

# Advent Prayer Diary 2018



## **Junior Church Headingley**

*Please pray for all the junior church leaders as rehearsals start today for the nativity service at Headingley on Sunday 16 December, that they would have the energy to continue to give their time in this way. Pray for Heather's continued recovery from illness. We remember too Nathan and all the young people who attend Youth Cell and pray that they would grow strong in their faith in Jesus.*



## **The Fabric Men: Headingley and Cragg Hill**

*At Cragg, the listed building is cared for by Peter Briggs, Steve Burras and John Gannon who enjoy camaraderie during their work to decorate and keep up with repairs. Please pray that they would be able to draw into fellowship those on the fringes of church. At Headingley Delessa Gugsu will be setting up hundreds of tealights for Carols by Candlelight on 16 December whilst dealing with all the other maintenance issues associated with an old and complex building. Please pray for Delessa's strength to be renewed by our Lord and that he will get plenty of volunteers and support during this season. We*



praise God for those who do help and we are very grateful for Sent's willingness to regularly stack the sanctuary chairs which makes a huge difference to Delessa's workload.



### **Sent MC**

Please pray for:

- More musicians! We're thankful to those who currently play and sing, however it would ease the burden on them if we had a few more musicians.
- Confidence and courage! The aim of the current series looking at the foundations of our faith is to give us confidence and courage in evangelism.
- Building community! Rather than running specific events, we are encouraging those at Sent to build community by offering hospitality and mixing their friendship groups, for example by inviting church and work friends to an open house.



### **Horsforth Farmers' Market run by Horsforth Churches Together**

The market is an outward expression of our Christian understanding of the need to cherish the God-given planet on which we live. It is for this reason that we support local producers and provide a space for the community to flourish.

With a footfall of around 800 people the market provides a wonderful space for the church to interact with the community. Each month the church as the host of the market have a stall where shoppers can meet members of the church, chat and find out about activities run by the churches. Please pray for the ongoing friendships we have built at the market, that the market can continue to be a vibrant community space which really does support local producers.



### **Deacons**

SPBC's deacons meet on the second Thursday of every month to ensure the church is resourced and able to deliver its vision. Responsibilities are wide-ranging and include: managing finances, organising repairs, counting offerings, staffing matters and applying legislation. With a couple of existing vacancies and two planned retirements this role is increasingly falling on fewer shoulders so if you are able to be involved in this essential work please let us know. Please pray that vacancies on the diaconate will be promptly filled and that we will discern God's will in setting budgets for next year.





## **Drop In @ Cragg**

The drop in is held every Friday between 10.30am and 12noon and all are welcome to join us for bacon and sausage sandwiches, cakes and a warm drink. The age of those who “drop in” ranges from a year old to quite a bit older than that! We are often joined by the local Police Community

Support Officers and people from the Leeds Advocacy Group who tend one of the Cragg allotments. The postman always appreciates a bacon sandwich whilst on his rounds too! Those who come along are very supportive of each other and it is lovely to hear the buzz of conversation and laughter. We would appreciate your prayers for good conversations and for a spiritual awakening in those who come along week by week as well as how best to nurture those who have made the first steps towards faith.



## **Church Office Administrator**

The church office is a very busy and sometimes distracting environment. Please pray that the Administrator can manage to hold in tension the importance of meeting people at their point of need and getting the essential tasks completed,

which enable us to continue to function as an organisation. Pray for perseverance and that Kate C will be able to get organised this side of Christmas, so that early next year there will be an opportunity to undertake some professional and spiritual development.



## **Headingley Sunday Creche & Under 5s**

Pray for the leaders and helpers as they seek to encourage the little ones in their early faith this Christmas time. Please pray that it will be a strong foundation that will last them a

lifetime. Pray for Kate B in her new expanded role as she takes on responsibility for the creche and also pray for more helpers to come forward ready for the new term.

Pray that God will continue to bless the three baby and toddler groups and the families that attend on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. Pray that we will be able to show them the love of Jesus and also help to meet the practical needs of those that are struggling with life. Pray for the Christmas parties on 10, 11 and 12 December - that much fun will be had and that relationships will be deepened.





