



webod

making a difference



# Prayer guide

27<sup>th</sup> November 2011 –  
25<sup>th</sup> February 2012

prayer makes a difference



Christmas is only days away.... Does that evoke panic, peace, pleasure or pain! The response will depend on your current situation or circumstance, The message of Christmas is “He Came.....(John 1 v 11-12)”. He who had been promised for 4000 years.

Who then is He? The Word, made flesh, the Bethlehem Babe, Emmanuel – God with us, Teacher, Prophet, Messiah, Jesus the Saviour of the World, God did not send a teacher to teach His love, God did not send a messenger with gifts of His love. God did not send a lawyer to prove His love. God came Himself! He came as a gift (John 3 v 16)

As the angels said to those first shepherds, “I bring you good news....” Their response to that was, “Let us *now* ((not when we have thought about it, prayed about it, argued about it, or understood it all, but now) go to Bethlehem..... And they went and found the Lord Jesus Christ.

He came that we might have Life, life in all its fullness. Let us this Christmas receive His gift.

## **November 27<sup>th</sup> – December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

### **Wotton, Glos.**

### **Tom Wharin**

- Thanks for the 7 baptisms there have been so far this year, and for another baptism service on 20<sup>th</sup> November.
- A number of activities in which we are involved with the community or the other churches:
  - o Messy Church, giving thanks for the families represented and praying for doors to be opened and relationships deepened
  - o Living Crib tableau
  - o Christmas under the Edge – a celebration in the town centre involving local shops, businesses and community groups
- Little Fishes weekly Parent/carer and Toddlers group where over 40 families are represented each week, mostly from outside the church, praying that the good news message given each week will bear fruit in peoples' lives
- Christmas parties; outreach events being organised by a number of members for their neighbours as an opportunity to share what Christmas means for us
- The Carol service, to be used as an outreach service
- The Pulse youth church, giving thanks for a number of members recently baptised and pray for more leaders

### **Backwell**

### **Jeff Cockburn**

Please pray specifically for our " Supper at the George " outreach event on Tuesday 29 November. Pray that God will use David Richardson to reach many unsaved friends, family members and neighbours with the message of the gospel.

Please pray also that God will bless the many events planned over the Christmas period.

**December 4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Welton, Midsomer Norton**

**Mike Howell**

We continue to give thanks for the way God blesses the various activities we run, for the opportunities this gives us to reach out to our local community and for the relationships this helps us to develop. Please pray for Matt Coomes, our Outreach Worker, as he coordinates many of these different events.

Please pray for our three new Elders, John, Pete & Scott. We give thanks that God has raised up these men of God to serve the fellowship. Please pray for wisdom & discernment for them as they take on this new ministry. Pray for their wives & families too.

We have a number of members who are facing challenging times with difficult health issues. Please pray for the whole church as we support and pray for these individuals, and that we would all know God's peace.

We are looking forward to the Christmas period, and are particularly excited about the opportunities coming up for a live Nativity in the Town High Street and our annual Pantomime.

**Lawn Community Church (Swindon)**

**John Roe**

Please join us in praise for ...

- ... new folk worshipping regularly wanting to find out more about what it means to be a Christian and a church member. We recently baptised a man who we met through the Coffee Shop that meets in our community centre.
- ... our exciting contact with the local primary school, particularly relationships with the Head and Deputy Head. We are planning a joint Community Carol evening with them and a 'Christmas Experience' at our community centre for all the year 6 children and staff.

... and in prayer

- ... Christmas Day. We invite anyone in our community who will be on their own on Christmas Day to join us for Dinner and fellowship, something that has proved very popular and worthwhile.
- ... like many other churches we are looking at a reduced income. Please pray that our vision would not be limited by our human resources, but that we would seek to increase our faith as we are obedient to God's calling.

**December 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Lydbrook**

**Beth Jackson**

Please pray for our "Winter Warmers", an opportunity to offer hospitality to some of the older members of our village through the winter months when it's harder to get out and about. Pray that the generosity and hospitality offered through these lunchtime gatherings will open significant and meaningful conversations.

Also, pray for the church in this period of transition as our minister, Beth, moves to Australia just after Christmas. Pray that we will keep the kingdom vision even as we move through this uncertain period.

**Totterdown**

**Laurie Burn**

We rejoice that two people who recently started coming to church are being baptised on November 27<sup>th</sup>. The church continues to grow, but our focus is on consolidating the work and developing new leadership structures appropriate for the changing dynamics of the fellowship. A particular focus is on mentoring and encouraging younger leaders, especially those in their 20s & 30s. We have recently appointed a part-time Youth Worker, and also have a Student Minister on placement with us for two years.

