Jesus, may the right people come forward as children's workers in the churches of St Helens and we specifically ask you to provide a Youth pastor for Christ Church Haydock
- Holy Spirit, may you use Youth Aflame to breathe life and truth into young people in St Helens

Saturday 15 November – Christians struggling with mental health issues

The LORD is restoring Jerusalem; he is bringing back the exiles. He heals the broken-hearted and bandages their wounds. Psalm 147:2+3

Lord Jesus, we pray for all Christians in St Helens who are seriously depressed and those who are suicidal. We thank you that you continue to reach out to them and we pray for their safety. We remember all Christians in St Helens who struggle with mental health issues, praying that they will be built up in their personal faith and receive the encouragement they need to turn a crucial corner in their lives. We pray that they will seek help and that they will be able to access adequate provision and professional help when it is needed. Amen.

Sunday 16 November – Offer praise to the Keeper of our souls

Offer praise to God our Saviour because of our Lord Jesus Christ! Only God can keep you from falling and make you pure and joyful in his glorious presence. Before time began and now and forevermore, God is worthy of glory, honour, power, and authority. Amen. Jude 1:24

Take a few moments to think of the ways in which God has kept you on the Christian journey. Be glad and be thankful.

Monday 17 November – Hope Centre

Jesus said, "Foxes have dens, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man doesn't have a place to call his own." Luke 9:58

Lord Jesus, we know that you understand what it is like to be without a home. So we pray for the Hope Centre (CLC) – in a very difficult financial position leading to staff redundancies and retraction at present. Father God, we ask you to open up funding opportunities and to release the

resources needed. We pray for those losing their jobs that God would undertake and provide for them. We also pray that support for homeless people would not be jeopardized and Holy Spirit we ask you to stir up the hearts of God's people to volunteer for this important ministry. Amen

Tuesday 18 November – Praying for the not-yet-followers of Jesus

'Those who love me come from every system that exists. They were Buddhists or Mormons, Baptists or Muslims, Democrats, Republicans and many who don't vote or are not part of any Sunday morning or religious institution. I have followers who were murderers and many who were self-righteous. Some are bankers and bookies, Americans and Iraqis, Jews and Palestinians. I have no desire to make them Christian, but I do want to join them in their transformation into sons and daughters of my Papa, into my brothers and sister, into my Beloved.'

'Does that mean,' asked Mack, 'that all roads will lead to you?' 'Not at all,' smiled Jesus as he reached the door handle to the shop. 'Most roads don't lead anywhere. What it does mean is that I will travel any road to find you.'

The Shack by William P. Young

A simple way for those who follow Jesus to connect with the non following world is to begin to intentionally pray for individuals. Pray that many followers in St Helens will pray for their non-believing family and friends.

God, I pray for _____ that:

- You would open his / her blinded mind
- You would transfer him / her to the kingdom of your Son
- You would free him from the enemy's power
- You would make him a new creation

Prayer for parenting and families – Margery and Barbara thank you for praying

Wednesday 19 November – Let's pray for Parenting Courses

- we thank God for all who are currently attending parenting courses / groups
- we ask for wisdom and favour for course facilitators
- we ask you God for positive changes in the lives of the parents who come on the courses and their families

Thursday 20 November – Let's pray for Grandparents

Please pray for grandparents still bringing up their own children who have the added responsibility for bringing up grandchildren as well. This is very demanding for them.

Friday 21 November – Let's pray for the Families of the Armed Forces

We pray for families in St. Helens who are coping with separation as members of their families serve in our Armed Forces and are away from home and loved ones for long periods of time

Saturday 22 November – Let's pray for improved family relationships

Please pray for improved relationships between parents and children of all ages. Pray that respectful communication and Christian values will be at the centre of every home in St. Helens.

Sunday 23 November – Come, let us sing of a wonderful love

Come, let us sing of a wonderful love, tender and true;
out of the heart of the Father above, streaming to me and to you:
wonderful love dwells in the heart of the Father above.

Jesus, the Saviour, this gospel to tell, joyfully came;
came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell, sharing their sorrow and shame;

seeking the lost, saving, redeeming at measureless cost.

Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet; why do they roam?
Love only waits to forgive and forget; Home! weary wanderers home!
Wonderful love dwells in the heart of the Father above.

Come to my heart, O Thou wonderful Love, come and abide,
lifting my life till it rises above envy and falsehood and pride;
seeking to be lowly and humble, a learner of Thee.

