

## Mike Kerry writes...

I had the privilege recently of leading a tour to the Holy Land – I do love going to Israel and am becoming quite a veteran having been there seven times. One of the many highlights of the trip was a visit to the Shepherds Fields in Bethlehem. Even in 2010 it is possible to look over those fields and see shepherds tending their flocks of sheep and goats just as they did in Biblical times.

Before we arrived at the Shepherds Fields we had to leave our Jewish guide and cross through the border, passing the huge graffiti decorated concrete wall into Palestinian Bethlehem where we were joined by our Palestinian guide. The day was hot and as we sheltered from the scorching sun to read the scriptures and pray, I found it somewhat ironic to read those wonderful words that the angels proclaimed at the time of the birth of Jesus: ***“Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.”*** It was in the area where we were standing that the shepherds heard those words and were among the first to meet our Messiah.

There are many complex issues in the Middle East and there was further evidence of this overlooking the borders of Lebanon from the Golan Heights, and then looking towards Syria and Damascus from the Valley of Tears where the dead hulks of tanks from the Yom Kippur War serve as a reminder of the conflicts that have occurred since Israel became a nation in 1948.

However, the truth of the angels’ declaration to the shepherds is still relevant to us in the 21st Century as we look forward to Christmas time. Despite what we see in the world around us the peace that was proclaimed 2000 years ago can be ours today. The peace that God offers will never be achieved through military conflict but is an incomprehensible peace that only comes through a restored relationship with our Creator. Each one of us can have that “peace that passes all understanding”, if we go to the Prince of Peace and surrender all that we have to Him.

My prayer for you as you read these words is that you will have a blessed and peaceful Christmas and a joyous New Year.

Mike Kerry

Chair of SHINE, and Pastor of Billinge Family Church

## Church Prayer Requests

One of the goals of SHINE is to get churches to meet and pray for one another. As you will have noticed – we do put individual church prayer requests into this diary so that we can pray for each other.

In particular – if there are any specific events which your church is organising and you’d like pray for that event – then please e-mail us at [office@shine.org.uk](mailto:office@shine.org.uk). The next prayer diary is our February/March edition – please e-mail us your prayer requests by **Friday 7th January**.

## Sunday 28 November – Saturday 4 December

### The Local Church 1

*“So justice is far from us, and righteousness does not reach us. We look for light, but all is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows.”* (Isaiah 59:9)

We hear it all the time – the words ‘cutbacks’, ‘job losses’, ‘services closing down’ and so on. We live in very difficult financial times at the moment which has, and will continue to have, a devastating impact on people’s lives. Often it can seem that, like Isaiah, we look for light but find ourselves in darkness.

But we have a God who is our light, and so for every single week throughout this prayer diary, I would like to ask you to pray for the prosperity of St Helens and our area. Pray that our businesses thrive, that jobs will be kept safe, pray that the poor and the needy won’t suffer as a result of what is happening. May we pray each week for God’s light to shine in our town, especially through these difficult times.

Also this week, we pray for our local churches:

**Trevor Prescott, from West St Independent Methodist Church, has asked us to pray for...**

Please pray for our Gift Service on December 5th when members and friends bring gifts to be distributed amongst the residents at Alternative Futures. Pray that the gifts might bring some Christmas cheer to those who receive them and that those residents and staff who attend the service will find blessing and a greater awareness of the true nature of the season.

**Andrew Gale, from Earlestown Baptist Church, has asked us to pray for...**

- ◆ Please thank God for the recent Bridges of Peace Meeting (Missionaries to Israel) in which more people than normal gathered which was encouraging.
- ◆ Please pray for the visit of Ian and Elaine Coules on the first Sunday in December. They are puppeteers who visit schools around the country sharing the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Rev Janet Roberts, from St Paul's Church, Blackbrook, has asked us to pray for...**

- ◆ Please pray for the Blackbrook Nativity December 9th 11.30am & 7pm, a community event involving local schools and churches – to get across the true Christmas story.
- ◆ Please pray for our various children's nativities going on in church; especially the playgroup nativity on the 15<sup>th</sup> December and the Tiddlers Nativity. Again these are opportunities to tell the Christmas story.
- ◆ Please pray for a successful Carols by Candlelight service on 19th December
- ◆ Please pray for the recently formed Friendship group for those who have been bereaved, that it may be a real support at this difficult time of year.
- ◆ Please pray for our church members who are on our Growing Leaders course, that it may be a real blessing and challenge to all.

