

# Angela Rigby writes...

I want to preface this edition of the Prayer Diary by saying that being a Christian is not an exclusive club. In fact quite the opposite – Christ died for the world (John 3:16).

Being in the SHINE office, I am blessed to be able to talk to Christians from all across the Borough. As a listener to UCB radio, I hear Christian leaders talk from all over the UK. As a person who listens to podcasts of sermons on the internet, I can hear what God is doing across the globe. And I have to tell you that over the past three months - albeit in different ways – God has been speaking the same message to people in Australia, America, Sheffield, Haydock and St. Helens.

Every Christian – yes even you – has been chosen by God to be His before He even created the Heavens. You may think you chose God, but no, He chose you. Way before you were born. That is how much He loves you. That is how important you are to Him. Paul writes about this over and over in his letters, but it is easy to rush over those words and into the rest of his topics. But God is making those words stand out now.

Ephesians 1:4 – “For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.” (NIV)

Colossians 3:12 – “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.” (NIV)

Romans 8:29 – “Those whom God had already chosen He also set apart to become like His Son.” (Good News Bible)

God wants us to remember that we are His chosen people, chosen to be the body of Christ in this world (see Ephesians). How should we respond to that? Struggling through day to day life, it is all too easy to forget who we are. And looking at this world, alongside the good God created, there is a lot of brokenness, hurt, suffering, and oppression. Isaiah 58 gives great guidelines as to what God expects of His people in times such as the ones we are in now: “loose the chains of injustice...set the oppressed free...share food with the hungry...provide the poor wanderer with shelter...and when you see the naked, to clothe him.” And what’s more, God promises to look after us and care for us while we do these

things. “And the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.” (Isaiah 58:8) He wants us to step out in confidence, knowing that He is there with us. If we follow His commands as set out in Isaiah 58, God promises that “You will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.” (Isaiah 58:12)

At the Transforming Our Community conference in November, the churches of St. Helens began a discussion with local secular agencies as to how we can work together to heal St. Helens, to come alongside our neighbours in these difficult times. Whilst these conversations continue, I urge you to remember:

- ◆ God loves you
- ◆ God chose you
- ◆ The Church is the body of Christ
- ◆ Pray for your neighbours – even those you don’t know by name yet.
- ◆ Pray for the local council leaders, especially the Chief Executive Carole Hudson and Leader of the Council Councillor Marie Rimmer, and those who serve on the Local Strategic Partnership Board and its thematic groups.
- ◆ Pray for local church leaders – the ministers, the curates, the youth pastors and youth workers, the leadership teams, the worship leaders and all those who volunteer their time serving the Lord. Pray for their spouses and families too.
- ◆ Pray for Social Services, the Police, the NHS, Sure Start, schools, and the many volunteer organisations that work within the Borough of St. Helens.
- ◆ Listen to what God is telling you and tell your local church leaders.
- ◆ Communicate with other churches – are there skills that each can offer to address the needs in your local community?

Above all, thank God for Jesus and that we are a fellowship of believers, able to lean upon each other and pray for each other. And thank God that He chose you to be His.

Angela Rigby  
The SHINE Administrator



# Prayer & Praise Events

**Want people to know **Jesus**?**

**Want to see St Helens  
*transformed?***

**Then come along to a SHINE  
Prayer and Praise event:**

- **Tuesday 8th February at 7:30pm  
at the **Salvation Army Church**,  
47 Tickle Avenue, St Helens.**
- **Monday 21st March at 7:30pm  
at **St Vincent de Paul Church**,  
Derbyshire Hill Road, St Helens.**

If my people, who are called by My Name, humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.  
(2 Chronicles 7:14)

**After we pray, there will be opportunity to network with other  
Christians whilst enjoying light refreshments.**

# Sunday 30 January – Saturday 5 February

## Children/Young People/Education

*“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12)*

There is a lot of bad feeling held by many people about ‘the youth of today’ and comparing the youth of today to the youth of yesteryear. But as Paul reminds Timothy, we all can learn much ourselves from young people, if only we dropped our stereotypes and had a bit of humility. So we begin this prayer diary by praying to God for our children and young people – and thanking God for them.

