

CNI Network

30days Prayer & Action

cninetwork.org/30days



The life-light blazed out of the darkness...

cninetwork.org/30days

Day 1:

by **Paul Blakey MBE - CEO and founder Street Angels - CNI Network**

Welcome to an adventure! CNI Network have put together this resource to encourage prayer and action - we believe that one should always lead to the other! We see week by week how prayer and action change communities - violent crime and anti-social behaviour is reduced, people are helped and supported and a few people are alive today because of the actions of our amazing teams. 30days encourages us to pray for **God's Kingdom to come, God's will to be done** knowing that we are part of that becoming a reality! Your community needs you! **You are the best gift you bring to this world!** We invite you to commit to 30 days of prayer and action and help make our communities like new again...

James 2: 14-19 (The Passion Translation) - "My dear brothers and sisters, what good is it if someone claims to have faith but demonstrates no good works to prove it? How could this kind of faith save anyone? For example, if a brother or sister in the faith is poorly clothed and hungry and you leave them saying, "Good-bye. I hope you stay warm and have plenty to eat," but you don't provide them with a coat or even a cup of soup, what good is your faith? So then faith that doesn't involve action is phony."

Action - pray for God's Kingdom to come and God's will to be done in your own community then be open to you helping make that prayer a reality...



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Day 2:

by **Emily Morgan, Project Coordinator Dewsbury and District Street Angels**

Dewsbury is different to other Street Angels projects in the way that we run through the daytime and engage with people on Wednesday afternoons in the town centre.

We often come across people who just want to stop and chat or want to know more about what we are doing. **This may seem so simple yet maybe it's exactly what they need;** interaction with a friendly face. Some of our other focuses involve engaging with the homeless and vulnerable, signposting people to local services and working alongside police and emergency services.

In the past we have helped the elderly to their means of transportation, given out bottled water and have been a listening ear to many.

1 John 3:18 (New Living Translation) "Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions."

Action - pray for the people in Dewsbury to be open to God's love as we demonstrate it each week through our actions. Follow this through by showing God's love in your own actions towards others too, even a smile can go a long way!



facebook.com/DewsburyStreetAngels



Day 3:

by **Debbie Anderson-Jones, Coordinator Pirans Angels (Newquay)**

Sometimes it's easy to judge when you bump into a large group of loud girls partying on the street, on their way to the next bar. Each time we make the decision to stop, smile and chat for a while, or even pose for a photograph, **Jesus shines through us**. We are not part of their world but they feel noticed and loved, and on numerous occasions, when the main group has moved on, one will usually hang back and ask why we serve in this way or ask for prayer for a loved one. Our role as Pirans Angels reminds us that often we just need to be **intentionally present**, waiting for the prompting of the Holy Spirit, ready to stop, smile and chat.

Romans 8:4 - "Now we do not live following our sinful selves, but we live following the spirit."

Action - look at people, especially those in crowds, as individuals. See them as people who God created and made. Pause for a while and consider that the very hairs on the head of each person is numbered and known by God. Look for ways for Jesus to shine through you to people you come across in your daily life.



facebook.com/PiransAngels

twitter.com/PiransAngels

Day 4:

by Catherine Turnbull-Ross, Aylesbury Town Centre Chaplaincy

The role of the Chaplaincy is often to be a **peacemaker**. Day-time Chaplains, night-time Street Angels and our staff team meet people from all walks of life; in their workplaces, in their leisure time, in civic meetings, in community groups or in town centre management meetings. Sometimes in some of these places there can be conflict or resentment, or most likely, misunderstandings between one group and another; be that shopkeepers and street sleepers or beggars, licensees and local authorities, local police and members of the public, door-staff and clubbers, one group of clubbers and another.

As people of peace, accepted and welcomed by all of these our presence or a wise, thoughtful word can **change the atmosphere bringing God's peace and reconciliation into a situation**. We can so often help people, who are usually working towards the same goal of creating a thriving, welcoming, vibrant town centre, build bridges and help them to understand different points of view and priorities.