## **Schools Outreach**

Every year a number of primary schools are invited to the sanctuary at Headingley for Rewind to Christmas. Each session is a mix of games, film clips, craft activity and a telling of the Christmas story for the children, while the teachers relax with a hot drink and treats. This year four sessions were held at the end of November. Please pray that what Heather and the team have conveyed to both the children and the teachers about the love of Jesus will sink in and be remembered when Christmas comes. Heather also goes out to schools and holds Christmas assemblies during December so please pray that her message is powerful (as well as fun!) and remains in the hearts of all who hear it.



## **Transformations Leeds**

Transformations Leeds helps local churches to reach out to International Students in Leeds. Their vision is for God to transform international students' lives so that they go home and share His love in their own nations. A number of "South Paraders" are involved – at Trustee level and helping with the Living Room, a café that meets regularly through term-time. Praise God for the opportunities to befriend students at the Living Room, and to share the gospel with them through the Introduction to Jesus and the Bible Course. Pray that God will bless these activities. Pray also for the Director and Trustees as they seek God's will for the development of the charity's work.



## **Connect MC**

For the last 8 years the 16 strong core team at Connect have faithfully held the original vision of reaching people, and particularly children, who live on and around Bramley's Broadleas estate. And in the intervening period the number of our own children has increased from one to ten! Having started out at the Salvation Army's Mount Cross hostel, time has brought Connect full circle back to the refurbished Copper Beech Hub on the same site. We want to praise God for the exploration of a partnership between the Salvation Army and Connect. Please pray for unity and wisdom as we work out practical solutions around logistics and for the Holy Spirit's leading. Pray for the young people at Connect and for the youth leaders sharing Jesus with them. Pray particularly for "L", a teenager who has attempted suicide twice, and for "S" who is struggling after their father's suicide which has resulted in exclusion from school. Pray for relationship with Jesus to

*transform these young lives.*

*Pray for our “re-connect events” on the four Sundays in Advent: for many new relationships to be formed and for old friends to re-connect with us at Copper Beech. Pray for new faith journeys to start as people hear about Jesus as we celebrate advent together. Also pray for families in Bramley who struggle financially - particularly in the Christmas season. Pray that the gift of Jesus would bring hope and life where there is currently struggle and pain.*



### **Teddy Praise & Play!**

*Pray that Teddy Praise & Play will continue to grow. Pray for Peter as he begins to lead these sessions with Kate B. Pray that the adults will be touched by Peter’s Christmas talk over snack-time today - that it will encourage them to think and reflect, and that the tots will enjoy story-time, making their Christingle oranges and zooming down the bouncy slide!*



### **The Friday Lunch - formerly The Retired People’s Fellowship**

*Cooked food (prepared by Sue Ricketts and Claire Hall) is served by a team of helpers in the Green House, organised by Sally Howe. This event is for any adult who would enjoy sharing a meal and conversation with others and we seek to be particularly welcoming to older folk. Pray for our cooks and servers, for the conversations that will take place today and for our continued thinking about how to make this an enjoyable and helpful experience for those who attend.*



### **Cragg Hill MC**

*Cragg is a relaxed, family-friendly church with about 50 regular worshippers and the junior church provision includes creche, Sunday School and the “Doughnut Gang” for the older children. Prayer would be appreciated for the community outreach activities that Cragg is involved in, particularly the community days we hold every 2-3 months. These always involve tea and cake and we also help our local neighbours in various ways, such as hiring a skip and offering to clear rubbish from their houses and gardens or providing a car wash in the church car park.*

*The main area we’d appreciate prayer for is how to help our local community come to faith. We’re good at involving our neighbours in our community events but need to find ways of encouraging them to meet with Jesus. Please pray for the partnership between Cragg and Lister Hill Baptist*

church as they prepare for another Alpha in the spring and that the people who are invited to Alpha will have hearts ready to receive the good news.



### **SPBC Sunday Teams**

We thank God for all our worship leaders and for their weekly commitment as they plan and rehearse our songs of praise and we pray that they would know His leading. Please also remember today everyone who serves in the welcome teams, across the whole church, as they greet those arriving for services. Pray for the people who collect and count the offering, prepare and serve communion and those who provide refreshments after the services. We remember too the teams who buy and prepare food: the welcome breakfast at Connect and Student Lunches at Headingley – still washing up when we've long gone home. Pray specifically too for everyone responsible for the sound desk and overhead screens across the mission communities as this is the front line in the battle! And finally, pray for the choir and musicians and readers involved in the Carols by Candlelight service today and especially for everyone attending that service. All these acts of service are part of our worship and witness so pray that visitors will see Jesus in us all.