Robert Walmsley (1831 – 1905)

Monday 24 November – Let's pray for new parents

Please pray for all new parents. We ask you Lord for:

- health, stamina, sleep and time for each other as they make many new adjustments to their lives.
- may they find joy in their new role as parents and receive all the support they need through this critical stage of their lives

Tuesday 25 November – Let's pray for greater value to be given to family relationships

- we acknowledge that God cares about our relationships, he wants us to value our families, and he wants relationships between husbands and wives to be happy and secure
- please pray that this will be so and that more and more children will grow up in such a loving, caring, secure family environment

We remember that today is the United Nations Day of Elimination of Violence Against Women and we pray for millions of women worldwide who suffer ill-treatment. We ask God to grant success to agencies seeking to end barbaric practices and rescue those who suffer.

Praying for personal prayer life – asking God to extend your influence

Wednesday 26 November

Tearfund's International President, Dr René Padilla, says, 'I have been very, very inspired by people in the past like John Wesley. I've been reading lately some of his works on slavery. I mean it's really amazing how he could preach the gospel but at the same time denounce the abuse of power in relation to slavery, or call wealthy people to accept that the wealth they had was not theirs; that they were responsible as stewards to share their wealth with the poor.'

Make a list of 3 people (or more if you wish!) who have influenced you in a positive way in your life. Take a few moments to thank God for:

- the lives of the people who have impacted you
- the lessons that you have learnt as you have been inspired by these people
- the paths that you have chosen to follow as a result of their encouragement

Thursday 27 November

How many people, now or in the future, are likely to list you as one of their influences? And what might you influence them to be or to do, and how?

And Jabez was more honourable than his brothers. And his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bore him with sorrow. And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that You would bless me indeed, and make my border larger, and that Your hand might be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, so that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he asked. 1 Chronicles 4:9+10

God, I pray that you would bless me. Thank you for all the blessings that I have already received from you and for the blessings which you wish to bestow on me now. I humbly ask you increase the positive influence that I have on others, not so that I may be glorified, but so that the Kingdom may be extended and your name glorified. I pray that your powerful guiding, helping and saving hand

will be with me and that I will stay close to you. Lastly, I ask you to keep me free from evil and its consequences. Amen.

Friday 28 November

Very early the next morning, Jesus got up and went to a place where he could be alone and pray.
Mark 1:35

Our model in holy, influential living is Jesus, who was humble, meek and kind. This holy Jesus knew it was vitally important to keep constantly connected to his Father. A personal space for prayer can really be just about anywhere that you can stay (relatively) undisturbed. What matters most is not the place itself; what matters is that it helps you to be able to pay full attention to the most important of all relationships. If we listen, He will be faithful to speak!

Today find your quiet place and take time to pray:

- confessing known and unknown sin
- that you would become more holy
- that through God's strength you may be 'found worthy of the calling you have received'
- that the transforming power of Christ would be shown in you, and so your witness empowered
- that you may encourage others

Saturday 29 November

My dear friends remember what you were when God chose you. The people of this world didn't think that many of you were wise. Only a few of you were in places of power, and not many of you came from important families. But God chose the foolish things of this world to put the wise to shame. He chose the weak things of this world to put the powerful to shame. What the world thinks is worthless, useless, and nothing at all is what God has used to destroy what the world considers important. God did all this to keep anyone from bragging to him. You are God's children. He sent Christ Jesus to save us and to make us wise, acceptable, and holy. So if you want to brag, do what the Scriptures say and brag about the Lord. 1 Corinthians 1:26 – 31

Do these verses suggest we might find influence in some unexpected places?

Lord Jesus, you revealed yourself to St Paul on the Damascus Road. I ask that you would reveal yourself to me on the road that I am travelling at the moment. Open my eyes to new things that you desire to do in my life, and to what you are doing in the lives of those who are around me. With your help and empowering, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, may my life influence the lives of those around me, and as they look at my face may it be as if they are seeing your face. Amen.

Jacob said. '... When you welcomed me and I saw your face, it was like seeing the face of God.'
Genesis 33:10

Sunday 30 November – Silently and reverently worship the Holy One

When the Lamb broke open the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and they were given seven trumpets. Another angel, who had a gold incense container, came and stood at the altar. He was given a lot of incense to add to the prayers of all God's people and to offer it on the gold altar that stands before the throne. The smoke of the burning incense went up with the prayers of God's people from the hands of the angel standing before God. Revelation 8:1 – 4

Today, we still our hearts to worship the Holy One. We praise the Holy One who listens to our prayers. In silence we kneel before the Holy One, who heals us through the cross, who transforms us through the work of the Holy Spirit, who draws close to comfort us in times of sorrow and need, who calls us and anoints us, and who brings us into his presence in worship. Amen.

Sally Bartlett on behalf of SHINE