**Finally please pray for...**

Please pray for a continued sense of unity between all the churches in St Helens and the borough. Pray that we would continue to work together.

## Funding SHINE

The SHINE Prayer Focus is free to a good home! But people sometimes ask if they can help cover the costs, or contribute to running the Office. If you want to help fund SHINE, gifts are always appreciated. Please send a cheque made out to SHINE to the address on page 15.

[Please note: If you are a taxpayer, SHINE can benefit as a charity. Please call the office for details.]

## Sunday 5 – Saturday 11 December

### Children and Young People

*“The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.” (Isaiah 61:1)*

Please pray for the churches of St Helens, that God may use us to bring good news to those who are affected by the financial crisis.

This week, our prayers are focused on praying for the children and young people of St. Helens, and the work that the churches do with children and young people across the town.

Joe Higgins, from Youth Aflame, gives us an update on the work of Youth Aflame... On October 22nd Youth Aflame had its first cafe night at the Friends Meeting House. This was a large step into the unknown for our Quaker brothers – they had never tried anything like this before. Although they look kindly on the young people that are attracted to Youth Aflame because many spend their time in the Peace Gardens at the back of the meeting house, they had no idea what to expect once they were invited through the front doors. I have to say the young people were a little nervous themselves, however they trusted our judgement enough to go along with it. We had an excellent night, a good turnout and a really cool and relaxed atmosphere which encouraged enquiry and discussion from both sides.

Now, as a result our Quaker brothers are allowing us to have two more cafe nights as a trial, before (understandably) committing themselves to any long term future with Youth Aflame.

### Please pray for the work of Youth Aflame, especially for...

- ◆ Give thanks for the Quakers, and their willingness to get involved with Youth Aflame.
- ◆ Please pray that our next two nights, especially the 18th December is at least as successful as the first, and that Youth Aflame can find a new home for our cafe nights in the future.
- ◆ Many of the young people from Youth Aflame are beginning to take their first steps down the road to faith in Jesus and faith in God. Please pray that as people go about their daily business in the town centre and come across the Skaters, Goths, Bikers and the many other groups who can sometimes look

so intimidating, that they look upon them with different eyes and offer a quiet prayer for them.

- ◆ December 10th sees a repeat of the massively successful Youth Aflame Chocolate Party to be held at CLC. Please pray for another good night of laughter, music and chocolate – another active demonstration that our God is a loving God and living life His way is not dull!
- ◆ Please pray for Youth Aflame as they get involved with the SHINE Nativity on 16th December.

#### **Please also pray....**

That God would continue to bless all the work that we as churches do across the borough with children and young people, and that the next generation will know Christ as their Lord.

#### **Paul Johnson, Lead Chaplain at St Helens College, has asked us to pray for the Christmas events at the college for our young people...**

- ◆ Please pray for the Carol Services, which will be taking place on Tuesday 14th December at All Saints Church in Newton, and Thursday 16th December at St Helens Parish Church, both starting at 10:30am. These are open events, which the public are invited to attend, so please feel free to come along. Pray for staff and students, who will attend, that God will speak to them through the fun and festivities about the real reason that we are celebrating.
- ◆ Please pray for the students and staff who are involved in the SHINE Nativity this year on 16th December. Please pray that, as they tell the Christmas story, the truths that are being presented will become a reality to those involved.

