



Prayer
Network

Prayer **MATTERS**

DECEMBER 2025



Dear Prayer Matters readers

Welcome to the December edition of *Prayer Matters*, and our last one for 2025.

It's a month mostly focused on praying for The Salvation Army's various Christmas ministries, and these prayers have been written by members of 'Prayer Furnaces' around the territory. If you'd like to know more about what a Prayer Furnace is, please click here:

salvationist.org.uk/faith/our-territory/territorial-directory/prayer-network

We have a beautiful and thought-provoking series of prayers for our Justice and Reconciliation theme on Fridays, written by Captain John Clifton and reflecting on 'Christ in the Margins'.

The Older People's Team have also given us some wonderful prayers for our Serving and Caring Tuesdays, and our Sunday Sabbath prayers are taken from the Advent resources which The Salvation Army has produced this year on the theme of 'Love Came Down'. And finally, the worldwide prayer meeting on Thursdays takes us to Africa, Central America and Northern Europe.

Thank you for taking time to pray with us. We hope and pray that you have a joyful, love-filled Christmas.

Blessings,

Lyndall Bywater
and the UKI Boiler Room Team

DECEMBER



MONDAY 1 DECEMBER: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS **Carolling**

So many people say, 'It's not Christmas until we've heard the Salvation Army band.' We give thanks for the musicians and collectors who give their time and energy to bless our communities up and down the UK and Ireland Territory. Lord God, we ask that you keep us safe. May our message be clear and tuneful, and may the conversations that take place bring comfort, as the words of the carols are brought to mind and memories are stirred.

Captain Claire Durrant (Wrexham Corps)



TUESDAY 2 DECEMBER: SERVING AND CARING **Older People - Loneliness**

Lord, you are intimately aware of all our ways and you know the number of hairs on our head. You know our thoughts from afar. You see us and you search us. We pray for anyone who is finding life lonely at the moment, and particularly for the older people in our local communities. Break through the isolation and remind them that they are not alone. Show them that you are there with them. Lift them up and hold them close.

Andrew Wileman (Assistant Director, Older People's Services)



WEDNESDAY 3 DECEMBER: GROWING IN FAITH **Celebrating Christmas with The Salvation Army at the Royal Albert Hall**

Tonight thousands will travel to the Royal Albert Hall for an evening of music and Bible readings, presenting the timeless, life-changing truths of the Christmas story. Pray that the message will ring out loud and clear, and that everyone present will taste the joy of Christmas. Pray for the musicians, the readers and all those taking part, for peace and boldness as they bring this beautiful story to life again.

Lyndall Bywater (UKI Boiler Room Team)



THURSDAY 4 DECEMBER: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY - Nigeria Territory

Today we pray for the Nigeria Territory, giving thanks for the witness and service of Salvationists across the country. We pray for protection, particularly in those areas where Christians experience persecution. We ask God's richest blessings on the leadership team of Commissioners Friday and Glory Ayanam and Lieut-Colonels Nkwachukwu C and Juliet Nkechinyere Ezeonyilimba.

Lyndall Bywater (UKI Boiler Room Team)



FRIDAY 5 DECEMBER: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION **Christ in the Margins - Gary from Blackpool**

Christ of the forgotten towns,
you walk the roads where hope has boarded up its windows.
Hear the anger that smells of damp carpet, mouldy walls and cheap lager,
the cry of those who have been narrated but never known.
Gather the 'Garys' of this land into your mercy.
Turn mockery into meeting,
and raise dignity from the dust of neglect.

Captain John Clifton (Divisional Commander, North East Division)

Read the article which inspired this month's Justice and Reconciliation prayers here: open.substack.com/pub/drjohnclifton/p/a-triptych-of-wrath-anger-poorly?utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=web



SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER: CARE FOR CREATION **Just Gifts**

Father God, we thank you for the ways in which people are thinking more about the social and environmental impact of their gift-giving, and looking for ways to give which don't harm the planet. We pray for The Salvation Army's 'Just Gifts' initiative, offering people the opportunity to buy vouchers for gifts which will make a real difference to our various development projects around the world. Use these gifts, we pray, to warm people's hearts and make a tangible difference in their lives.