I recently had the privilege of giving a talk to a small group of people in the town. I spoke about our organisation, told stories of people we'd helped, and described how we work in partnership with local authorities, the town centre management team, local police and so on. At the end when thanking me, the leader of the group said '**You were so positive; you didn't say a negative word about anyone.**' I was obviously on my best behaviour representing the Chaplaincy! This comment really challenged me as so often it is easy to complain, take offence, moan, talk down the town and those working, living and visiting there. My prayer is that we continue at all times to pray for, support and encourage our places in words, attitudes as well as action, both when we're 'on' and in our regular day to day life.

James 3:17-18 (New International Version) - "But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace, reap a harvest of righteousness."



Action - Encourage someone today by a positive word or deed or be positive about someone, especially in a situation when the initial response of you or others is to be negative.



AylesburyTownChaplaincy.co.uk
twitter.com/AylesburySA

Day 5:

by **Lee Russell, Executive Director Christian Police Association**

Do you see Policing as a Mission field? I really hope so. When Jesus said, ``Go into all the world...’ (Mark 16:15) He did not exclude a ministry to those who work in Law Enforcement. The ‘all’ includes police officers and staff who support policing across our communities. The Christian Police Association (CPA) has been in existence since 1883 and provides fellowship for Christians in the profession of policing. The CPA also provides a positive base for the mission of outreach to colleagues and others who we meet in the course of providing that policing service. We have an active and vibrant network across the whole of the United Kingdom.

Often the only opportunity other Police colleagues will have of hearing the good news of the Gospel is through someone working alongside them. The Policing “workplace” is more than just somewhere to spend eight hours a day (or usually much longer!!) - it is a ripe mission field. The CPA encourages our members to seek appropriate opportunities to share their faith.

It is even possible to witness to those who break the law and great wisdom and maturity is required in this area. All Police officers and staff do not shy away from their relentless work to bring to justice those persons who seek to harm our communities. In doing this they **reflect the character of Christ with the balance of justice and compassion**. Romans 13 confirms this mission for the modern day Police Service (why not read Romans 13 with your local Police Service in mind as you do?)

Ultimately, the CPA and the Christian Police officers and staff who are part of our association seek be a National Voice for Christians in Policing and to glorify Jesus Christ in the Police Service. We need everyone’s help to support our mission to encourage and support Christians in the Police Service by communicating in words and actions, the truth, message and hope of the gospel. We also seek to build bridges between the Police and the local Christian Community. I hope you agree that this really is “Mission” - on the frontline of protecting our communities; in a very difficult, demanding and dangerous occupation.



Action - Pray for your local Police and seek ways that you can bless them as they work to protect you and your community.

CPAuk.net



Day 6:

by **Katie Waters, Leeds Street Angels / CNI Network Yorkshire Director**

Recently while visiting a Street Angels project in West Yorkshire a man approached the team while we were on patrol. He was an artist producing a sculpture and was asking people **what gives them hope, what encourages them?** One of the team's immediate answer was Jesus' return! On another night, out with our Street Angels team in Leeds we were approached by a man who wanted to talk. He was distressed, living in a difficult situation and struggling to cope. As we spoke to him, offering to walk with him to A&E to speak with the mental health team we talked about the reason for our hope, Jesus. He was encouraged and visibly calmer and we were able to help him to attend A&E in the early hours of the morning.

When I first started volunteering with Leeds Street Angels I didn't know what to expect. I knew little of the project and was nervous about the reception we would receive as we tried to help people during their night out. I couldn't have been more surprised by the smiles, high-fives and thanks we had from the public and the staff we met. **I discovered that by offering practical help and service we also gained the opportunity to talk to people, about their lives, their beliefs, our beliefs, our experiences, motivations and Saviour.** I remember one evening talking to a young man as our team helped him to find his bus home. He was knowledgeable about the Bible and Christian beliefs but didn't share those beliefs himself. He asked me if I really believed I would go to heaven when I died. Unbeknownst to him, having recently lost a loved one I had been wrestling with my own doubts and worries. But God had spoken to me in the midst of my own pain so I didn't have any doubts when I answered his question, **"of course, I believe when I close my eyes for the final time in this world the first face I see when I open them will be Jesus"**.