### **Rev Frank Hinds, from the UNiT (Area Youth Church), has asked us to pray...**

- ◆ Please pray for the next UNiT meetings for young people across St Helens and the Borough when we meet on  
Friday February 4th (St Helens Christian Life Centre)  
Friday March 4th (St. Mark’s Haydock).
- ◆ Please pray for us as a church as we focus on mission this year and as we think about planting cell groups within local schools.

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

- ◆ Please pray for St. Helens College during the week of February 7–11. We have been informed that we will have a full OFSTED inspection during this week. Please pray for controlled stress levels and that the College can make a good impression. Please pray for everyone involved – that they will know peace and rest alongside the workload.
- ◆ Give thanks for the recognition that our Principal, Pat Bacon, received in the New Year’s Honours List – she is now a Dame of the British Empire for services to Local and Further Education.
- ◆ Please pray for the ongoing construction work at the Town Centre Campus. All seems to be going well and on time. Please pray that work will be completed and that the transition into new facilities will go well.
- ◆ Please pray for families and friends following the recent death of a member of staff. Please pray for peace and comfort.

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

- ◆ Thank God for our children and young people, for their contribution to our town and society, and for what we can learn from them.
- ◆ Give thanks for our schools, and all who work within our schools, who help to nurture the children and young people of the area.
- ◆ Pray for us as churches, that we might help children and young people learn to build their lives on Jesus.

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

- 30 January – Christian Life Centre and the Salvation Army Hostel
- 31 January – Barton Street Mission and Bethel Mission
- 1 February – St. Helens Baptist Church and Wesley Methodist Church
- 2 February – Holy Cross and St Mary's Lowe House
- 3 February – St. Helens United Reformed Church (Ormskirk Street)
- 4 February – St. Helens Parish Church, St. Mark's North Road and St. Thomas' Eccleston
- 5 February – Redeemed Church of God

## **Sunday 6 – Saturday 12 February**

### **National Marriage Week**

*“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh” (Genesis 2: 24)*

This week, as we come towards Valentine's Day, is National Marriage Week. Marriage is a gift from God – so let's focus our prayers this week on praying for marriages.

### **A special prayer:**

*Almighty God, the source of all love, thank You for the gift of marriage which You designed as a relationship to bring lasting security and love into the lives of men, women and children. Amen. (Prayer taken from [www.care.org.uk](http://www.care.org.uk))*

### **Please pray for:**

- ◆ Pray for those who are getting married this year. Maybe pray for the couples you know personally who are getting married. Pray that God will be with them as they prepare to commit to each other.
- ◆ If you are married yourself – thank God for your own marriage.
- ◆ Pray that this year, marriage will become more popular. Pray that more people will commit themselves in marriage to one another rather than ignoring marriage.
- ◆ Thank God for the opportunities churches have through weddings to reach out to people and the opportunities to share the gospel.
- ◆ Pray for those who are struggling in a marriage. Perhaps you know someone whose marriage is in trouble. Pray for them – that God would help those whose marriage is in trouble to get through their problems.
- ◆ Pray for those in St. Helens whose marital partner has died over the last year, and who are grieving for their husband/wife. Ask God to comfort them today.
- ◆ Pray for those who are single and who are troubled because they are not in a relationship and who desire to find someone. Pray for God's guidance for them.

### **Pastor Andrew Gale from Earlestown Baptist Church has asked us to pray...**

Pray for the possibility of combining with two churches in Garswood, especially in relation to having combined Gospel Services. The first one is on 12th February.

### **SHINE Prayer & Praise Event on Tuesday 8th February, 7.30pm, Salvation Army Church, Tickle Avenue, St. Helens**

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

- 6 February – Billinge Family Church
- 7 February – St. Aidan's Billinge and St. Mary's RC Church
- 8 February – St. David's Carr Mill
- 9 February – St Patrick, Clinkham Wood and St Peter & St Paul RC Church
- 10 February – Haresfinch United Reformed Church
- 11 February – St. Mary's Blackbrook
- 12 February – St. Paul's Blackbrook

# Sunday 13 – Saturday 19 February

## The Local Church Part 1

*“His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms” (Ephesians 3:10)*

This week, we are praying specifically for our local churches, as we all seek to make God known in our Borough.

