

Prayer Diary

April to May



"Binding up the broken hearted and setting the captives free" Isaiah 61:1



Urban Outreach Bolton



@UrbanOutreachUK



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UrbanOutreachBolton

www.urbanoutreach.co.uk

Company No. 3019108

Tuesday 1st April

It's with a heavy heart that we share with you that Laura Bagley will be leaving UOB this month. Laura has and will continue, along with Samuel, to be an important part of UOB but not as part of the team. The past ten years have been significant with her input. Please join us as we give thanks for her time with us and for Laura and the family as they move into a new adventure.

Please pray daily for:-

- **All Urban Outreach staff. For wisdom and protection in the many varied situations they find themselves.**
- **Our Food Hub as we provide food, gas & electric to many vulnerable households each week.**

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Wednesday 2nd & Thursday 3rd April

As we enter this new month and financial year we have before us a new adventure that we believe is the culmination of the past years of preparation. As you will know we continue to develop and renovate the Amber Centre and Seddon's have kindly fixed the ceiling and wall and we now look forward to replacing windows and the heating system which will bring the whole building back into use. Additionally, as you know we have been exploring a new office and during this month we are confident that we will complete on a building very near to the Amber Centre which will realise what we believe God has been bringing us to. Offices and Outreach all in one area. As this all comes into being please would you join us in praying for the logistics as we move services, there will be upheaval, and we would pray for peace for everyone as we do this.

Friday 4th April

Please pray for Val, our Finance officer, commencing the preparation of the annual accounts. Please pray that sufficient time will be carved out in the busy office environment to prepare, produce and collate all the necessary documents in a timely manner.

Saturday 5th April

Today is the United Nations International Day of Conscience - a day to reflect on our actions and consider how we can contribute to a kinder, more inclusive world. This day serves as a reminder that every small step towards compassion makes a difference. Please pray especially for those in leadership in Bolton who through their decisions can help create a town where justice, love, and mutual care are the norm.

Sunday 6th April

Please pray for a young person who is conscientious, studying hard and trying her best but struggling with family relationships and demands. Ask that God may give her peace in her heart and a quiet spirit. May she not be overwhelmed or involved in conflict with her care givers.

Monday 7th April

'From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.' (Ephesians 4:16)

Please pray for the Children and Families' Team. Thank God for their commitment and hard work and ask for renewed strength and perseverance in working with complex young people.

<p>Tuesday 8th April Please join us today in praying for a woman who is feeling like she has no hope. She is certain that things cannot get better for her. Please pray into her life and situation for change, peace and most of all a sense of renewed hope that things can improve.</p>	<p>Wednesday 9th April Please thank God that He is the God of second chances; that He gives new life in dry arid spaces. Ask that He helps us to show His character to those we come into contact with, and helps us to fill the arid spaces with His love and peace.</p>	<p>Thursday 10th April Let's pray for the women who meet at the Amber Centre. Please pray for positive friendships to grow and for the group to be a place where women feel safe and really look forward to coming.</p>
<p>Friday 11th April In February Street Life asked for prayer for a gentleman they had supported for a number of years who struggled with alcoholism. He was hospitalised for 17 days at the end of February with health problems. Praise the Lord he recovered and hasn't had a drink. Pray that this will continue, and he will be set free from his addiction.</p>	<p>Saturday 12th April Let us pray for a young mother and her 20 month old son who had come to the Street Life Drop-in. They had fled domestic abuse and been placed in a hostel not suitable for them. Please pray Street Life will find them suitable accommodation that can support them through the trauma they have experienced and find hope for the future.</p>	<p>Sunday 13th April As the staff at Urban Outreach take time off over the weekend, please pray they can be refreshed for the week ahead. "Restore to me the joy of your salvation and make me willing to obey you!" (Psalm 51: 12)</p>
<p>Monday 14th April Please thank God for the opportunity the RISE project gives to impact children and teenagers. Pray today for those young people who struggle to manage their emotions, particularly their anger. Pray that they would be able to embrace some of the strategies given to them by the RISE team, to make a difference to how they respond to people and situations.</p>	<p>Tuesday 15th April Social media continues to be a strong pull on the time of our young people and impacts the quality of relationships and level of social skills for many. Please pray for our Bolton schools and the decisions they make around phone use. Pray for opportunities for young people to build relationships through face-to-face activities.</p>	<p>Wednesday 16th April Please pray for the Urban Outreach team. Ask for wisdom as they navigate the complex needs of those they support daily. Pray for encouragement and strength so they do not grow weary in their work of doing good.</p>

