

Hinckley United Reformed Church
Prayers for week beginning January 8th 2024

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This past weekend we celebrated the feast of Epiphany. The word comes from the Greek meaning 'reveal'. This is the season when we particularly remember the visit made by the Magi to see the newborn Jesus; the Christ revealed to the Gentiles. God created the world and saw that it was good but human sinfulness leaves us with some very dark corners. At this time of year, we also think of Jesus as the Light of the World, the One who lights up the dark corners.

Monday 8th

Today is the first day back at school for children in Leicestershire. Pray for children and teachers that they may remain healthy and enjoy the privilege of working together, that their many hands together can 'make light work'.

Tuesday 9th

At 7 am this morning the junior doctors' strike is due to end. Pray that a spirit of generosity and reconciliation will pervade the relationship and talks between the BMA and the Department of Health. Pray that God will lighten the load carried by health workers across our health services.

Wednesday 10th

In this cold and flu season, after the strike, remember all those who are unwell, people who are under the weather and those with more serious conditions. Pray that God will grant them sensible decisions and skilful, compassionate carers and advisors. May they see light at the end of the tunnel created by ill health.

Thursday 11th

Today is Human Trafficking Awareness Day. Pray for all those who are forced to labour against their will for the benefit of others, in places where they are isolated and in ways which are often demeaning. May God bring light in their darkness.

Friday 12th

As our Hope into Action house is being refurbished and furnished over the coming weeks, pray that God will be a very real, felt presence for all people who enter the house in whatever capacity. Particularly pray for the tenants, yet to be selected, that

we will enable them to find a home and make personal achievements. May their burdens be lightened through our love and care.

Saturday 13th

At this time of year in many areas of Britain fertility rituals have taken place to ensure a good harvest in the coming summer and autumn. This is a time for preparing on our farms and in our gardens. Pray for farmers and gardeners that they will find ways to counter the effects of climate change and be able to enjoy a good harvest later in the year. Let there be light and warmth and rain in just the right measure for them.

Sunday 14th

Today is Peace Sunday. While our focus is on Gaza and Ukraine, there are many other places around the world where people suffer in conflicts and in the aftermath of wars. Pray for aggressors, victims, military personnel, and peacemakers. May God grant effective peacemaking and conditions which help prevent the thriving of terrorism. May the dark of war be transformed into the light of peace brought by the King of Peace.