### **Cragg Allotments**

In 2009 Cragg decided to convert a small amount of waste ground, adjacent to the church car park, into a space for allotments. We felt that this was a practical way in which we could bless the community by creating a beautiful space, which grew some things that were not only pleasing to the eye but also benefited the local wildlife. We also took the opportunity to tidy and plant up the garden area at the back of the church building and have received lots of positive feedback from neighbours for the way that we've improved their environment. One neighbour commented that the work that had been done on the allotments and gardens had really transformed the atmosphere of the local neighbourhood.

We currently have six full size allotment plots, three half size plots and one communal plot for growing soft fruit. The majority of plots are rented by local neighbours, or by groups associated with Cragg and in the growing season the space seems to be alive with insects of all sorts. Please pray that we continue to grow community in Christ in this garden.



## **Rooted**

Every Tuesday at 7.30 in the Greenhouse Rooted provides a meal and company in a safe place and serves a wide range of people, from those who are literally homeless, to the lonely who are looking for friendship, to people who find themselves on the margins of society. There will be a Christmas meal for all our guests tonight. We aim to help in a variety of ways but principally by introducing our friends to Jesus. Please pray that we can speak of faith in a real and lively way and that people will respond.



## **The Barnabas Bunch**

Pray for the Barnabas Bunch, led by Geoff King and Susan Walker. A place of friendship and fellowship, we meet at 2pm on the fourth Wednesday afternoon of the month at Headingley. Most of our members are retired but the group is open to anyone who is available at that time. Pray for the gathering today and the continued work of the group – that it grows in numbers and that it meets the needs of those who attend.



## **SPBC Office Volunteers**

The office could not run without this small, dedicated team. We are praying for God to provide the right person to get involved on Wednesdays. We have been blessed with such a gifted group of people who get involved with a variety of unseen tasks such as polishing the brass offering plate and maintaining the notice boards, creating the notice sheet and PowerPoint slides, supporting the Treasurer through making payments and chasing arrears, ordering supplies and taking messages. We also have volunteers with special interests and skills in improving communications, reviewing policies and supporting our Human Resources infrastructure. Between them they keep the wheels turning and the lights on and we couldn't function without them. Pray that they seek assistance with tasks when required and they will know that although their work may be unseen it is vital to the work of the church and has an incredible reach.



## **Connect Bible Club**

Connect's Bible Club meets at the Salvation Army's Copper Beech Hub in Bramley every Friday morning. Part of the ongoing work between the Salvation Army and South Parade, attendees come from the Connect Sunday gathering and the Club has grown as people from the surrounding flats



have become part of the group. Please pray that God continues to enlarge our faith and understanding every week and that new people would feel at home with us.



### **Cragg Walk of Art**

In recent years Cragg has been involved in the “Walk of Art” community arts festival. In July venues in Horsforth host free creative activities, music, other arts and showcase community and/or professional artists. Artists and residents unite and the shops pair with schools to share their skills. People flock from all over to walk the different routes. It’s a huge event and Cragg is one of the hubs, with as much we can squeeze in over the weekend. We also do food (lots of cake!) and really try to engage with people. Our prayer for 2019 is that this will unite our community and Cragg will be seen as interested in people in all aspects of life not just (although we are) in the spiritual way.



### **CAP at SPBC**

The staff of the CAP Centre are Steve Fairhall, the Centre Manager and Tim Rowe, Debt Coach. Between us we aim to meet 4 new clients every month. To achieve this we need a substantial bank of befrienders who will join us for meetings with clients, and help us to build up a good relationship with them, as they go through the process to become debt free. We are very thankful for the befrienders currently on the team but please pray that there would be more people to share the burden, as the number of clients we have contact with increases. Pray too that as people are released from the burden of debt, they would also receive the hope of salvation.



### **All the Cleaning Staff at Cragg and Headingley**

Praise for Charlotte at Cragg who faithfully comes and cleans the building despite booking changes and lack of central office contact. We’re also thankful for the diligence of the staff from Grace Cleaning Ltd, who work unseen at Headingley to prepare the building for its many uses. We are grateful that God provides us with the financial capacity to continue to have paid cleaning staff for both buildings. Please pray that all of those involved feel appreciated and receive recognition for their contribution to building the kingdom.