#### **Please pray for the town centre churches**

- 5 December – Christian Life Centre and the Salvation Army Hostel
- 6 December – Barton St Mission and Bethel Mission
- 7 December – St Helens Baptist Church and Wesley Methodist Church
- 8 December – Holy Cross and St Mary's Lowe House
- 9 December – St Helens United Reformed Church (Ormskirk Street)
- 10 December – St Helens Parish Church, St Mark's North Road and St Thomas' Eccleston
- 11 December – Redeemed Church of God

## **Sunday 12 – Saturday 18 December**

### **The SHINE Nativity**

*"I have made you a light for the nations..."* (Isaiah 49:6)

Please pray that as Christmas may bring a painful reminder that people have lost jobs in St Helens recently, that Christmas may also help people to see Jesus – the light of the world.

**This week is the SHINE Nativity. Angela, the SHINE Administrator, has written these words so we can pray for the event this week. Please do pray for it, please come and support it, and please bring your friends too.**

Luke 2:8-20 tells of how the shepherds were told of the birth of Jesus, how the angels appeared in all their brightness with their good news and singing praises "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men." What strikes me is how the shepherds responded to all of that. Verse 16 tells us "they hurried off" to see this baby the angels were singing about and not only that, but verse 17 says that after seeing the baby, "they spread the word." And everyone who heard was "amazed." The shepherds returned "glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen." They were excited! They had encountered God, and they knew it!

Are you excited to encounter God this Christmas? What about this week? Today even? I pray God touches your life in a way that excites you, in a way that makes you want to "hurry off" and "spread the word" at the wonderful thing God is doing in your life, in your church, in your community. We have a wonderful, awesome Shepherd in Christ Jesus.

#### **Please pray for the SHINE Nativity on the 16<sup>th</sup> December, 6pm...**

- ◆ Please pray for the St Helens College staff and students as they rehearse the nativity
- ◆ Please pray for Joe Higgins as he works to put the production together
- ◆ Please pray for the team at the St Helen's Parish Church who are hosting the event
- ◆ Please pray that those working on the production encounter God in a new and exciting way

- ◆ Please pray that God may use the Nativity to reach out to those within St. Helens who may have forgotten just how awesome Christ is.
- ◆ Please pray that shoppers in town that night will be attracted by the nativity and want to come in from the street
- ◆ Pray for a person who you are going to invite, and then invite them to come with you!

**Please pray for the churches in Billinge, Blackbrook, Haresfinch and Carr Mill**

- 12 December – Billinge Family Church and Billinge Wesley Methodist Church
- 13 December – St Aidan’s Billinge and St Mary’s RC Church
- 14 December – St David’s Carr Mill
- 15 December – St Patrick, Clinkham Wood and St Peter & St Paul RC Church
- 16 December – Haresfinch United Reformed Church
- 17 December – St Mary’s Blackbrook
- 18 December – St Paul’s Blackbrook

## Sunday 19 – Saturday 25 December

### Christmas Celebrations

*“All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a Son, and they will call him ‘Immanuel’ (which means ‘God with us’).” (Matthew 1:22, 23)*

Please pray that Jesus would be with those this week who are suffering in particular as a result of the financial crisis.

This special week, we take time to thank God for what He did for us at Christmas, and we pray for ourselves as churches, as we seek to celebrate Jesus and proclaim the good news to our town.

**A special prayer...**

Heavenly Father, during this Christmas week please speak into many hearts and minds about the amazing grace and truth of the gospel. May the Holy Spirit

convince people of their need for reconciliation with You through Jesus Christ. Amen. (prayer taken from [www.care.org.uk](http://www.care.org.uk))

**Dave Caldwell, from the Town Centre Fellowship of Churches, has asked us to pray...**

As we look forward to the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ, let us continue in the Father’s Love, that all churches in St. Helens will unite in the belief that we all belong to the one body of Christ, and continue to share our commitment of spreading the good news of the Gospel. In the coming new year, may the Lord bless our efforts and share our worship with each other, remembering the words of Jesus to his disciples, “ May they all be one, just as, Father, you are in me and I am in you, so that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe it was you who sent me.” (John 17:21)

**Please also pray for....**

- ◆ Pray for ourselves as churches, that through all our Christmas services, we may explain clearly the hope we have in the Christ child.
- ◆ Pray that amidst the celebration, we may remember to show compassion to the poor, the needy, the bereaved and the lonely, this Christmas time.

