

inHope.

For those who need us most



shelter, sanctuary and
support for homeless
and vulnerable
people

The Bristol Methodist Centre and inHope Month of Prayer – Epiphany to Candlemas Prayer Diary

The Christian marking of Candlemas celebrates the return of light, a symbol of protection and prosperity. The festival commemorates the presentation of Jesus at the Temple of Jerusalem, as a light to the people.

As we journey into 2024, the Bristol Methodist Centre and inHope invite you to join us for a month of prayer, seeking to bring light to homeless, vulnerable and marginalised people in Bristol.

The month of prayer runs from Epiphany (Saturday 6th January) to Candlemas (Friday 2nd February). This prayer guide includes a prayer for each day, written by the people who use The Methodist Centre or inHope's services, along with volunteers, staff, supporters and trustees. We'd like to thank everybody who's contributed.

The month of prayer will culminate in a joint service where we can bring our prayers together. More details about this will be shared through each organisation's websites, newsletters and social media.

Saturday 6th Jan

Father God. Having celebrated the birth of Jesus at Christmas, we pray that you surround the world with your arms of protection and help to heal those who struggle every day. May we learn to love, support and care for one another. Amen

Sunday 7th Jan

Father God, we lift up every person in our city who feels vulnerable and thank you for every expression of mercy. Please help us to be your hands and feet as we continue to make this a City of Hope! Amen

Monday 8th Jan

Lord, there is so much that we don't understand - what some people are going through, or why they are going through it. We trust that you do understand and we pray that you would help and comfort those cared for by inHope or the Bristol Methodist Centre.
Amen

Tuesday 9th Jan

Gracious God. We bring to you the vulnerable in society. Provide them with safe places where they are sheltered from the weather and the unpredictable life on the streets. Amen

Wed 10th Jan

Jehovah Jireh. Thank you for resourcing inHope and the Bristol Methodist Centre over so many years. As the cost of living crisis continues and costs increase, we pray for the courage to trust you to sustain your ministries with homeless and vulnerable people. Amen

Thurs 11th Jan

We rejoice, Father, at the partnerships across our city, where people work together to end homelessness and to address its causes. We ask your wisdom and guidance for Bristol Homeless Forum and pray it may facilitate and coordinate effectively.
Amen

Friday 12th Jan

We thank you Father for the work you are doing in Bristol through the people you have called. We thank you for the care you have for those poor in spirit, lost, sick, and those who mourn. We pray you would comfort them and provide us with all we need to serve those most in need, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen

Saturday 13th Jan

Heavenly Father. I pray that homeless people will not be out on the streets on cold nights. Please find them food and shelter, provided by people who love them and want to serve them.
Amen

Sunday 14th Jan

Heavenly Father, we know that your heart breaks for those that are homeless, struggling with addiction, who are hungry and cold, fearful or lonely, trapped in abusive relationships and caught in modern-day slavery. Father, break our hearts for what breaks yours. Amen

Monday 15th Jan

Lord Creator, you maintain and reinvigorate every facet of this extraordinary world. Guide all those who are working to establish a sustainable community which answers the needs of the most vulnerable. Amen

Tuesday 16th Jan

Jesus Christ, homeless wanderer. You spent much time with those on the edge of society and with those whose lives who had taken a wrong direction. We pray for the Bristol Methodist Centre. As it transforms into a new charity, may it be able to continue its amazing work with homeless people. Amen

Wed 17th Jan

Lord Jesus, we pray for every family who needs to turn to a foodbank in Bristol. May they find both the emergency help that they need, but also a warm welcome and support to build their lives on firm foundations. Amen

Thurs 18th Jan

God of truth, help us to recognise how hard living with food poverty, homelessness, addiction or loneliness is. Give us the loving empathy that compels us to work for a just and fair community. Amen

Friday 19th Jan

Holy Jesus, when our needs are great, you call us to fear nothing and to trust you from the depths of our hearts. Strengthen our faith; and keep us alert to grasp the resources you provide through our friends and neighbours. Amen

Sat 20th Jan

"I was homeless and you gave me a room" (Matthew 25:36). Lord of all, we are sad to see people living on the street, with nowhere to call home. We pray for those in political leadership across our country, may they together find the will to provide homes for all, bringing hope and well-being. Amen

Sunday 21st Jan

God of second chances, we pray for people living in recovery from addiction, supported by inHope's Life Recovery team. Grant each person hope, strength and resilience, so that they might live well in their recovery. Amen

Monday 22nd Jan

Please give us the wisdom to know when and how to take action, and when to give people space. Please help organisations to work together effectively for the good of people who are facing homelessness, ill mental health, addiction, and fleeing abuse. Amen

Tuesday 23rd Jan

Lord of all, we pray for our political leaders, both locally and nationally. We ask for wise and compassionate leadership, ensuring that homeless and vulnerable people are given the help and support they need, when they need it. Amen

Wed 24th Jan

God, you don't want anyone to live without a home, a place to feel safe and relaxed. May the care, space and practical support offered by the BMC and inHope give respite and hope to those struggling to find affordable housing.
Amen

Thurs 25th Jan

Dear Caring God. We thank you for those who give their time by serving as volunteers at our centres. We recognise their dedication and support. Sustain them with your compassionate, protective love. Amen

Friday 26th Jan

Spirit of Jesus, your loving presence inspires us courageously to face the future: guide the new trustees, the staff and volunteers to develop the next phase of the Bristol Methodist Centre's mission to enrich their ministry to people suffering homelessness. Amen

Sat 27th Jan

"Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head" (Matthew 8:20). Help us to see Jesus' image in every homeless person.
Amen

Sunday 28th Jan

Thank you, Lord, for the hundreds of volunteers who give their time freely and generously to inHope and the Bristol Methodist Centre. May they see the fruits of their labour, through the power of your spirit. Amen

Monday 29th Jan

Father God. Thank you for your love for each and every unique individual. Help us build supportive communities which uplift and support people experiencing homelessness.
Amen

Tuesday 30th Jan

Provider Lord, we ask you
to provide for your
ministries with homeless
and vulnerable people, even
as we go through a cost-of-
living crisis. We depend on
you and ask that you take
what we offer to transform
your world. Amen

Thurs 1st Feb

Eternal God. Bristol belongs
to you. We ask that every
person in our city may know
your compassion and love,
so that all may grow into
their divinely given
potential, in Jesus' name.
Amen

Wed 31st Jan

Holy Spirit, life infuser,
turning lives around with
warmth and love and
somebody caring. May we
be someone willing to help
offering acceptance,
encouragement and a
chance to change. Amen

Friday 2nd Feb

Father God, I want to pray
about peace. I want to pray
for homeless people. I want
to pray for people looking
for a new door to open.
Amen

A prayer for 'Joe'

Dear Father God,
I'm praying for Joe.

Mum's boyfriend has kicked him out.

Joe, nowhere to go, Lord.

Sleeps on a friend's settee,

But they need the space.

Joe, no place to go,

Gets in with the wrong crowd

Heroin gives him the warmth he lacks,

And a bit of crack cocaine,

And a bit more crack.

Father God,

See Joe sleeping on the pavement,

Only 18,

People walk by without looking,

Without seeing.

Someone mentions the Methodist Centre,

"You can get a hot meal there."

Joe walks in, afraid somehow,

Someone greets him,

Smiling, listening, caring,

Joe tries not to cry

As someone gives him a plate of food.

Joe feels good.

Dear Father God,

Thank you for Joe,

And thank you for the Bristol Methodist Centre and inHope.

Amen