

Hinckley United Reformed Church

Prayers for the Week 2nd December

Mon 2nd Loving God, this is the season of Advent when we are preparing for the time when we celebrate the birth of your son on earth, buying presents, writing cards, planning get-togethers, buying food – so much that we think of it as being part of this season of good will.

Tues 3rd But in all this bustle, we forget the most important thing of all the wonderful gift of your Son, come to earth that we might be forgiven for all the wrongs that we have committed.

Wed 4th Forgive us for relegating Jesus to the periphery of our celebrations, rather than placing him at the centre where he belongs; for turning this season into a time for material extravagance rather than a time for spiritual fulfilment.

Thurs 5th Loving God, we pray for those for whom there is no celebration – the poor and the hungry, the homeless and the sick, the lonely and the bereaved, the oppressed and the persecuted. We pray for all those whose celebrations are marred by fear- those who are anxious or who see no hope in the future or who live in constant danger.

Fri 6th We pray for all who feel isolated, feel unloved, unwanted and who find it hard to show love towards others. Those whose relationships have broken down by cruelty, discord or division. We think of those who are caught up in war, their homes destroyed their livelihoods taken from them.

Sat 7th We pray for all those who haven't heard the challenge of the Bible, who do not possess a copy in their own language or who are denied the right to own a Bible or study it freely. We pray for those who have heard but have closed their hearts and mind to its message.

Sun 8th Loving God, for the wonder of this season, for its message of love and forgiveness, its promise of peace and justice and the gift of life everlasting of which it speaks, we praise you, and we rejoice again in this season of goodwill, we look forward to the day when the Jesus of Bethlehem will be Lord of all. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.