**A special prayer for Christmas Day....**

*O Holy Child of Bethlehem, who came from heaven to earth filled with God’s grace and truth; we worship You this day with great joy. May Your glory be seen increasingly by those You came to save. May Your kingdom come to all throughout all our world. Amen. (prayer taken from [www.care.org.uk](http://www.care.org.uk))*

**Please pray for the churches in Eccleston and Windle**

- 19 December – Christ Church Eccleston
- 20 December – St Luke’s Eccleston
- 21 December – St Julie’s
- 22 December – St Andrew’s
- 23 December – St Teresa’s
- 24 December – Newtown United Reformed Church
- 25 December – St Thomas of Canterbury.

## More Prayer Labourers needed:

Did you know that over 600 copies of SHINE Prayer Focus are distributed every two months? We know that maybe not every copy will be used every day, but it is still a staggering thought that so many people are uniting in prayer across the town around the same objective of a Christ centred St. Helens. If you know of others who have a commitment to praying for the transformation of St. Helens, why not give them a copy? Phone the office and ask Angela to send you an extra one today.



## Sunday 26 December – Saturday 1 January

### Town-wide Issues 1

*“God will strengthen you with his own great power so that you will not give up when troubles come, but you will be patient.”* (Colossians 1:13-14)

Please pray that as we look to a new year, that God will strengthen us as a town as we look to the challenges that we face in 2011.

This week we also pray for our town; praying especially for shops and businesses in the centres of our borough, and also praying for St Helens Rugby League Club.

### Paul Day and Gaz Tracey, Chaplains at St Helens Rugby League Club, have asked us to pray for...

- ◆ Firstly thank God for answered prayers, for the successful service of remembrance for those whose loved ones ashes are scattered at Knowsley Road, and for the way in which it was well received.
- ◆ Please pray for the Stadium Staff – this is a time of change as you can imagine, so please pray for staff in this period of flux:
  - ◆ Many moving to temporary offices and facilities, but some staying at Knowsley Road until the contractors take over in the New Year
  - ◆ Some are uncertain about their jobs in the future, and some are having to find temporary employment until the new stadium is ready

- ◆ Staff who are used to working together in the same place will now be in a number of venues – this could affect the “social” aspect of their work as well as the tasks they share, not seeing each other face to face as in the past

- ◆ Please pray for the key people involved in planning for the new stadium

### Please also pray for...

- ◆ Please pray for local shops and businesses in the shopping centres across the borough. Pray that people will use our local shops and businesses and support them.
- ◆ Give thanks for the jobs which local shops and businesses create for local people.
- ◆ Pray that new businesses would be inspired to invest in St Helens and that new jobs would be created.

### Please pray for the churches in Haydock and Earlestown

26 December – Earlestown Baptist Church  
27 December – Blessed English Martyrs RC Church  
28 December – St James the Great, Haydock  
29 December – St Mark’s Haydock  
30 December – Christ Church United Reformed Church  
31 December – Haydock Independent Methodist Church  
1 January – Haydock Methodist Church

## Prayer Meeting

For prayer groups and churches across Merseyside  
To pray for the transformation of Liverpool and the surrounding area

**The first Friday of every month**

**7.30pm**

**The Lady Chapel of Liverpool Cathedral**

## Sunday 2 – Saturday 8 January

### Education

*“When I am afraid I will trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid.” (Psalm 56:3-4)*

Please pray for St Helens shops and businesses, that as we enter a traditionally slow financial period, they may flourish.

As our local schools go back this week, and as they start a new year, we pray this week for the area of education, and for the work of Christians within the education system.

