

SUNDAY 9th February 2025



Local ...
Lively ...
Loving

An Open Letter to Our Father In Heaven



We wish it was as simple as saying stop!
Cease...
Be still...
And so, we say it...
STOP!
We pray it out, we shout and fervently
think it, say it, shout and even sing it...
STOP!
Hoping beyond hope that the violence
and hatred ends.
War, violence, hatred, exclusion –
anything that weaponises our beautiful
differences.
We pray it stops in Your name.
We pray it stops in the name of the
people we know,
And the millions we don't, whose life
and breath have been stolen by hate.

We pray love.
Your love – the love that dances
through the universe and binds the
fabric of the cosmos together –
We pray that that very same love
Would descend like rain quenching
parched earth.
We pray, Lord of life,
That You would breathe Your life
Into the dust and ashes of so many
neighbourhoods.
Breathe Your life
Into the broken corridors of hospitals
and into schools torn apart by mortars
and shrapnel.

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An Open Letter *[continued]*

Breathe Your life
Into the broken corridors of power,
where the same mortars and weapons
of war are bought and sold,
May Your justice roll in like water, like a
torrent of love awakened from the very
belly of the deep.
May it rush in,
Sweeping away lies, deceit, hate,
warmongering and even the small
things that sow untruths and mistrust
and get under our skin.
May it make way for compassion, for
grace, for mercy.

God of the heavens, make Your
Kingdom here on earth.
Make it now...
Why delay? Why wait? Why not now?
We need it, and we are the lucky
ones...
What about Your children who could
not wait, who will not get to see the
beauty and the blessing? All who have
lost lives, loved ones or even hope for
any kind of future.
Please, make it real, now!
Your Kingdom here and now!
NOW!
NOW!
NOW!

all Your children x

Written by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland for Racial Justice Sunday 2025



People

Let's continue to support our friends who are poorly or recovering from operations through this week – both in prayer and through more direct means a quick call, a message or a card is always going to be appreciated.

We have a special birthday this coming week – Mark Dickens celebrates his 60th on Valentine's Day, 14th February. Congratulations!

Coat Hooks

I had a couple of comments last week about the notice regarding the new coat hooks in the corridor between the Worship Hall and the Bradbury Hall. It was generally felt that people would appreciate it more if you made use of the coat hooks rather than other people's coats! Thank you for your understanding.

Flowers

Our flowers today have been provided by Viv in memory of her dad, Roy, who would have been 100 on February 11th.



I am Mark

One man, one chair, one incredible true story. Join biblical storyteller and actor Stefan Smart as he draws a uniquely intimate and provocative portrait of the Son of God and breathes new life into the greatest story ever told. A dramatised reading of the gospel of St Mark at Christ Church Downend on Friday 7th March at 7:30pm.



I AM MARK

Friday 7th March 7.30pm
FREE for all the family
Christ Church Downend



The Week Ahead

TODAY - Sunday 9th February:

10am *RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY*
11:30am-12:15pm Children's & Youth Activities
4pm-6pm Messy Church

Tuesday 11th February:

9:30am-2:30pm Employment Plus with Tyrone-*appointment needed*
10am-2pm Open Doors (*soup lunch available at 12:30pm*)
10am-11am Fitness Club
11am-12noon Extra Slice Group (leader: Kelvin) *at the hall*
From 6:30pm YP Band Practice and Singing Company Practice
8pm Songster Practice

Wednesday 12th February:

9:30am-11am Tots on the Hill
3:30pm-4:30pm Extra Slice Group (leader: Gerry) *online*
8pm-9pm Extra Slice Group (leader: Linda) *at Kelvin & Linda's*
8:15pm-9:15pm Extra Slice Group (leader: Beth) *online*

Thursday 13th February:

10am-12noon Open Doors
11:15am Thursday Church
12:30pm Lunch Club - *booking essential*
8pm Extra Senior Band Practice
8pm-9pm Extra Slice Group *at Colin & Nicola's*
8pm-9pm Extra Slice Group (leader: Bethany) *at Bev & Jon's*
8:15pm-9:15pm Extra Slice Group (leaders: Ian & Rachel) *online*

Friday 14th February:

7:30am-12noon Slimming World Groups
10am-12noon Open Doors
4pm Cleaning Hall

Next Weekend

Saturday 15th February:

10am-12noon Coffee Morning

Sunday 16th February: *Led by Majors Colin & Nicola*

10am All Age Worship
'The Generous Heart: Shout'
[Mark 10: 17-24](#)

11:30am-12:15pm Children's & Youth Activities
5:30pm Pulse Youth Event - *venue TBC*

Dates for the Diary

Here are some other dates that are coming up soon:

Thursday 20 th February	Thursday Church
Monday 24 th February	CAMEO Craft Group
Friday 7 th March	World Day of Prayer
Sunday 9 th March	Generous Discipleship Pulse Youth Event
Thursday 20 th March	Thursday Church
Friday 21 st to Sunday 23 rd March	CY Conference
Saturday 22 nd March	Coffee Morning
Sunday 30 th March	Mothers' Day
Monday 31 st March	CAMEO Craft Group