Lyndall Bywater (UKI Boiler Room Team)



SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER: SABBATH PRAYER **Love Wraps Around**

In this week's 'Love Came Down' Advent reflection, we remember with gratitude that God's love finds us, wherever we are. There is nowhere that God's love can't reach us. Indeed, God's love comes looking for us even when we're not looking for it. We take comfort from the truth that God's love enfolds us, whoever we are, wrapping around us, no matter what questions or uncertainties we have. And we invite God's love to fill us, hearing again the challenge which Mary heard – to allow God's love to live in us and to shape us from the inside out.

Adapted from the 'Love Came Down' Advent Week Two sermon starter at: salvationist.org.uk/resources/key-dates/advent-2025



MONDAY 8 DECEMBER: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS **London Division – Stewarding resources**

Pray for us as we seek wisdom in how to steward our resources strategically – whether those resources be buildings, people or finances. Pray for us as we reimagine The Salvation Army in London, and strengthen partnerships across the city.

Major Steve White (Divisional Commander, London Division)



TUESDAY 9 DECEMBER: SERVING AND CARING **Older People – A reflection on later life**

Lord God, in this Advent season, we bring ourselves, our spiritual gifts, our time and our lifetime of experiences. Let us open our hearts to receive the abundant blessings that flow from the manger in Bethlehem, embracing the transformative power of God's love and mercy. Thank you for being the Prince of Peace, and we ask you for that peace to reign in our hearts.

Andrew Wileman (Assistant Director, Older People's Services)



WEDNESDAY 10 DECEMBER: GROWING IN FAITH **Advent**

During the season of Advent we are encouraged to be still, and we encourage others to be still, awaiting the coming of our Saviour with expectant hope. And yet for many of us in The Salvation Army it's our busiest time, as we run around doing what we do best. If we're honest, stillness is far from our thoughts and from our reality. In the craziness, the noise and the chaos of the season, may we 'hush the noise'; may we be reminded, and may we remind others, that it's all about Jesus.

Captain Claire Durrant (Wrexham Corps)

To take this further, here are some prayer station ideas to pause and be still this Advent: salvationist.org.uk/resources/worship/advent-prayer-stations



THURSDAY 11 DECEMBER: INTERNATIONAL **SALVATION ARMY - Mexico Territory**

The vision of the Mexico Territory is to be passionate about the Kingdom of God, sharing the message of God's love with everyone and positively impacting communities. We pray that this vision will be realised in countless ways over this Christmas season. We pray for the territorial leadership team of Lieut-Colonels Agripina and Gerardo Góchez and Lieut-Colonels Markus and Ewa-Marie Kilagård.

Lyndall Bywater (UKI Boiler Room Team)



FRIDAY 12 DECEMBER: JUSTICE AND **RECONCILIATION** **Christ in the Margins - Charlie Kirk**

Lord of truth,
teach us to have the courage to speak with those who may not listen,
and to listen without fear.

In a world armed with microphones and bullets alike,
make us peacemakers with calloused hands and open eyes.

May we 'tweet with our feet' – going to places where difference may
scare us,

and refusing to hide behind a keyboard.

May our conviction be clothed in a mercy of personhood.

Captain John Clifton (Divisional Commander, North East Division)



SATURDAY 13 DECEMBER: CARE FOR CREATION **Care in Schools**

Loving Lord, we pray for the staff and students in schools who will be working hard to get to the end of term, with carol services, plays and pantomimes on top of the regular work that needs to be achieved. May our schools continue to be places of safety, warmth and hope. We pray for those schools where The Salvation Army will have some involvement at this time of year. May we bring joy, and keep our eyes open to ways we can help.

Captain Claire Durrant (Wrexham Corps)



SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER: SABBATH PRAYER **Love Stands With Us**

In this week's 'Love Came Down' Advent reflection, we reflect on the story of Joseph. Love stands with Joseph as he stands with Mary. We give thanks that God's love stands with us, not in isolation, but in community. We invite the Holy Spirit to show us how our human relationships can reflect Jesus being 'God with us' (Matthew 1:23). And we welcome God's love challenging us to intentionally stand with others, especially those whom society would rather cast out.