#### **Paul and Jeanette Caine, from the Seedlings Trust, who work with schools and churches across the borough, have asked us to pray for...**

- ◆ Paul is still attending 16 primary Schools, the majority in the St Helens area, the exceptions being St Philips and Callands in Warrington. We thank God for the openness of both staff and children at these schools and for the number of children we can reach with the Gospel each week.
- ◆ Stas4all: This continues to grow from strength to strength, we see between 80 and 120 people per month turn up to St Aidan’s School in Billinge, on the fourth Sunday of every month. We do thank God for the privilege of leading this and working with the faithful folk from the Church.
- ◆ Parish Praise: To strengthen links between Parish Church and Parish Primary school, we now run a monthly Parish praise service in the church on a Sunday morning. Children, parents and some staff members come along. Please pray for Paul, the Parish Church and the school as together they look for ways to develop this.
- ◆ LOL: This is an after school event held in St Ann’s Rainhill school one Monday per month. Please pray for the planning, for the staff and children in the development of this project.
- ◆ Seedlings are very grateful to God for His faithfulness in the past almost 21 years. Please continue to pray for the Trustees who oversee the work and as we follow God’s lead. In particular please pray for Sue Kirkham, our Chair and for Richard Denno, our treasurer.
- ◆ Please pray for all who work in schools at this time: both teaching staff and teaching assistants need our prayers. Please pray that as we continue to build links with them, we will also be able to touch their lives with the love of God.

- ◆ Thank God for His financial provision for the work and for the faithful people who give regularly.

#### **Paul Johnson, Lead Chaplain at St. Helens College, has asked us to pray for...**

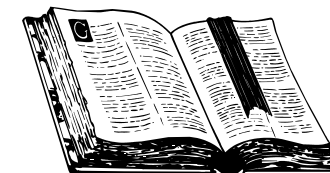
- ◆ Please pray for the ‘Network’ Christian Union groups that are starting to meet across College. Please pray that many people will want to get involved to explore faith and that many will find Jesus for themselves.
- ◆ You may have noticed, from the Comprehensive Spending Review, that the Education Maintenance Allowance will cease to exist from January 2011 for any new students. This will hit our learners very hard as many of them rely on the £30 per week that they receive. Please pray that learners will be able to get by and that poverty will not follow. Also, please pray that this cut back will not affect the number of students who choose to continue in education and grasp the opportunities that are available to them. This decision has the potential to negatively affect many families in St. Helens – please pray that God will protect them.

#### **Please also pray for...**

Thank God for our schools, who provide such a good service for the children and young people of this area.

#### **Please pray for the churches in Newton-Le-Willows**

- 2 January – All Saints C of E Church and Emmanuel, Wargrave
- 3 January – Newton Christian Fellowship
- 4 January – St David’s RC Church and St Patrick’s RC Church.
- 5 January – St Johns’ C of E Church
- 6 January – St Peter’s C of E Church
- 7 January – St Mary and St John RC Church
- 8 January – Newton Methodist Church



## Sunday 9 – Saturday 15 January

### Families

*“Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands.” (Deuteronomy 7:9)*

Please pray especially for those in St Helens who rely on services in St Helens which are being cut as a result of the financial crisis. Pray especially for the elderly, those who are ill and those who have mental health problems who are going to be affected by service cuts.

Our prayers this week focus on praying for families across St Helens.

### Barbara Jones has asked us to pray for...

- ◆ Father, thank you for all families in St. Helens. We pray that your love and peace will rule in every home. That parents and children will build respectful, loving relationships that will strengthen them and bring happiness and security into their family life. Amen
- ◆ Lord, we pray for families on the edge. Those who live with the pressure of lack of money, lack of trust in relationships, and a lack of support from other family members. Please bring your hope into their lives and reconciliation between family members. Amen
- ◆ Father, forgive us all for the times we have put our own selfish wants and desires before the needs of our children, whether material or emotional. Help all parents to show your love and compassion to their children so they grow up experiencing your great love for them. Amen
- ◆ Father, we pray for those working with families. Thank you, Lord, for the Children’s Centres throughout our borough. Thank you for the great work they do with families to help them get a good start in life. Give wisdom and knowledge to staff as they come alongside families and help them to nurture and care for their babies and toddlers. Amen
- ◆ Jesus, you grew up in a loving home, learning about your Father in heaven. We pray that Christian parents will follow the example of your earthly parents and bring up their children to know and love you as their Saviour and friend. We pray for more Christian homes to be a witness in their communities to your wonderful love. Amen