"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" (John 14:6)

<p>Thursday 17th April Today is Maundy Thursday. As we remember the last supper and the actions of Jesus let us pray that we show that same love and servant heartedness to those we meet. Whether through Urban Outreach, our churches, our neighbours or our family. Please pray that that love overflows to all with no bounds as we aim to serve those around us.</p>	<p>Friday 18th April Please pray today for all Urban Outreach staff and volunteers. Pray that they would have great opportunities to share God's message and His love to everyone they interact with. Pray also that they would find solutions to difficult situations or circumstances faced by those they are working with or helping.</p>	<p>Saturday 19th April Please pray for children and adults who find themselves at risk of exploitation. Pray that they would be aware of the risks and how they can minimise these, and that they would have safe adults they can talk to who would help. Pray for professionals who are trying to reach them, that they would make real progress.</p>
<p>Sunday 20th April Please pray for Streetlife. Giving thanks for their clients who Alan finds accommodation for, week after week – year after year. Pray that with the accommodation comes a future full of new starts, hope and security.</p>	<p>Monday 21st April Please continue to pray for Streetlife. Giving thanks for their resilience and determination to help the many individuals and families who come asking for help every week. Please ask that existing relationships with the landlords will stay strong and that new doors will open.</p>	<p>Tuesday 22nd April Please pray for those in our town who are struggling due to relationship breakdowns which leave them vulnerable, lonely, and feeling helpless. Pray for those who are fleeing abuse, that they find safety and that those whose relationships can be restored find a peacekeeper to help them resolve their issues.</p>
<p>Wednesday 23rd April Join us in praying for a 'peace that surpasses all understanding'. Please pray for the young people of Bolton and the ever-growing mental health crisis. Pray that Urban Outreach will be given the resources, wisdom and expertise needed to enable young people in this generation to flourish.</p>	<p>Thursday 24th April Pray that Jesus would give comfort to the people of Bolton who are in mourning, whether over the loss of a loved one, a loss of relationship, the loss of a job, the loss of financial security or a home.</p>	<p>Friday 25th April Today, pray for those who are called to be peacemakers in our town. As the world seems to be increasingly polarized and divided, draw out the peacemakers to be agents of reconciliation, mercy and compassion to all the people of Bolton, so that we may all flourish together.</p>

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
(Jeremiah 29: 11)