### **Rev David Eastwood, of St. Helens Parish Church, has asked us to pray...**

Please pray for our Christianity Explored Course which we started on Wednesday 19th January and which will run over the next ten weeks. Pray for those on the course, that through the course, they may grow closer to God.

### **Trevor Prescott, of West Street Independent Methodist Church, has asked us to pray for...**

- ◆ Our Members Rededication Service is on 8th March. Please pray that there will be a good attendance and that there will be a genuine commitment from those present to seek to further God’s work in our neighbourhood in the coming year.
- ◆ On March 18th is our Fellowship Meal when the speaker is Bill Hampson of the Epiphany Trust. Please pray that Bill will be used to encourage believers and to change unbelievers.

### **St. Mark’s Haydock, Christ Church URC and Haydock Independent Methodist Church, has asked us to pray for the Haydock Street Pastors Initiative...**

Haydock Street Pastors is the joint venture of St. Mark’s Church, Christ Church URC and the Independent Methodist Church in Haydock. From this month, people from these churches will be going on the streets of Haydock at night, to be people that offer support and a listening ear to those they come across. Please pray for them as they start this work

### **Finally, SHINE, would also like us all to pray for...**

- ◆ Please pray for the Women’s World Day of Prayer on 4th March

- ◆ Please pray for the next SHINE Prayer and Praise event to be held at St Vincent de Paul Church on Monday 21st March 2011 at 7:30pm
- ◆ Please pray for the Pre-Christian Aid Week Workshop being held at the St Helens Christian Life Centre on Atherton Street on Wednesday 23rd February 2011 from 6pm to 9pm. (Please see advert below)

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

- 13 February – Christ Church Eccleston
- 14 February – St. Luke's Eccleston
- 15 February – St. Julie's
- 16 February – St. Andrew's
- 17 February – St. Teresa's
- 18 February – Newtown United Reformed Church
- 19 February – St. Thomas of Canterbury.



## **Pre-Christian Aid Week Workshop**

***For anyone who organises or helps out during Christian Aid week as well as for those who haven't helped before and would like to come and see what it is all about.***

***When: Wednesday 23rd February 2011 from 6pm to 9pm***

***Where: St Helens Christian Life Centre, Atherton Street, St Helens***

***To book your place contact the Northwest Regional Christian Aid office on 01925 573 769.***

# 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 April/May edition – please e-mail us your prayer requests by **Friday 4th March**.

## Sunday 20 – Saturday 26 February

### Town Issues

*“The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective”* (James 5:16b)

This week our prayers are focusing on praying for our town, in particular our economy and the work of the police in St. Helens.

### **Superintendent Rowley Moore, Operations Support of St. Helens Police, has asked us to pray for...**

- ◆ Please pray for the new St. Helens Area Commander – Chief Superintendent Rob Carden
- ◆ Please pray for improvement in our sanction detection rate relating to Burglary and Vehicle Crime
- ◆ Please pray for the family and friends of PC Jackie Carrol who recently passed away
- ◆ Please pray for wisdom as we continue to get to grips with the significant financial cuts and what this means to staff numbers and maintaining optimal performance
- ◆ Please pray for improvement in our customer satisfaction performance particularly in relation to Actions Taken, Follow Up, Treatment and Whole Experience.
- ◆ Please pray for our violence reduction team

- ◇ Please pray for our organised Crime team
- ◇ Please pray for vehicle crime particularly in the Moss Bank/Billinge/Newton Le Willows and Haydock areas
- ◇ Please pray for the problem of burglary particularly in the Thatto Heath and Eccleston areas
- ◇ Please pray for our Integrated Offender Management team
- ◇ Give thanks for our success across all crime types when viewed Year to Date

**SHINE would also like us to pray...**

Thank God for the work of Chief Superintendent Chris Armitt, as he leaves his post in St. Helens. Give thanks for his work, and pray that God would be with him as he starts his new post in South Liverpool.