- ◆ There is a rise in the number of children in the borough needing foster care, both long and short term. Please pray for more foster carers to come forward and that children will be placed with the family that is best for them. Pray for the foster carers who give love, a safe place and a listening ear to children of all ages who have not had a loving family experience.
- ◆ St. Helens has one of the highest rates of teenage pregnancies, please pray for all the initiatives that help to educate and support young parents. Pray that governments would do all in their power to encourage and support marriage as the best basis for family life.

### Please pray for the churches of Parr and Rainford

- 9 January – Holy Trinity, Parr Mount
- 10 January – Parr Methodist Church and the Salvation Army, Tickle Avenue
- 11 January – St Vincent’s de Paul RC Church
- 12 January – St Peters Parr and St Philips Derbyshire Hill
- 13 January – Corpus Christi RC Church, Rainford
- 14 January – All Saints Rainford
- 15 January – Rainford United Reformed Church and Rainford Methodist Church

### This Prayer Letter is produced by SHINE Trust Board

Rev. Fr. Tom Neylon    Rev. John Draycott    Rev. Vincent Whitworth  
Miss Helen Davies    Mr. Joe Higgins    Mr Mike Kerry

SHINE Office,  
St. Helens Parish Church,  
Church Square,  
St. Helens,  
WA10 1AF

Phone & Fax No.: 01744 23433  
email: office@shine.org.uk  
www: shine.org.uk

St. Helens Inter-Church Neighbourhood Evangelisation  
Registered Charity No. 1061178

## Prayer Focus Groups

If you would like to join a Prayer Focus Group, and support in prayer your part of the town, please contact the SHINE Office for more information about the groups.

Contact details are on page 15.



## Sunday 16 – Saturday 22 January

### Town-wide Issues 2

*“Be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10)*

Please pray especially for those working in the public sector in St Helens and the borough, as they cope with the brunt of the cuts and the uncertainty caused by the cuts to their budgets.

### Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Thematic Group Faith Reps

- ◆ Please pray for the following people and the groups as a whole as they make strategic decisions regarding our area. The prayer requests have come from the Reps themselves.

Children and Young People – Mike Balmford (e-mail: office@shine.org.uk)

- ◆ Please pray for the Hope Academy in Newton which will open next September. Also pray for De La Salle and Rainford who have both had the go ahead for their refurbishment projects.

- ◆ Please pray for the schools which are not being refurbished or rebuilt due to the current economic climate. We pray that these schools are not forgotten and that needs will be met.

Crime and Disorder Reduction – Tim Hyde

(e-mail: office@sthelensbaptist.co.uk)

Healthier Communities and Older People – John Draycott

(e-mail: john.draycott@sky.com)

Communities and Neighbourhoods – Angela Metcalfe

(e-mail: office@shine.org.uk)

Economic Development and Enterprise – Richard Bennett

(e-mail: r.a.bennett61@btinternet.com)

- ◆ Please pray that churches across St. Helens can be beacons of hope during the coming months when people are worried about loss of household income. May the town see our faith networks as communities that show practical care for one another and for our neighbours.
- ◆ Pray especially for people who lose their employment, that God will be very real and make his plans known for their future.