<p>Saturday 26th April Please pray for a family known to Eve's Space who are currently in private rented accommodation on a 'notorious' street. This situation is having an adverse effect on the mum's mental health and they need to move. Please pray for a miracle.</p>	<p>Sunday 27th April Two women, that Eve's Space have been working with, have just entered employment after being out of the workforce for some time. This is a very big move for them. Please pray for these two women as they step into their new roles and take on new challenges.</p>	<p>Monday 28th April Please pray for a lady who has survived terrible abuse throughout her childhood and teenage years. Her case will soon be presented to the Crown Prosecution Service who will decide if there is enough evidence to prosecute her abuser.</p>
<p>Tuesday 29th April Please thank God for the incredible volunteers who help us to keep Storehouse Foodbank running whether they help with collecting donations from supermarkets, sorting food into packages or help with the delivery/ giving out of food parcels. Ask that He give them joy when the work feels heavy and reminders that what they do really matters!</p>	<p>Wednesday 30th April Please pray for all those who find themselves needing to access a foodbank. Pray that they not only find food but also comfort, dignity and encouragement. Just as Spring reminds us that hard seasons don't last forever, let them feel hope for better days ahead.</p>	<p>Thursday 1st May Please join us as we praise God for some miraculous answers to prayer. As a team we are experiencing difficult times for our families for whom prayer is continuous. However, we are seeing our Father take "impossible" situations and bring His Divine Intervention! As God is praised, please pray for God's Hope, Love & Peace for those who continue to need it.</p>
<p>Friday 2nd May Over the many years of Urban Outreach God has been sinking deep His foundations. Please pray for Trustees and the team as they 'wait' on Him trusting with anticipation His revelation as to what comes next. The desire will always be that it won't be "man-made" but that it will be "made in Heaven, come down to Earth!"</p>	<p>Saturday 3rd May <i>"May He equip you with all you need for doing His will. May He produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, every good thing that is pleasing to Him. All Glory to Him forever and ever! Amen."</i> (Hebrews 13:21) Let us make this the basis of all our prayers today. Thank you.</p>	<p>Sunday 4th May Please pray today for all our staff as they prepare for the week ahead. Pray that they will feel refreshed as they head into this new week, ready to serve well those in great need within Bolton.</p>

**"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
(Jeremiah 29: 11)**

<p>Monday 5th May Please pray for all our volunteers who give up their time delivering food parcels or collecting surplus supermarket stock around Bolton. Pray for their safety and wellbeing as they go into some challenging areas of our town to support those in need.</p>	<p>Tuesday 6th May Friends of Fun Food is currently running a cooking course at Devonshire Road Primary School and the second session is today. Please pray that the cooking session would run smoothly, the children would enjoy it and learn some new skills.</p>	<p>Wednesday 7th May Food parcels will be getting delivered across Bolton today. Please do pray that the food parcels being delivered would provide some relief to those who receive it. Also, join us in giving thanks for our volunteer drivers, who give up their time each week to get the food parcels to those who need them.</p>
<p>Thursday 8th May Please pray for the Storehouse Pantries taking place in New Bury and Brightmet today. Pray that those who are coming to collect food parcels receive more than just food but also support for the various challenges they are facing.</p>	<p>Friday 9th May Please pray for a young girl who is struggling to find a new school after being withdrawn due to bullying. Pray that her family receives the guidance and support needed to help her and that she finds a place she can feel settled and safe.</p>	<p>Saturday 10th May Please pray for a young family who are waiting to be moved out of temporary accommodation into a stable home. Pray this happens quickly for them so they can start to thrive.</p>
<p>Sunday 11th May <i>"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love."</i> (Ephesians 4:2) Lord, help us to show kindness and understanding to those around us, and to always act with love.</p>	<p>Monday 12th May Please pray for a female who is paraplegic and desperately needs to be placed in either independent living or supported housing. Pray she gets the care she needs so that she can enjoy the rest of her life.</p>	<p>Tuesday 13th May Please pray for a female fleeing domestic violence. Pray that she finally becomes free from this perpetrator and that she can live safely. Ask the Lord to restore the years the locusts have eaten and let her know what a lovely lady she really is.</p>

"But now, O Jacob, listen to the Lord who created you. O Israel, the one who formed you says, 'Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name you are mine'." (Isaiah 43:1)

