



*Together in Prayer for Sheffield*  
and  
*Sheffield Prayer Link*  
Working together to encourage citywide prayer

Every month a free bulletin is issued with prayer points for the City. To get your monthly copy register with SPL today.  
Email: [prayer@sheffieldcrosslinks.co.uk](mailto:prayer@sheffieldcrosslinks.co.uk). Tell: 0114 2493956

## MARCH 2009

### ***'STANDING FIRM IN ONE SPIRIT'*** *Phil 1:27*

The apostle Paul introduces his letter to the Philippian church with these words: " *To all the saints at Philippi together with the overseers and the deacons,*" so that when he went on to say *'Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel'*, he had already made it clear that this included the leadership of the church.

Leaders are expected to take a lead and I am certain that the apostle Paul expected the Philippian church leadership to be seen as examples in *'standing firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel'*, especially as there was much opposition to the gospel in Philippi. In doing so, they would be conducting themselves, *'in a manner worthy of the gospel.'*

I wonder what the apostles' verdict would be in this matter if the church in Sheffield was under scrutiny? Let us pray that church leaders in the city will make every effort to be found together *" Standing firm in one spirit,"* and increasingly able to lead the church in Sheffield in *'contending as one man for the faith of the gospel.'*

Sheffield Prayer Team



Join  
The Prayer Concert every quarter at Wesley Hall, Crookes, to pray for Sheffield. The next meeting is 7th March from 9 till noon.

## Bathing our Leaders in Prayer For a Month

Each month we focus on leaders and ministers in a particular area of the city. Starting in S3,S4 & S5 we will \*give the surname of every one, irrespective of their denomination or stream. This month please pray for the wisdom and power of God in their lives and in their preaching of the Gospel; for their health and family; for their prosperity and blessing.

Please pray for: Hull, Lings, Jones, Mputu, Roberts, Masters, Snow, McIntosh, Savaille, Goodhand, Hindmarch, Melville, Watts ,Phipps, Hurley, Lees, Warricker, Collins, Cobb, Kerry, Gilchaara, Duffield, Mac-Gregor,Olugua, Mudge,Smith, Trask and Ryder-West.

Honour your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the  
lord your God will give you.

Ex 20:12



### Mothering Sunday. March 22nd

The Government's attempts to reduce the UK's teenage pregnancy rate, which is the highest in Western Europe, have mainly focused on 'unplanned' accidental pregnancies. According to recent research for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, girls as young as 13 choose motherhood 'to be independent and to create 'a loving family'

In the month of Mothering Sunday, when motherhood is remembered as a precious thing, let's remember many thousands of teenage girls in this country who sought a baby in order to give themselves a sense of worth, and a direction in life.

**Let's thank God** for all mothers everywhere, asking him to bless them.

**Please pray:** for families of teenagers as they deal with the very real issues of sex education and care, bringing good moral teaching and role modeling.

**Please pray:** for single mothers, some only children themselves, who may find themselves rearing children without support from father or family.

**Please pray:** that God would turn the tide on this generation of young people bringing an awakening of spiritual and moral conscience to bear on their future.

### Dr Steven Croft Ordained New Bishop to serve in the Diocese of Sheffield.

On the 25th Jan this year, the sun shone through the Rose Window of York Minster as Dr Sentamu, Archbishop of York, ordained Bishop Steven. The Diocese of Sheffield turned out in force to acknowledge that a new era had already begun in the history of Sheffield.

He has written widely about his experiences as a parish priest and has expressed increasing concern about how urgent the task is for the Church to re-engage with huge swathes of the population which it has completely lost touch with. In the past four years he has overseen the emergence of Fresh Expressions - an initiative of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York in conjunction with the Methodist Church aimed at encouraging new ways of being church in the 21st century.

**Please pray:** for Bishop Steven as he takes up office in the City.

I am not ashamed of the Gospel because It is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes... Romans 1:16

### Faith in Practice

On 7th March, doctors and health care professionals will be attending a course in Sheffield designed to equip them to integrate their faith and medical practice, so that they can attend to their patients' spiritual as well as physical needs.