Adapted from the 'Love Came Down' Advent Week Three sermon starter at: salvationist.org.uk/resources/key-dates/advent-2025



MONDAY 15 DECEMBER: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS **Christmas Lights**

Lord, as we approach Christmas, may The Salvation Army be light in this broken and hurting nation. May others be drawn to Jesus through The Salvation Army's ministry, whether it be through one-to-one conversations, carolling ministry, weekly programmes or pastoral care. May people's hearts receive the gospel message and may their lives be renewed and transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Rachel Raw (Snettisham Prayer Furnace)



TUESDAY 16 DECEMBER: SERVING AND CARING **Mental Health**

Lord Jesus, as we celebrate the hope, joy, love and peace that this season brings, we are aware that, for many, those things feel a long way from the reality they experience. For those who may find the season of Christmas triggering, we claim your presence and your power. Help us to tenderly walk alongside people, creating space for simple connection.

Captain Claire Durrant (Wrexham Corps)



WEDNESDAY 17 DECEMBER: GROWING IN FAITH **London Division - Leaders**

Pray for those who serve as leaders across our division. Ask God for protection, grace, peace and resilience as they serve in London's complex environments. Pray for them as they find the best ways to care for their communities.

Major Steve White (Divisional Commander, London Division)



THURSDAY 18 DECEMBER: INTERNATIONAL **SALVATION ARMY - Finland and Estonia Territory**

We pray for the Finland and Estonia Territory today, asking God to pour out his Spirit on all those who work and worship with The Salvation Army there. May their roots go deep in the soil of God's love, and may they be courageous in the sharing of the good news. We pray for the territorial leadership team of Lieut-Colonel Saga Lippo, Lieut-Colonel Esa Nenonen and Majors Tero and Metti Saajoranta.

Lyndall Bywater (UKI Boiler Room Team)



FRIDAY 19 DECEMBER: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

Christ in the Margins – Flags in Hartlepool and Horden

God of every people and patch of ground,
you see the pain stitched into our union flags raised on lamp posts.
Heal the fear that hides behind our pride, but manifests itself in
subconscious grief.

May the wind that tugs at torn cloth
carry your Spirit through our streets and baptise us in love.
Let our nations' flags find their place beneath your cross.

Captain John Clifton (Divisional Commander, North East Division)



SATURDAY 20 DECEMBER: CARE FOR CREATION

Care through Giving Gifts

Loving Father, as teams throughout the territory facilitate The Salvation Army's toy appeal, we pray that you will give them strength and energy, and the wisdom to choose the right gift for the right recipient. We pray too for the agencies and networks we work alongside, that they will discover something of you in all we do. Bless every donor who gives to our appeal, however great or small the gift may be, and may every gift result in smiles and joy on Christmas morning and beyond.

Captain Claire Durrant (Wrexham Corps)



SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER: SABBATH PRAYER **Love Shows Up in the Neighbourhood**

In this week's 'Love Came Down' Advent reflection, we reflect on the truth that God does not always show up where we expect him. When Jesus arrived, it wasn't in the spotlight, yet it brought light to a dark world, and it's in the deepest darkness that light shines brightest. In the final week of Advent, we receive the light of Jesus showing up for us – love incarnate, love divine. We ask God to keep us alert to the unexpected places where love might show up this Christmas.

Adapted from the 'Love Came Down' Advent Week Four sermon starter at: salvationist.org.uk/resources/key-dates/advent-2025



MONDAY 22 DECEMBER: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS **Comfort and Healing**

Lord Jesus, we pray for people in our communities who feel broken this Christmas. Guide them to local expressions of The Salvation Army, to hear the message that you came down to earth to bring healing. For all who call on you, you hear and are the Comforter. Work in the lives of those who need to experience your healing and restoring power this Christmas.