<p>Wednesday 14th May Today, let's pray for our Children and Families team, who meet every Wednesday to seek God's comfort, direction and power in all they are commissioned to do across Bolton. Please ask to God, bring wisdom, purpose, comfort and peace to the team, who serve children and families across Bolton. May they be filled with your Spirit anew today.</p>	<p>Thursday 15th May Today is International Day of Families. Let us pray for all families across Bolton, remembering some local issues – poverty, alcohol and substance misuse, mental and physical health complications, domestic and sexual violence. Pray that the presence of the Holy Spirit breaks the chains that bind families to these issues. Pray that He brings hope and light into the darkness. Amen.</p>	<p>Friday 16th May As we serve Storehouse food provision today, in Deane and Halliwell, let us pray for God's power at work, in and through our Urban Outreach community partnerships. May the presence of His Spirit continue to guide and empower us to be Jesus' hands and feet across Bolton, and may people come to know Jesus through our interactions with them.</p>
<p>Saturday 17th May Please pray for Street Life as they seek to assist and support the huge number of people open to them. As you know the country is still experiencing a housing crisis. Pray Street Life will be equipped with everything they need as they seek to find accommodation and resolve other issues they have, such as addictions, debt and health problems.</p>	<p>Sunday 18th May As in previous prayers, please pray for those who are sleeping rough either on the streets, in their vehicles or sofa surfing at numerous places with family and friends. . Pray that God would equip Street Life with the ability to support them through this difficult time and that new reliable landlords will be found.</p>	<p>Monday 19th May Please pray for those people Street Life support who have addictions and suffer with mental health. Pray they will be able to assist and support them through the process when they want to address the addictions and places will become available in detox or rehab.</p>
<p>Tuesday 20th May In Street Life we are still seeing many families resorting to sofa surfing. This is due to them being evicted because of rent increase or the properties being sold. Please pray that more affordable 2/3 bed accommodation will become available to Street Life as they seek to find appropriate housing for them.</p>	<p>Wednesday 21st May Please pray for a young person who is at high risk of criminal exploitation. Please pray that he will be protected and be surrounded by people that influence him to make good choices. Please pray that he will settle well in a school that cares for him and brings out the best in him.</p>	<p>Thursday 22nd May Please pray for a young girl who is waiting for some additional emotional health support. Pray that while on the waitlist she will have family, friends and school staff who will check in on her and look out for her. Please pray that her mental health will begin to improve even before she is allocated a support worker.</p>

“But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.” (James 3: 17)

<p>Friday 23rd May Please pray for the young people and staff that are finishing school today for half term next week. Please pray it will be a time of rest and fun. Please pray for young people who live in difficult home environments, that they will be kept safe and will have the courage to reach out for help if they need to.</p>	<p>Saturday 24th May Please pray for the children that we support. Pray for protection for them and good people of influence around them.</p>	<p>Sunday 25th May Please pray for our Children and Families team. Pray that they have wisdom and discernment when supporting the children they work with.</p>
<p>Monday 26th May Please pray for those affected by domestic violence. Pray that God wraps them in His protection, that they be reminded of their worth, and that they be given the strength to take the next step. Ask that God brings people into their lives who will support, believe, and stand beside them. For those who cause harm, we ask for transformation, softened hearts and broken cycles.</p>	<p>Tuesday 27th May Pray for all those young people who are separated from their siblings and don't get to see them as often as they would like to. Pray that social services would be able to facilitate these visits and in doing so relieve some of the separation anxiety these young people experience.</p>	<p>Wednesday 28th May We thank God for the privilege of being able to go into schools and speak hope into the lives of many young people. We pray for those delivering the emotional wellbeing sessions in schools and pray that they would have the skills, wisdom and patience to understand each young person's individual needs and anxieties.</p>
<p>Thursday 29th May On this Ascension Day, please pray that the message of Jesus' Ascension becomes a beacon of hope for the young people we serve. Just as Jesus was lifted up, may those at risk be lifted out of darkness into light, out of despair into hope, and out of sorrow into joy.</p>	<p>Friday 30th May Please pray for a series of sessions our No Hiding Place Project will be doing at a Primary School in Bolton. Pray for the children as young as 9 that are reported to have been at risk of Child Criminal Exploitation. Pray that these sessions will shine a light on the darkness of this issue and give them the confidence to speak up and keep each other safe.</p>	<p>Saturday 31st May Please pray for our newest project in the Children and Families Team, Re Root. Pray for the children involved in Serious Youth Violence it will serve, showing them God's love in community and in nature to divert them from these challenges. May God be present in the sessions and in the outcomes of the project.</p>

‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’ (Hebrews 13:5)