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV) - "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect"



Action - As Street Angels we look for practical ways to help people in vulnerable situations during the night life, but in making ourselves available to God we can be used by him to share our hope in Christ with those He puts across our path. Ask God today for an opportunity to talk to someone about the hope you have in Him.

leedsstreetangels.org.uk



Day 7:

by **Revd. Jane Proudfoot**, leader of 'We Are The Church' initiative at Creamfields

It might seem strange to talk about **seeing Jesus in the face of a stranger**. I'm sure that it seems even more strange to hear me say that I met Jesus at Creamfields! Why on earth would the Son of God be present in such a place? A place where people drink, swear, take drugs and do just whatever they feel like? A place where God seems irrelevant to the majority of people and where his name is often taken in vain? A place of danger and violence and trouble?

Well that's one way of looking at the festival but my experience over the last three years of leading the 'We Are The Church' team there has been more nuanced than that. Alongside the well-publicised picture of debauchery and hedonism that the press love to paint is another story. It's **a story of friendship and joy, of laughter and fun**. It's a story of weary people seeking something to brighten their lives and tired people seeking rest. In 2019 it was a story of thirsty people needing water (it was a hot one!) and lost people needing someone to find them and listen to them. **The big story was that God was there going before us, working in these people's lives.**

Matthew 25: 35 and 40 - "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.... 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"



Action - Please pray for the organisers of Creamfields and other festivals. Pray for more volunteers to sign up. Look out for the light of God shining in unexpected places and unexpected people wherever you are and give thanks!

Day 8:

by **Jon Boulton**, NightChurch Stoke on Trent

NightChurch is based in Hanley, Stoke on Trent and has a mission statement of 'Ignited by prayer, enjoying community, aiming to transform the city centre through mission at night!' Operating on the first and third Friday of each month the NightChurch team offers a safe space for clubbers to rest, recharge, offload and often to sober up where they can talk and encounter God and his Spirit.

Conversations are usually started with a volunteer offering a lollipop on the street which can give a variety of responses from "WOW!" to "What on earth?" but often lead to "Why do you do this, especially when it is raining?". Our purpose is to help bring out the God-colours in the world and in doing so enables us to see people and communities as they truly are.

Matthew 5:13-16 (The Message): "Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavours of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage. "Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colours in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven."

Action - Seek ways you can bring out the God-colours in the world. Pray for your city centre nightlife and pray for protection on those who serve in this sector and consider contacting NightChurch to see if this is something you could invest into for your city. Like our facebook page too!



nightchurch.org.uk
facebook.com/NightChurchHanley

Day 9:

by **Gerald Barley, retired team leader Hull Princes Avenue Street Angels**

I am now enjoying my retirement after over 800 nights on the streets in the last 9 years as Team leader of the Hull Princes Avenue Street Angels. I have hundreds of memories of working in the night time environment in the city of Hull. One special memory will always be with me and illustrates the unconditional love we Street Angels have:

It was a cold, wet New Years Eve. The bars and cafes on Princes Avenue were full. We were just about to go out on patrol when there was a knock on the door. We greet a young man who tells us he has spent the last few days living and sleeping in a local cemetery. He was visibly shaking from the cold and was very hungry.

We welcomed him into our warm venue offering food and a hot drink. His shoes were falling apart and his socks were soaking wet. **I offered to wash his feet** which was met by some surprise. "Why do you do this?" he asked. **I told him that there is a God who loves him and who has called us to love one another.** The midnight bells rang out. The young man smiles and says its the best start to a new year he has ever had.

We have washed the feet of many of our friends over the last 9 years. As Street Angels we show unconditional love otherwise we could not do what we do.

John 13: 14-15 and 17 - "Now that I, your Lord and Teacher have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.... Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."



Action - the act of washing someone's feet is a sign of servanthood and humility. Be thankful Jesus is still about washing feet today - he makes us clean from the inside out! He asks us to do the same for others - to serve, to wash clean, to restore, to forgive, to bring revitalisation. Who can you do that for today?

facebook.com/StreetAngelsHull



Day 10:

by **Russ Bravo**, Inspire Magazine Editor and CPO Projects Editor

Life, as they say, is full of surprises. Some good, some bad – but the best are surprises that really take you unawares and either fill you with delight, or make you think and perhaps change the way you live.

Take for example the Christmas story. It has so many twists and turns you literally “couldn’t make it up” – it’s too fantastical. Jam-packed full of extraordinary prophecies, unlikely pregnancies, brain-boggling angel appearances, Magi on the world’s most astronomical road trip, and the stunning central thread of God himself – the Creator of the Universe – being born on earth as a baby.

