

Newsletter Update

Friday 20th December 2013

Stats

2,072 Streets being prayed for [See Map](#)
 209,272 Houses on those streets (101 per street)
 497,280 People living there (240 per street)

****[Click here to see our research sources.](#)**



Dear Carl,

Let me take this opportunity to wish each and everyone of you a very Happy Christmas and to thank you for your continuing prayers for your neighbours. They are making a difference, even when we cannot immediately see the results.

I have recently been reminded of how difficult Christmas can be for some people. Please find below some special prayers to pray over the Christmas period. Our regular "Neighbour Friday" will be at the end of this newsletter as well as this weeks content from the [HOPE prayer guide](#). Our newsletter on the 27th December will be a round up of what has happened all year. Please send us your testimonies from this year by Christmas Eve, to encourage and inspire others



Mulled Wine and Minced Pies, Christmas Cards and new Friendships...



As I write this, I am getting ready for our Neighbours Party tomorrow's at our house. We delivered invitations inside Christmas cards to the neighbours' households we know by name and some others we do not yet know. Each year we extend the invitation to a few more houses... and those we have invited are by no means our whole street... we live on a long street! We have already had confirmation that some people will be attending. We have also had one card and invitation delivered back to us, someone didn't approve! Not everyone is keen on our party, but we felt it was important for everyone to feel they were invited, so we were not leaving someone out, or making them feel more isolated.



Carl will, as last year provide mulled wine, mince pies, loose meat sandwiches and those who attend will get a small gift from us (Matchmakers were on offer for £1 a box). We are limiting the event between 4 and 7pm. We are at a disadvantage for the older folk as we don't have a downstairs toilet.

We are looking forward to it, and spurred on by those of you who have contacted us to say that after we mentioned it last year, you are about to do a Christmas party or have already completed one. Please pray for us, as next year we want to make a bigger effort to really get to know our neighbours well!



Someone contacted us to ask us to pray for their party which took place last week. They had only just moved into their house. They sent out invitations to their new neighbours and 35 people came! A home group also told us about their planned party.

Jenny Hall from Long Hanborough writes about another idea.

We took round a small tray of mince pies I had made with a card for each of the close neighbours we now know by name and also to the petrol station over the road where Ray gets his paper most days. (Just 4 households plus the garage)



Thank you to everyone putting on a party and for those who are praying!

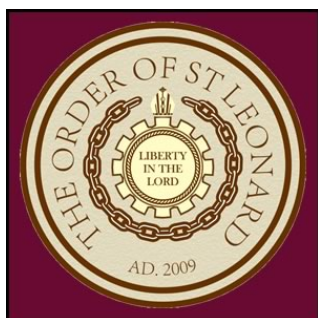
Special Prayers this Christmas

For the relatives of unwell children and young adults, or those with chronic conditions, in hospital or residential care or at home this Christmas.

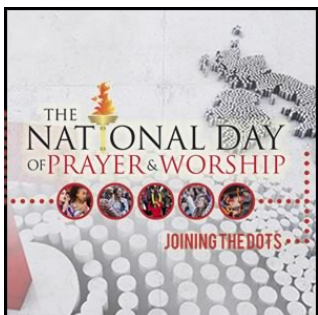


This is quite poignant for us this year as Carl's 24yr old God Daughter Naomi has been diagnosed with Lung Cancer, please pray for her, she is having intensive chemotherapy, we'll update you periodically.

- Lord, we pray for all parents who are visiting children who are unwell in any way, who are unable to remain in their family home due to their condition. Please give these families a sense of your peace this Christmas and allow all members of the family to enjoy Christmas Day.
- Lord, in the coming year, give families strength and courage to take difficult days, one step at a time. Surround them with people who can support them and lavish love upon them.
- Where families are struggling to remain together due to the pressure upon them, bind them together, with cords that cannot be broken.
- Bring healing and restoration, faith and not fear, encouragement rather than despair. Let them know that during this difficult time, it is now that You carry them.



If you know of a family living on your street, with a seriously ill child, please if you feel it is appropriate, let them know that you are praying for them.



Neighbour Friday

PRAYER

FRIDAY 20TH DEC
LUKE 1:13

SPRINGS OF HOPE

The world can seem such an impersonal place and we can feel



isolated, but the good news is that God's full attention is upon us. Thank you God that the loudest shouts of celebration and the deepest sobs of sorrow are both known to You. Replace my darkest fear with springs of hope I pray.

Neighbourhood Prayer Network is joining many ministries and denominations to pray with HOPE 2014 between 18th October to 31st January. These prayers are taken from the HOPE prayer guide. You can download the whole guide from www.neighbourhoodprayer.net/pray. The whole of this weeks prayers are at the bottom of this newsletter. To obtain a free copy from UCB, [click here](#) or order more at the same address.

CARE

Could you organise a Christmas party for your neighbours, working with some friends from church?

AND/OR:

Is there someone who is facing spending Christmas on their own this year? Could you consider inviting them into your home at Christmas?

SHARE

Consider giving Christmas cards and a small present to some of your neighbours, with an invitation to a local Carol service.

We all pray you have a great Christmas and New Year, May God Bless you and Keep you and Make His Face Shine upon you and Give You Peace.

Every Blessing



Rebekah Brettle

P.S. Don't forget to click on the block advert links to some of our great partners (on the left).

Hope At Christmas

Source: Evangelical Alliance

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*in our villages,
towns and cities*

SATURDAY 21ST DEC

LUKE 1:19

A GOD WHO SPEAKS

Not only does God listen to us but He also draws near to us, speaking words of challenge and transformation. Father, we remind ourselves this week that Your Word took on flesh and blood in Your Son Jesus Christ. We pray that many would find the good news this Christmas.

SUNDAY 22ND DEC

MATT 1:23

GOD WITH US

Father, thank you that You are with me. Help me to be more aware of Your in-dwelling presence today. May Your life in me, comfort those around me who find Christmas a lonely or stressful time. Immanuel, God with us, awake the hearts of those in this place who don't know You yet. (Source: Bible Society)

MONDAY 23RD DEC

LUKE 1:49

OUR MIGHTY GOD

A Saviour came into the world and darkness was destroyed by light. How can we be people of light? Lord, this Christmas we pray that every church congregation in every corner of the UK may be good news to their communities. Lord, make us those who bring light into places of darkness.

TUESDAY 24TH DECEMBER

LUKE 2:7

NEW HOPE

God came in human flesh and there was no room for Him. Even when things seem to have gone wrong, God is still in the midst and in control. This Christmas, we pray for those whose lives haven't turned out the way they imagined they would. May they find new hope in this season.

WEDNESDAY 25TH DEC
LUKE 2:13
CELEBRATION

Joy has flowed from the heart of God into the world, yet the world often thinks that following Jesus is about negativity. Brilliant God, we want to be people of celebration, who delight in You. Make us agents of joy this Christmas, so that our communities will see that Christians know how to celebrate.

THURSDAY 26TH DEC
LUKE 2:17
SPREADING GOOD NEWS

Christmas is a brilliant time to let people know about the child who is the Saviour. Lord, in the midst of the festivities, may we take every opportunity to share You. Help us to find moments to share Your story with those who have never heard or understood it before. May it change lives!

PRAYER CHALLENGE:
Is there a member of your family who doesn't know Jesus yet? Make a particular effort to pray for them each day this week.

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