

RESOURCES & DIARY DATES

Armed Forces Christian Union – The AFCU is a British military fellowship for all three Service serving and supporting all members of the UK Armed Forces, particularly in prayer.

www.afcu.org.uk

Christmas HOPE – the Christmas HOPE magazine is published by HOPE in partnership with Hope for Every Home to be distributed door-to-door by churches.

www.hopetogether.org.uk/christmashope

The Christian Enquiry Agency informs people about Jesus Christ and Christianity through its website Christianity.org.uk. Find out more at www.christianenquiryagency.org.uk

HOPE 2018 – words and action to make Jesus known in villages, towns and cities across the UK in 2018. www.hopetogether.org.uk 01788 542782

National Weekend of Invitation 2018 – Unlocking the Growth Trust: seeking to encourage the mobilisation of every church member to invite. www.unlockingthegrowth.com

Pray for Five – The Talking Jesus report (www.talkingjesus.org) shows that one in five of the people we talk to about Jesus wants to know more.

http://www.hopetogether.org.uk/Groups/284190/Pray_for_five.aspx

Prison Hope 2017-2018 – a two-year partnership of denominations, prison chaplains and organisations involved with prisoners, former prisoners, prison staff and their families encouraging prayer, volunteering and giving. www.prisonhope.org.uk

Sports Chaplaincy UK – serving sport through excellency in chaplaincy.

www.sportschaplaincy.org.uk

World Prayer Centre – resourcing, mobilising and encouraging prayer for our nations and for the world. www.worldprayer.org.uk



November - December
2017

FRIDAY FOCUS

Prayer themes for the
2017 Year of Prayer

“Devote yourselves to prayer,
being watchful and thankful.
And pray for us, too, that
God may open a door for
our message, so that we
may proclaim the mystery
of Christ, for which I am in
chains.”

*Paul's letter to the Colossians
chapter 4 verses 2-3*

FRIDAY FOCUS PARTNERS

24-7 Prayer, CWR, Evangelical Alliance, Every Home for Christ, Ffald-y-Brenin, HOPE, JustOne, Neighbourhood Prayer Network, Prayer Spaces in Schools, RCCG, Salvation Army Prayer Network, Thy Kingdom Come, trypraying, World Prayer Centre



Friday Focus is published bi-monthly through 2017 as a resource for churches preparing for HOPE 2018 and a year of mission together, in words and action, to make Jesus known.

Free versions of this bi-monthly Prayer Focus are available to download: colour, black & white, large print from www.hopetogether.org.uk/pray

A subscription to *Prayer* magazine (bi-monthly) contains Friday Focus as a pull-out prayer resource. Order by phone: 0330 332 6257 or online: www.prayermagazine.com

NOVEMBER

November 3 Joyful invitation

Luke 10:1-11, 17

When Jesus sends out the 72 he tells them the truth that as they go to invite people to hear about the kingdom of God, they will be welcomed and rejected, but they must wipe the dust from their feet. Do we miss the joy of inviting people to take a closer look at Jesus because we fear the possibility of rejection?

Dear Heavenly Father, we pray that you will give us the courage to face those who might reject an invitation to get to know you. May we also, like the 72, experience the joy of serving you in mission. We pray that you might bring to mind right now someone you would like us to invite, in Jesus name. Amen.

Michael Harvey, National Weekend of Invitation

November 10 Remembrance

John 15:9-17

Tomorrow will be the 99th anniversary of the ending of WW1. We remember all those who gave their lives not only in two world wars but also in the many conflicts since. Should we not also pray for those who still serve our country today in the armed forces and for those veterans whose lives bear the scars of their service?

Almighty God, we thank you that the Lord Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. We remember with sorrow and gratitude the sacrifice of so many in the service of our country. We pray that those currently serving will hear and respond to the gospel, and those troubled or injured during their service will turn to you for healing.

Val Hall, Armed Forces Christian Union

November 17 Prison Hope connecting with churches

2 Corinthians 5:11-21

Power is a vital tool in mobilising the Church. Jesus demonstrated 'power through weakness'. Yet, the Kingdom, power and the glory are his. God made

us joint heirs with Christ. Love so amazing, he left his Holy Spirit for the tasks ahead. We have hope and we are assured to do greater works than Jesus, and God will be glorified.