**Marjorie and Lynda, the Town Centre Chaplains (Mission in the Economy), would like us to pray for...**

- ◇ Please pray for health and strength for all who endeavour to enrich people's lives within St. Helens and beyond.
- ◇ Pray for Mission in the Economy, the Council and new MitE co-ordinator Rev. Jean Flood as we work together in our different ways to seek God's heart for his people and St. Helens.
- ◇ Please pray for those whose quality of life is poor because of hunger, broken relationships, greed, no work, too much work, lack of love and self worth, addictive lifestyles and a lack of hope.
- ◇ May we continue to pray for the St. Helens economy as a whole, and pray that local businesses would thrive in 2011 despite the economic challenges.

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

- 20 February – Earlestown Baptist Church
- 21 February – Blessed English Martyrs RC Church
- 22 February – St. James the Great, Haydock
- 23 February – St. Mark's Haydock
- 24 February – Christ Church United Reformed Church
- 25 February – Haydock Independent Methodist Church
- 26 February – Haydock Methodist Church

# Sunday 27 February – Saturday 5 March

## Fairtrade Fortnight

*“Listen to me, you who walk on helpless people, you who are trying to destroy the poor people of this country, saying...when will the Sabbath be over so we can bring out wheat to sell? We can charge them more and give them less...we will buy poor people for silver, and needy people for the price of a pair of sandals...The Lord has sworn by His name, the Pride of Jacob ‘I will never forget everything that those people did’ (Amos 8:4-8 – paraphrased)*

This week sees the start of Fairtrade Fortnight; so in our prayers this week we are focusing on the Fairtrade movement and the theme of justice.

**Judith Price, The Fairtrade Representative for St. Helens, has written and asked us to pray about the following...**



The Fair trade Foundation says: “This year, let’s go further and explain why Fairtrade matters. By showing off the importance of Fairtrade to producers, the benefits of the Fairtrade premium for local communities and the change Fairtrade brings, we’re giving more people in the UK more reasons to choose Fairtrade.”

The council will be holding several events over Fairtrade Fortnight so please support these where you can.

Think about holding your own Fair Trade event to “Show off the label”. Use your imagination to hold a Fair trade event to introduce people to Fair Trade. Take a photograph of your event and then the council can add it to its portfolio showing the support of Fair Trade is on going in St. Helens.

### Please pray

- ❖ Please pray that God will bless and give success to our Council in all that it is doing to promote Fair Trade to maintain St. Helens’ Fair Trade Status.
- ❖ Please pray that we will all choose Fair trade where and whenever we can.
- ❖ Please pray that more businesses will opt to use Fair Trade.

- ◆ Please pray that through the Fair Trade movement, justice and a fair deal will be achieved for the poorest of our world.
- ◆ Thank God for all that has already been achieved through the Fairtrade movement.

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

- 27 February – All Saints C of E Church and Emmanuel, Wargrave
- 28 February – Newton Christian Fellowship
- 1 March – St David’s RC Church and St Patrick’s RC Church.
- 2 March – St Johns’ C of E Church
- 3 March – St Peter’s C of E Church
- 4 March – St Mary & St John RC Church
- 5 March – Newton Methodist Church



**Sunday 6 – Saturday 12 March**

**St Helens Council**

*“Trust in Him at all times O people. Pour out your hearts to him. For God is our refuge” (Psalm 62:8)*

This week, our prayers are focusing on our Council, and the decisions that they have to make.

**Carole Hudson, Chief Executive of St. Helens Council, has asked us to pray...**

Please pray for all the families in St Helens who have sons or daughters currently serving out in Iraq and Afghanistan and to keep them safe. We are aware that we currently have a lot of young people out there from our regiments and it must be very difficult for all their families.

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

Please pray for the following people and the groups as a whole within the council as they make strategic decisions regarding our area.

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

Crime and Disorder Reduction – Vacant

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)

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## LSP Reps

*We have included the LSP faith representative e-mails 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*

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## Please also pray for...

- ◆ Please pray for the Council as they now cope with the realities of losing up to an estimated £28 million per year in their budget.
- ◆ Please pray that God would continue to give the Council wisdom in how to use their assets.
- ◆ Pray for us as churches, as we work with the Council and other statutory agencies in order to make our town and Borough a better place.