Building improvements have benefitted all of the users, and we continue to engage with community groups by offering accommodation. Recently, a local Alcoholics Anonymous group has begun meeting at tbc, and we have also started the Saltcellar Folk Club on the first Saturday of each month. Our Christmas programme includes a Community Pantomime and Carols in the Park.

Please pray for:

- Wisdom in appointing and empowering new leaders
- The Alpha Course currently being planned for January 2012
- Unity in vision and focus as the church grows and diversifies.

## **December 18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>**

### **Lechlade Glos (Sam Edwards, Minister-in-Training)**

We give thanks for:

- the fifteen-plus children who came to the Holiday Bible Club. A combined churches venture: the first of its kind in Lechlade for some years; for those who came along after the Club to a barbecue at our church
- the donation of a new screen and the creation of an electronic file of hymns and songs.

Please pray for:

- our Carols by Candlelight service at 6.00pm on Christmas Eve; our Christmas Day service at 10.30am
- wisdom and guidance as we prayerfully consider the ongoing ministry of the church. Sam's commission as Minister-in-Training at Lechlade is due to end sometime around September 2012
- wisdom to know how we might build on the relationships we've made through the Holiday Club
- FruitShoots Kids Club (Mondays in term-time): numbers have been low; Beans Coffee Shop (Saturday mornings); Card-making club (first Wednesday of the month)
- Andrew and Kate Cinnamond and family: Andrew is the new team vicar at St Lawrence's church
- the prospect of major roof repairs being needed within the next five years.

### **Minchinhampton, Glos**

**Liam Eaglestone**

Points for Praise:

- For an encouraging number of baptisms and more people becoming church members
- For our growing partnership with Stonehouse Baptist Church and the role of the Revd Simon Shepherd in both churches
- For developing connections and relationships in the wider community of Minchinhampton and the Stroud Five Valleys

Points for Prayer:

- For the journey of 'becoming a church of missional communities' - with an emphasis missional small groups
- For MBC & its Minister, Liam Eaglestone, during his Sabbatical in Sydney (Dec 11 - Feb 12)
- For all the opportunities to share the life of Christ during the Christmas season

**December 25<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>**

**WEBA Team: Nigel (Team Leader), Alisdair and Gordon (Regional Ministers), Gary (Office Manager) Rob (Trust) Ruth (Communications) and Lesley (Admin)**

The Weba Staff Team is always grateful for prayers from the people of our churches. Please pray for:

- God's leading as we face new challenges
- Missional thinking to shape all we do
- God's grace to build an effective Team
- Wisdom to discern priorities
- Health and stamina for everyone

We are thankful for your support.

**Horfield, Bristol Rachel Haig & Tim Parkman**

We are thankful for the growing number of groups using our refurbished rooms and for the opportunities to build relationships with them.

We are also thankful for the new folk we are seeing at our services, some of whom are becoming involved in other parts of our church life.

Our Fresh Ground cafe is progressing and by the time this goes to print, we will have chosen a Manager to run it as a community cafe. At the moment, we don't know who that person will be, but God does and we put our trust in him for the right person and for more volunteers to work alongside him or her in this new venture.

Our prayer is that we use every opportunity to share God's love with the 700 or so people from the community, who use our premises week by week.

Thank you for your prayers

**January 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Broadmead, Bristol                      John Houseago, Hannah Hart**

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Hannah Hart as half-time Associate Minister. Hannah completed her studies at Bristol Baptist College in June. In the first year of her course she was on placement at Broadmead and we are pleased to be able to welcome her back to the church. Her role will be to develop the midweek mission of the church.

We ask for your prayers for Hannah as she undertakes this demanding task.

Please also pray for the City Centre Chaplain, the Revd. Andy Sewell. Andy works from Broadmead Baptist Church. The Bristol City Centre Chaplaincy Trust supports and supervises this work.

We give thanks for a generous legacy from Mrs Grace Smale, without which none of this work exciting mission would be possible.

**Matson, Gloucester                      Kevin Durrant**

We give thanks for an enlarged and renovated kitchen that is almost finished and will greatly enhance the church facilities for us and the many other groups that use our premises. The disruption has been amplified by Elim Housing Association's construction of 13 new homes next to the church, but we plan to welcome the new residents with Christmas hampers when they arrive in early December.

The church has put on 3 cafe-style events over the last 6 months which have gone well but by themselves have not been sufficient to improve our mission effectiveness. Wisdom and courage are still needed to bridge the gap between church and neighbourhood.

"Together in Matson" (the youth and community project we run with the local Anglicans and Catholics) continues to thrive despite the economic circumstances and is putting on many Christmas activities. If the closure of the local library is confirmed in the New Year, "Together in Matson" will be providing alternative library services at the Redwell Centre; a situation we didn't wish on the poor librarians losing their jobs but one which will provide us with even more opportunities for community engagement.

**January 8<sup>th</sup> - 14th**

**Downend, Bristol**

**Andy Machin**

We give thanks for new families coming on Sunday mornings, and for new people joining the congregation in the last year.