In a time when many people now face 'faith at work' issues, **let us pray:**

For all God's people wanting to share the good news of Jesus in their workplace, between colleagues, clients and customers.

**Please pray:** for opportunities, humility, care and concern in the way these conversations are carried out.

**Please pray;** for God's people to have boldness in conversations; a determination to bring the Christian point of view, a tolerance and willingness to listen to the opinions of others and the Holy Spirit's leading.

\*For more info [events@cmf.org.uk](mailto:events@cmf.org.uk).

### **JOBS AT RISK**

As this bulletin is being written, more than 50 jobs at Attercliffe-based bank Santander are at risk. Staff who may be affected have been given notice. Talks are taking place with Advance, the Abbey staff's union. A final decision is expected shortly. Another 50 Sheffield jobs are set to go at east-end steel maker Outu Kumpu. Many small businesses are feeling the effects of the financial recession.

**Please continue to pray:** for people affected by loss of jobs; for those about to become redundant and for those in fear of losing their businesses, and livelihood.

**Please pray:** For your Christian brothers and sisters in these circumstances, seeking the Lord's blessing on them.

### **BBC presenter Jeremy Vine**

has spoken about the difficulties he faces in openly discussing his Christian faith on air. He said 'Sadly, along with that has come the fact that it's almost socially unacceptable to say you believe in God.'

**Please Pray:** for Jeremy and those like him who find it difficult to declare the Christian faith in work. Pray against so called political correctness that implies Christianity must be suppressed for fear of upsetting other people.

**Please Pray:** for all Christians who feel increasingly constrained in living their faith by excessive political correctness in a secular society.

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. 2 Chr 7:14

'Heavenly father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says, 'Woe to those who call evil good,' but that is exactly what we have done...exploited the poor and called it a lottery. We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare. We have killed our unborn and called it choice...We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self esteem. We have abused our power and called it politics. We have coveted our neighbour's possessions and called it ambition. We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression. We have ridiculed the time-honoured values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment. Search us, Oh God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free. Amen!

*A prayer for the nation, by Billy Graham.*

## **What is an Intercessor? A key answer to continue this year of Grace 2009:**

**13.** An intercessor is by definition PENTECOSTAL. Please consider:

### **Acts 4:18-31**

*18 Then they called them in again and commended them not to speak or teach at all in the Name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. 20 For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." 21 After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened. 22 For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old. 23 On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. 24 When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "SOVEREIGN LORD", they said, "You made the heaven and earth and the sea, and everything in them. 25 You spoke by the HOLY SPIRIT through the mouth of your servant, our father David: [Psalm 2: 1-2]*

*"Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in Vain?*

*26 The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against His Anointed One."*

*27 Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant JESUS, whom you anointed. 28 They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. 29 Now, LORD, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. 30 Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the Name of your holy servant JESUS. 31 After they prayed the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were filled with the HOLY SPIRIT and spoke the word of GOD boldly.*

Be sure to note the context of this passage – Evangelism and the cost of it.

Also the quoting from Psalm 2 as they prayed shows that their praying is rooted in a knowledge of the Scriptures and its prophetic encouragement.

Verse 31. The immediate outcome of their intercession reads like the Day of Pentecost, for the truth is it **is the day of Pentecost!** Acts 2:1 begins, "*When the day of Pentecost has fully come ...*" – I have yet to discover a text which tells us when it was "fully over". If only we would live, worship and witness in the Good of this Day, we would learn to expect the LORD'S outstretched hand to "perform miraculous signs and wonders through the Name of His Holy servant JESUS."

May I commend this passage to you next time we meet together to pray.

With my love to each of you, in JESUS our Lord, -Noël.

Each month the Sheffield Prayer Team meet to pray for the monthly prioritised areas of the city. You are invited to join us at the Sheffield Cross Links office for that prayer time. Every third Wednesday in the month from 11 till noon. For further information, or if you have prayer points for your area please ring the SCL office: 0114 2493956.