

*“In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” John 1:4-5*

<p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>Sunday</b> On this first Sunday in Advent, we pray for HOPE for every person in prison – hope for a better future, hope for healing, hope for forgiveness.</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>Wednesday</b> Peter, our CEO, is visiting HMP Long Lartin today, and also joining in wrapping <i>Angel Tree</i> presents with the local group there. Pray for the many wrapping parties happening this week, as Angel Tree Coordinators and their teams work hard to get all the Christmas gifts out in time. Pray that each of our volunteers would experience the joy of being part of this brilliant programme.</p>
<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>Monday</b> There are three <i>Sycamore Tree</i> courses ending today, at HMP Altcourse, HMP Pentonville and HMP Thorn Cross. Pray for the men who have completed the course, that what they have learnt and reflected on will continue to create positive ripples.</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>Thursday</b> There is a <i>Sycamore Tree</i> course finishing at HMP Berwyn. Thank God for all our volunteer <i>Sycamore Tree</i> tutors and facilitators, who give their time and skills to come alongside men and women in prison with this important message of restoration and hope.</p>
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>Tuesday</b> Today our <i>Angel Tree</i> Christmas Campaign launches, with the opportunity for all supporters to have their donation matched. Please pray that there will be a generous outpouring for <i>Angel Tree</i>, and that individuals and churches alike will feel called to support families separated by a prison sentence this Christmas. There’s a <i>Sycamore Tree</i> course ending at HMP Downview.</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>Friday</b> We had the largest ever number of <i>Sycamore Tree</i> courses starting in one month in October this year! Praise God that so many prisons are enthusiastically opening their doors to this important course.</p>

<b>7</b>	<b>Saturday</b> Pray for families of prisoners who are anticipating Christmas without them. Having a family member in prison can mean a reduced income, and for children, the real possibility of bullying and stigmatisation. Pray for these families, that they would receive the support they need, and find comfort at a difficult time.
<b>8</b>	<b>Sunday</b> On this second Sunday in Advent, we pray for PEACE to be present in every prison. May all violence and conflict cease, and may God's security and shalom be very present.
<b>9</b>	<b>Monday</b> There is a <i>Sycamore Tree</i> course finishing today at HMP Wandsworth.
<b>10</b>	<b>Tuesday</b> There is a <i>Sycamore Tree</i> course finishing today at HMP Whitemoor.
<b>11</b>	<b>Wednesday</b> There is a <i>Sycamore Tree</i> course finishing today at HMP Brixton.
<b>12</b>	<b>Thursday</b> As many of us vote today, we pray that our politics would be marked by justice, compassion and truth. In particular, we pray that prisons policy would be based on the current best practice and evidence available, rather than fear-based politics.

<b>13</b>	<b>Friday</b> Praise God for the recent positive inspection at HMP Cardiff, which reported fallen violence levels. Pray that the success there can be replicated across many other prisons.
<b>14</b>	<b>Saturday</b> Thank God for the wonderful work being done by Community Chaplains with recently released men and women. Pray that those who've been released would access the support they need to live a life free of crime.
<b>15</b>	<b>Sunday</b> On this third Sunday in Advent, we pray for JOY to be the surprising gift of this season, that moments of joy would break through despite the challenges and pain of prison life.
<b>16</b>	<b>Monday</b> There are a number of prisons that currently have vacancies within their Chaplaincy team. We pray that the right people will apply, for security clearances to be smooth, and for God's sustaining love to surround all Chaplaincy teams that are short-staffed. May their work bear fruit beyond their expectations, bringing glory to God.
<b>17</b>	<b>Tuesday</b> Many prison staff will continue to work over Christmas. We pray for their safety and peace during this time, and that they might be able to encourage those inside who

	find this time of year particularly difficult. God, may your peace reign.
<b>18</b>	<b>Wednesday</b> The PF Support Team is going into HMP Wormwood Scrubs today for their Christmas Carol Service. Pray that it would be a special time to remember God's sustaining presence and loving guidance in this busy season.
<b>19</b>	<b>Thursday</b> Thank God for the many <i>Alpha</i> and <i>Christianity Explored</i> courses that have been run in prisons across England and Wales this year. Pray that those who took part will continue to grow in their faith.
<b>20</b>	<b>Friday</b> For many children, having a parent in prison produces a myriad of different emotions – missing them, feeling angry or let down that they committed a crime, fear about what the future may hold. Spend a moment imagining how they might feel, and then pray that God would meet them in that place.
<b>21</b>	<b>Saturday</b> Pray for our letter writers in prison, for whom a card from their volunteer letter writer might be the only contact they have with the outside world this Christmas. In their loneliness, may they know they are not alone.

<b>22</b>	<b>Sunday</b> On this fourth Sunday in Advent, we pray for God's LOVE to surround each person in prison – both those who live and work there – that they might know they are deeply valued and cared for, no matter what their circumstances.
<b>23</b>	<b>Monday</b> We thank God for the generosity of CWR and Dernier Publishing who both donated books to be sent to children in the <i>Angel Tree</i> programme, along with the gift from their parent. May those books be a gift of imagination, to envision a bright future.
<b>24</b>	<b>Tuesday</b> Today, we think of the tens of thousands of children with a parent in prison, who will be missing them tonight, or struggling with the hurt of their absence. We pray they would experience God's comfort and love this night, and that tomorrow would bring joy and hope.
<b>25</b>	<b>Wednesday</b> <i>"A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new glorious morn."</i> God with us, we thank and praise you for the precious gift of Yourself. Thank you for being born into our messy and broken lives, for bringing us Your peace and hope. Thank you that You continue to be present in the

	darkest places, and we pray for every weary person in prison today, that they might recognise Your presence with them today.
<b>26</b>	<b>Thursday</b> Thank God for our programme staff, who work hard throughout the year to make sure our volunteers are supported and resourced – for Stephen, Sarah, Joanna, Maddie, Debbie and Linda. Pray that they would be refreshed and revitalised by the Christmas break.
<b>27</b>	<b>Friday</b> Thank God for the Comms and Fundraising staff, for Andy, Kerry and Fiona, and for our valuable freelancers Kate and Kim who support this work. May the time off over Christmas renew their vision and creativity.
<b>28</b>	<b>Saturday</b> Thank God for our finance staff, for Liana and Ian, and for our Treasurer Edward. May this Christmas be a time of rest and enjoyment.
<b>29</b>	<b>Sunday</b> We thank God for Peter, our CEO, and Rachel, his PA, and all the

	members of the Board. May they rest in God's love this Christmas.
<b>30</b>	<b>Monday</b> At the end of the year, we give thanks for God's faithfulness and loving kindness, for sustaining and strengthening us throughout the year, and for God's grace, which is offered freely to us all.
<b>31</b>	<b>Tuesday</b> Spend a moment reflecting on the past year, the ups and the downs. When were you most aware of God's presence and movement? Looking forward to the year ahead, what are you most looking forward to? What are you most afraid of? What is God's invitation to you as you step into the new year?

*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

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