Please pray for a new group meeting fortnightly on Mondays, offering a range of activities for our friends from a local home which caters for those with learning disabilities. We pray that this work will grow from small beginnings.

Please pray for the joint Alpha Course with Fishponds, which will be finishing in December. As we begin to work with Richard Hardy and the Entheos Trust next year, pray for our leadership team, and pray that others would want to use their gifts in leadership in different aspects of the church's life.

As the church redevelopment project moves to the next stage, with church members being asked to pledge gifts, we pray for God's guidance as we make important decisions in the New Year.

**John St., Stroud, Glos.**

**Brian Durkin**

Please give God thanks with us for all the people of all ages who have joined our congregation and those who have become church members over the last year.

Pray with us for all our activities where people find friendship and are drawn into the fellowship of the church, some of them recently started - housegroups both evening and daytime, youth and children's clubs, ladies' meeting, men's group, craft morning, sports evening, singles' lunch, bus trips.

Please pray with us as we need to seek God's will very closely in several areas on how to move forward.

Please pray with us as we are involved in the association's plans for the future of the former Farmhill Baptist Church building.

**January 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Tytherington, S.Glos.**

**Brian Allen**

We continue to thank the Lord for His grace and faithfulness to our small congregation.

We ask your prayers for the challenges facing us in the near future, including the escalation of building upkeep & repair costs, the identification of new Deacons & the sharing of the workload within our fellowship.

Please also pray that we may find ways of expanding our outreach so that we can continue to be effective witnesses for the Lord in our village.

**Tyndale, Bristol**

**Michael Docker**

Over the last few months Tyndale has seen a number of new faces appear within its congregation and recently this has included a young family.

We give thanks for these 'green shoots' and, as we continue to explore the calling of an Associate Minister to work with those on the fringe of our fellowship, we ask for your prayers for, what we hope to be, an exciting future.

**Culkerton, Glos.**

We struggle along, just 5 of us. However, we will keep the Lord's work going in this little chapel in Culkerton. We thank God for His Word which encourages us. Please pray for everyone in our village, that all may come to know the Lord as their personal Saviour.

**January 22<sup>nd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Counterslip Ian Sinclair, Mark Godbeer, Kath Wilson**

Please hold us in your prayers as we continue to explore how we might need to be shaped for ministry & mission in the days ahead.

Shaped - in terms of our culture as we seek to make the shift from a maintenance to a missional mindset as a community of faith.

Also shaped - in terms of developing our facilities.

The key question for us is whether we should redevelop our present site, or move and develop a completely new site within our geographical community.

Pray that we will have eyes to see, ears to hear and faith to follow...

**Winstone, Glos.**

We are a small village Chapel on top of the Cotswolds. We have no Pastor. All our services are taken by Lay Preachers from the surrounding area. We still maintain our close fellowship with Hesters Way and Gas Green Baptist Chapels in Cheltenham. On the fifth Sunday of a month we have a Joint service with our Church of England friends in the village. We also go to the Cluster meetings held in the Stroud area, these meetings we find very helpful and gives us a lot of encouragement.

Please pray for the Lay Preachers in the area who come to us so faithfully every Sunday and also pray that one day we may have a Pastor, or that we may become a satellite church of a larger church in the area.

**January 29<sup>th</sup> – February 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Cambray, Cheltenham, Tim Welch, Jonathon Loose, Fred Hughes**

PRAISE God

1. For His provision of 2 new staff members (1) church administrator (Mark Mulley) (2) Sport's Outreach in the community (Tim Wallace).
2. for the fast-growing group of Internationals through our Friends International worker (Naomi Clemo).
3. For the emerging church partnership with Leckhampton Baptist Church, and for Fred Hughes leadership as coordinator. Many encouragements - increased numbers at Sunday services, new 'Shining Stars' toddler group and contacts with the community.

PRAY

1. For the reshaping of our Small Groups as the 'building' blocks of Cambray Church life.
2. For the salvation of many not-yet Christians who regularly attend Sunday services, Christianity Explored course, International group, etc.
3. For the developing church partnership with Leckhampton that more workers would grab the vision to commit to gospel partnerships such as [this](#).

**WEBA Ministers Conference 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> February**

The Key speaker is David Coffey; please pray that God will inspire him as he teaches His word, and inspires those gathered to hear.

Pray that opportunities will be available to meet a variety of needs through the Conference, it's a time for spiritual refreshment, biblical insight, theological stimulation and the very real benefit of being able to chat, or let off steam, with some friends and colleagues.

Please pray that all who attend may be richly blessed.

**February 5<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Warminster, Wilts**

**Roy Bedford**

Our numbers are continuing to rise and we have recently had several people come to faith and new members due to transfers. We are also looking forward to a Baptismal service soon.