Captain Cor van der Woude (Bury Corps)



TUESDAY 23 DECEMBER: SERVING AND CARING **Older People – Christmas absence**

Lord, thank you for being our Emmanuel – our God with us, right here and right now. Wrap us up in that Emmanuel presence, especially in the moments over Christmas when we miss those whom we loved or who loved us. Fill the empty spaces of our hearts with the length and breadth and height and depth of your own love. O God, we trust that you are good and that your goodness is still at work for us.

Andrew Wileman (Assistant Director, Older People's Services)



WEDNESDAY 24 DECEMBER: GROWING IN FAITH **Sharing the Christmas Message**

Father, as we worship you, we are so glad that you came into the world as God's only son and our Saviour. This Christmas, as The Salvation Army joins Christians all around the globe in celebrating the miracle of your birth, we pray that the blessing of your love will fall on our nation as we speak about the reason you came to earth, to the people in our communities, to our families, and to our neighbours. May your love pour down in the world this Christmas time.

Major Gary Lacey (Territorial Prayer Coordinator)



THURSDAY 25 DECEMBER **Christmas Day**

'And the Word became flesh and lived among us.' (John 1:14, *NRSV*)

Today I pray that we will be amazed again that the Word, who spoke the earth into being, is the same Word who limited himself. He put on skin and became human, to show his love for every human being. Today I take time to thank you that you are not a God who is far away, but that you are a God who wants an intimate relationship with me. Today, I say thank you, Jesus.

Captain Cor van der Woude (Bury Corps)



FRIDAY 26 DECEMBER: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

Christ in the Margins – The Church and the dirty revival

Lord, have mercy on your Church,
for we have washed our hands when you called us to dirty them.
We prayed for revival –
celebrating when it is called 'quiet' but recoiling when it is 'dirty'.
We have preferred clean answers to messy grace,
and patronised when our polished composure was upset;
let repentance be our renewal,
and may your Spirit rise again from within the neglected classes.
Amen.

Captain John Clifton (Divisional Commander, North East Division)



SATURDAY 27 DECEMBER: CARE FOR CREATION **Care in Rest**

Lord Jesus, I pray for all those officers and leaders who have given so much over Christmas, wanting to make it special for everyone. I pray that the essence and joy of Christmas will not get lost in tiredness or burnout. I pray that they will have wisdom to take time to rest, to step back and realise again how much they are loved by the Christ Child.

Captain Cor van der Woude (Bury Corps)



SUNDAY 28 DECEMBER: SABBATH PRAYER **Love is Still Here**

Gracious God, as the trappings of Christmas get packed away and we turn our minds to the New Year, we thank you so much that your astonishing gift of love for us will never grow old, never wear away and never be out of season. Help us to remember and treasure those moments over Christmas when we have felt that love welling up in us. Help us to keep making room for it in our hearts, and help us to be even more enthusiastic to share it with others.

Lyndall Bywater (UKI Boiler Room Team)



MONDAY 29 DECEMBER: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS **After Christmas**

Father, Son and Holy Ghost, triune God, I pray that the people who have visited our corps and centres over the Christmas period will remember the atmosphere of your presence and will want to come back again. I pray that they will find this atmosphere is not fabricated for Christmas, but that it is your own signature – the mark of a personal God who can be found throughout the year.

Captain Cor van der Woude (Bury Corps)



TUESDAY 30 DECEMBER: SERVING AND CARING **Older People – Celebration**

Lord, how creative you are to use even the stars above to guide people into your presence! Draw us close to yourself by any means this Christmas season. As sparkling stars and singing angels rejoiced at the birth of the Christ Child in Bethlehem, so may we take great joy in the birth of your son, sharing that joy with whomever we meet.

Andrew Wileman (Assistant Director, Older People's Services)



WEDNESDAY 31 DECEMBER: GROWING IN FAITH **London Division – Courageous disciples**

On the eve of 2026, pray for guidance and blessing as we prepare to launch a regular worship and prayer gathering in the New Year. The focus will be to nurture courageous disciples.

Major Steve White (Divisional Commander, London Division)

NOTES





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