## Please pray for the churches of Parr and Rainford

6 March – Holy Trinity, Parr Mount

7 March – Parr Methodist Church and the Salvation Army, Tickle Avenue

8 March – St Vincent de Paul RC Church

9 March – St Peter's Parr and St Philip's Derbyshire Hill

10 March – Corpus Christi RC Church, Rainford

11 March – All Saints Rainford

12 March – Rainford United Reformed Church and Rainford Methodist Church



# Prayer & Praise Events

Want people to know **Jesus**?

Want to see St Helens  
*transformed?*

Then come along to a **SHINE**  
Prayer and Praise event:

- **Monday 21st March at 7:30pm**  
**at St Vincent de Paul Church,**  
**Derbyshire Hill Road,**  
**Parr, St Helens.**

If my people, who are called by My Name, humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.  
(2 Chronicles 7:14)

After we pray, there will be opportunity to network with other Christians whilst enjoying light refreshments.

# 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 13 – Saturday 20 March

### The Local Church 2

*“And so we worship God acceptably with reverence and awe for our God is an all-consuming fire” (Hebrews 12:28-29)*

This week we again seek to pray for our local churches – remembering that our prime purpose as churches is to worship and come before our awesome God.

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

- ◆ Please pray for our midweek Children’s Club and our attempt to engage the parents in Messy Church
- ◆ Give thanks for the setting up of a new lunchtime Bible Club at Ashurst School on a Tuesday. Pray that the children will continue coming along.
- ◆ Please pray as we consider the possibility of a holiday club for 5-11 year olds in the Easter holidays.
- ◆ Please pray for Gina Rouse & Mel Finney as they come to the end of their training as lay readers, and Mel in his new role with hospital chaplaincy
- ◆ Please pray for the older members of our church saddened by the death of friends and please pray for the fellowship of the Friendship group as they seek to support each other in bereavement.

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

- ◆ Give thanks for those churches in our area who have recently found new ministers. Pray for the new ministers, that they and their families would settle in the area.
- ◆ Pray for the churches in our area without a minister at the moment. Pray for those church members who have taken on extra responsibilities.
- ◆ Pray that as we journey through Lent, it may be a time for us all as churches to spend time in worship of God and contemplation of what God has done for us.

### **Please pray for the churches of Prescot and Thatto Heath**

- 13 March – Our Lady Help of Christians RC Church and St James, Eccleston Park
- 14 March – Prescot Methodist Church and Whiston Methodist Church
- 15 March – Prescot Salvation Army and Prescot Community Church
- 16 March – Balmer Street Methodist Church, Nutgrove Methodist Church and West Street Independent Methodist Church
- 17 March – St John’s Ravenhead and St Matthew’s Thatto Heath
- 18 March – St Austin’s
- 19 March – Toll Bar with Prescot United Reformed Church

## **Sunday 20 – Saturday 26 March**

### **Families**

*“In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation” (Psalm 5:3)*

This week we are praying for the area of families, and praying for family life in St. Helens and the Borough.

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

- ◆ Pause to thank God for all the blessings you and your family have received from Him.
- ◆ Pray for positive co-operation between all organisations and partnerships working on behalf of families in St. Helens. Ask God to give them wisdom, understanding and patience.

- ◆ Pray for families still recovering from the financial burden of Christmas.
- ◆ Pray for families living with long-term illness, mental health problems or disability.
- ◆ With the effects of the recession over the next few years many families will not be able to provide for their own basic needs. Please pray that our local authority and local charities will be able to support the most vulnerable through this period and that we will all work together selflessly for those in need.
- ◆ Bring to God in prayer any family you know who are in need of a loving touch at the moment. Ask him to show you how you can demonstrate his love for them in practical ways.
- ◆ Pray for ourselves that we would live in a way that reflects Jesus, the Light of the World, so others would sense His presence in us.

**SHINE Prayer & Praise event on Monday 21st March, 7.30pm,  
St. Vincent de Paul Church, Derbyshire Hill Road, Parr, St. Helens**

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

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

## 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 19.

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

# 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 below.



## 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.



## 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

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