We are working with 3 other Churches in the town to provide Warminster with Street Pastors. Our Church hosted the Commissioning service on 21st October and we provide the 'safe' base for the pastors to gather before and after their 'shift' each week due to our proximity to the town. This is a brilliant opportunity to work together with other Christians in the town and to minister to the needs of Warminster on a Friday night.

We are also looking forward to Rev Dr Pat Took visiting us on 12th February 2012 (as she was unable to attend our 200th anniversary Celebration service in 2010) and hope folk from the local area may be able to attend.

**Hillfields, Bristol**

We ask for prayer for our new build project here at Hillfields Park Baptist, that in time our vision for the Hillfields Community will be fulfilled. We need prayers that the donations we need are soon to come in, so we can really get this project off the ground.

We also ask for prayer for those in our fellowship that are or have been ill, and for those that have troubles in their lives, that God will bless and help them.

We pray for all those that are homeless, alone, cold and or hungry.

We ask for prayer for those in our armed forces that are serving abroad, also for the Chaplains, and for their loved ones at home. May the wives/husbands and children cope while they are away from each other.

Together let us all pray for love, peace and compassion in the world.

**February 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Kendal Rd, Longlevens, Gloucester. Steve Austin-Sparks**

Kendal Road continues to look to the future, as we discuss redeveloping our current site. Please pray that we sense God's Will with clarity as we move forward with this process. We welcome our new Children's worker, Hannah, hoping that together we can continue to grow God's work amongst the many children and young people that come to our 'Klubz'. We give thanks for our continued association with Redcliffe College, and for the students and staff who worship with us.

**Cheddar, Somerset**

**Paul Spanring**

As the community of Cheddar Baptist we are gradually discovering what is God's call and mission for us in our local context. We are beginning to build meaningful relationships with some of the people attending our parents' and toddlers' group and with children attending our midweek activity clubs.

Points of Praise:

- Toddlers' Twitter, a parenting discussion group where we experienced genuine openness amongst the participants.
- Our involvement with Cheddar First School (School governor and assemblies).
- The constructive partnerships we enjoy with the other local churches of the Cheddar valley.

Please pray:

- That our volunteers will be supplied with God-given wisdom and energy...
- For our older members as many of them face many age-related challenges...
- For focus in our worship and a shared commitment to follow Jesus...
- For continuing collective discernment as we seek to hear God's voice clearly.

**February 19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>**

**East St., Bedminster                      Michael Shaw, Minister in Training**

Please can you pray for us as we lose our Minister in Training in the summer, when his course finishes. Please can you pray for us to hear from God, to find his plans and purposes for us as a church, especially for the deacons in this time of transition.

Please can you also pray for growing relationships with local people, especially the community group that has sprung up to look after the local area, and the road where the church currently meets.

Please can you pray for wisdom to know what to do about finding a permanent location, whether to form a partnership with the trustees of the building we currently meet in, or whether God is leading somewhere else.

**re.Source - 'energising urban mission'                      Mike Pears**

Bristol's urban areas face big challenges but are also some of the most creative and energised places to be. Our conviction is that vibrant Christ-centred communities are vital for the welfare or 'shalom' of these inner city communities.

Re.Source is a small organisation which comes under the umbrella of WEBA. We are working with small or declining urban Baptist churches to develop sustainable and creative expressions of mission. You can find out more about us on our newly launched web site [www.resourcebristol.org](http://www.resourcebristol.org) <<http://www.resourcebristol.org/>>

Our main areas of focus at the moment are the large estates in South Bristol  
- especially Knowle West, and the inner city areas of East Bristol.

In living in the estate of Knowle West our aim is to be attentive to what is happening locally and participate in what we sense Jesus is doing.

Pray for: local people who will be envisioned and able to take up leadership responsibility, the addictions recovery course , for the new people who are moving into the estate to be here long term and for employment initiatives.

In East Bristol, we have now formed the St George Mission Network; working in partnership with Urban Expression and Bristol Baptist College. Please pray for the two students Andy and Geoff, who are participating on the new Mission Track training at the college. Again the journey here will be long and challenging and we appreciate your prayer for: the small team that is forming to find a rich experience of community life and a sense of how to move forward, for others to join in creative mission initiatives, pray for wisdom, humility and creativity as we seek to develop mission strategies and people to help

**As an act of fellowship in the West of England Baptist Association we invite you to pray for the churches and their Leaders listed each week. We hope you will be able to pray for each church every day of the week.**

**Additional Notes:**

**Please feel free to photocopy this leaflet for a wider use among your leadership and members.**

Please consider transcribing the weekly prayer information in your Sunday news sheet or bulletin.

This Prayer Guide can also be downloaded from the Association website:  
[www.webassoc.org.uk](http://www.webassoc.org.uk)