Lord, we praise you that you showed us mercy when we were in darkness; gave us freedom when we were in chains; showed us compassion when we were helpless. We pray for a fresh move of your Holy Spirit to equip many churches to pray for and engage with their local prison, its staff and prisoners – bringing support and hope.

Danielle Fetuga-Joensuu,
Co-ordinator for Prison Hope

November 24 Carol services in stadiums

John 1:14

In recent years, Sports Chaplaincy UK has been encouraging its Chaplains to host stadium carol services at Christmas. Sports stadiums have been described as secular cathedrals as many people go there at weekends. At Christmas we remember God moving into our neighbourhood. How might you pray for and support one of these carol services to celebrate this amazing fact?

Father God, we thank you for the opportunity that you give us to use created spaces to enable us to unite together and to celebrate the birth of your Son. Give us boldness as we plan our Christmas programme to find spaces for us to start something new or join in with something that takes us beyond our church buildings.

Warren Evans, Chief Executive of Sports Chaplaincy UK

DECEMBER

December 1 Hope for enquirers

1 Peter 3:15

Peter challenges us to 'be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks...'. Sometimes the questions are not easy. The Christian Enquiry Agency is here to help. Our website Christianity.org.uk gives enquirers individual answers to their questions about Christianity; a Gospel of Luke if they request one; details of a local church or prayer for any issue.

Father God, thank you for the thousands of people who have used Christianity.org.uk over the years to find the answers they need about your Son Jesus and the Christian faith. Please bring the website to the attention of more people through church posters, invitations, parish magazines and the like, so that more people can find the answers they need.

Peter Graystone, Christian Enquiry Agency

December 8 Christmas HOPE

Luke 2:16-18

When the shepherds had seen the new-born Jesus, they spread the word and amazed everyone who heard their story. This Christmas churches will be distributing the Christmas HOPE magazine door-to-door in villages, towns and cities, spreading the Jesus story and inviting people to church. How will you and your church be reaching out to people in your community this month?

Heavenly Father, thank you for sending Jesus to make it possible for us to know you. We pray for churches during this busy Advent season, that we will take the many opportunities Christmas gives, to talk about Jesus, to invite people to Christmas events and to testify to the hope Jesus gives each of us when we trust him.

Catherine Butcher, Hope for Every Home

December 15 Christmas outreach and carol services

Acts 26:27-28

In a world of instant results, it's good to remind ourselves that the journey of faith is a long one for most people. Let's make a decision today, that 'short time or long', to use all the opportunities that Christmas

brings to care, invite and pray for those we know to come to know Jesus.

Dear Lord, I pray for opportunities to share my faith with someone over this Christmas. I pray that their heart will be 'strangely warmed' and they might consider you over the Christmas season. Help me to know what events would be best for them and how I can help them along their journey towards you. Amen

Mark Greenwood, National Evangelist for Elim Churches, HOPE Leadership Team

December 22 Reaching out at Christmas

Luke 2:13-18

So it is only three days to go until the big day! It can be so easy to be caught up in the frenetic activity getting everything ready for those we know, that we can often forget those for whom the Christmas season is difficult. Take a moment to ask God to bring someone to mind for whom that is true.

Lord Jesus, help us to learn from this story of when angels told the shepherds on the hillside about your birth, they left their flocks and went to see. May we be ready to put down our own agendas to make time to both worship you and give time to help to those who are struggling this Christmas.

Jane Holloway, World Prayer Centre

December 29 Getting ready for 2018

Matthew 9:37-38

HOPE's dream is a growing church, showing Jesus' love and telling the Jesus story at the heart of every community. Churches across the spectrum of denominations are working together to make Jesus known with words and actions in our villages, towns and cities. Let's pray, asking God for opportunities to speak about Jesus, inviting people to respond to his love.

Heavenly Father, help me to see opportunities to share your love with the people I meet. Show me how to serve them, and when to speak. I pray too for my church and the churches in my area, that we will be effective in telling the Jesus story and giving people ways to find out more and to respond.

Roy Crowne, HOPE