*(As an aside, Richard Bennett wants to set up a gym network church in St. Helens. If you are interested or want to know more – then please e-mail him at the above address.)*

\*\*\*\*\*

## LSP Reps

*We have included the LSP faith representative e-mail addresses because their role is to represent us all as a faith community across the Borough of St Helens. Therefore if you have an issue or opinion that you'd like raised up at the LSP groups then feel free to e-mail them and they would be happy to represent your views at those groups*

\*\*\*\*\*

### Please also pray for...

- ◆ Please pray for Chief Superintendent Chris Armitt, of Merseyside Police, as he has to deal with cuts in his budget. Pray for God's guidance for him, as he seeks to maintain the high level of service which his force provides to St. Helens despite the cuts.
- ◆ Please pray for Carole Hudson, St Helens Council Chief Executive, and Cllr Marie Rimmer, Leader of the Council, as they, along with others, seek to cope with huge budget costs. Pray for God's wisdom for them and all who make decisions in the public sector – as they make difficult decisions in 2011.

### Please pray for the churches of Prescott and Thatto Heath

16 January.– Our Lady Help of Christians RC Church and St James, Eccleston Park

17 January – Prescott Methodist Church and Whiston Methodist Church

18 January – Prescott Salvation Army and Prescott Community Church

19 January – Balmer Street Methodist Church, Nutgrove Methodist Church and West Street Independent Methodist Church

20 January – St John's Ravenhead and St Matthew's Thatto Heath

21 January – St Austin's

22 January – Toll Bar with Prescott United Reformed Church

## Sunday 23 – Saturday 29 January

### The Local Church Part 2

*“For as the soil makes the young plant come up, and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.” (Isaiah 61:11)*

Please pray that as churches in St Helens, we may grow in righteousness, and that righteousness may in turn affect our society, in order that our society may grow in fruitfulness.

And our other prayers this week focus on the work that we as local churches do within our community...

#### Angela Rigby, the SHINE administrator, has asked us to pray...

- ◆ Please pray that God would continue to transform our communities through the church.
- ◆ Please pray that the churches would develop even stronger relationships with the Council.
- ◆ Please pray for the churches to have wisdom as to how to respond to the “Big Society” idea
- ◆ Please pray for churches to have insight about how best to impact their own local communities
- ◆ Please pray for churches increasingly to work together and support one another in community engagement

#### Philip Fell, Pastor of CLC, has asked us to pray for....

- ◆ Please pray for our two Mission-Shaped Community developments (Fresh Expressions of Church) in Thatto Heath Crusaders Rugby Club (Wednesday evenings), and Cherry Tree Hotel, Derbyshire Hill (Thursday evenings), plus a potential group in Thatto Heath supporting Mums and children. Pray that our people will be effective in forming new relationships in these settings and letting the love of Jesus be clearly seen.
- ◆ Please pray for our Street Outreach team which works in the town centre on Saturday afternoons. Many people are prayed for and witnessed to about Jesus. Pray that they will follow up on their desire to know Christ.

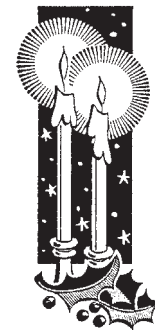
- ◆ Please pray for our monthly Kids Club, CLC Saints, as we try to reach out to non-church kids as well as our own. This high energy Saturday Club has huge potential. Pray for leaders to maintain energy and passion and for children to be attracted and regular in attendance.

#### Stephen Pilkington, from the Lighthouse Community Church, has asked us to pray for...

- ◆ Please pray for our church, as we seek to establish this church, in Parr.

#### Please pray for the churches of Sutton and Rainhill

- 23 January – All Saints Sutton, St Michael’s Sutton and St Nicholas’ Sutton
- 24 January – Sutton Methodist Church and Sutton Village Church
- 25 January – Church of the Nazarene and Peasley Cross United Reformed Church
- 26 January – St Ann & Blessed Dominic and St Theresa.
- 27 January – St Bartholomew’s RC Church and St Anne’s C of E Rainhill
- 28 January – Rainhill Pentecostal Church and Trinity Church, Rainhill
- 29 January – St James’ Methodist Church, Rainhill



*The light shines in the darkness, and  
the darkness has not overcome it.*

*John 1 verse 5 (R.S.V.)*

*We wish you a wonderful Christmas  
and a blessed new year.*

*Thank you for praying with us in 2010*