Then you have the **greatest arrival in human history played out in a scruffy setting in a town nobody much has heard of**, in the back of beyond, witnessed by a bunch of baffled shepherds. It’s extraordinary. Only God could have conceived it (if you’ll excuse the pun).

That part of our year shows that the **God of surprises wants to change you**. He wants to thrill you afresh about following Jesus – and for that wonder to spill over to others. It shows us that God wants to play out His story amongst the everyday and ordinary.

Luke 2: 10-11 (NIV) - “But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.’”

Action: How could you bring a delightful surprise to someone in need through a thoughtful gift or an act of kindness? Be an angel for someone near you!



InspireMagazine.org.uk
cpo.org.uk

Day 11:

by **Sallie Wright, Street Presence Norwich**

"It's not about us, it's all about You Lord" - Street Presence supports people in the Night Economy in Norwich at least weekly as a vessel to **share God's love in a practical way**. As a Team we provide Pastoral care combined with registered First Aid response and where appropriate signposting, referral and follow up. **We want to share the Father's Heart at all times and be that Light in the darkness.... literally!**

"Why do you do this?" we often get asked by those we meet on the streets.

The answer is Matthew 25:40: "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'"

A hug, a smile, listening and showing that you genuinely care... because our Heavenly Father cares for us, goes a long way.

Isaiah 6:8 - "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' Then said I, 'Here am I! Send me.'"

Action - Spend some time listening for God saying 'Whom shall I send?' into a situation, person or group in your community. Remember and rejoice that when God calls you, it is an honour to serve. Look for ways you can bless as you have been blessed.



streetpresence.org



Day 12:

by **Phil Gowland, Chairman Bridlington Street Angels**

Bridlington is a relatively small but popular East Yorkshire seaside town, enjoyed by the very young with its mix of sand, sea, fairground rides, arcades and an indoor leisure centre for that expected rainy day, and the very old for the abundance of fresh air, great fish and chips and a flat landscape that is kind to legs and knees that have already seen many a mile.

I have lived here longer than anywhere else in the world and now call the place my home. It's where I have brought my two boys up with my wife who is "Brid" born and bred, and where I first came to know the unconditional and overwhelming love of Jesus 16 years ago when I completed an Alpha Course in the town and as for the many who have had the amazing experience of being born again, life was never going to be the same from that point forward.

As part of my "new beginning" I felt there had to be an outworking of my relationship with Jesus with those around me; **when he lives within you his love just has to flow out**, and I remember many a home group conversation about helping those who may be lost and a little worse for wear, physically, emotionally and spiritually on a Saturday night, for I had been that young person not too many years previously in my native North East.

So the seed was sown in prayer and just a few years later in July 2013 Bridlington Street Angels undertook their first patrol with many people having been shown that unconditional love of Jesus when guided to hotel or home when lost, wrapped up and kept warm when cold, kept company when alone, listened to when feeling low, lifted up when fallen down, given a drink of water when thirsty, supported when homeless, bandaged when injured and even resuscitated when collapsed. The list goes on, too many to recount in this short piece, but to summarise in one neat phrase, **the town is a safer and a better place when God's love is taken out in these clay jars**.

So, my prayer today is for the people and businesses of Bridlington and all those who visit the town to continue to be served and blessed by Street Angels in their times of need through a sharing of the compassion and extravagant love of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and that there would also be an increase in volunteers both here, across our nation



and the world inspired by his Holy Spirit, drawing them to this important and worthwhile ministry so that even more will be done in the times to come.

1 Corinthians 15:58 - "Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain."

Action - Go and take Jesus to everyone you meet, in every circumstance, full of his compassion and unmerited favour, for a world so in need of this unconditional love, grace by any other name, just as he first loved us.



www.bridlingtonstreetangels.weebly.com

Day 13:

by **Acting Inspector Marie Reavey, #FaithAndPoliceTogether**

Have you ever stopped to think about those who work in the public sector doing what is often a thankless job and taken for granted? People like Police Officers, Traffic Wardens, Bin men?

It is rare for a police officer to be thanked by the public. They are often shouted at, and called a variety of names, and are regularly subjected to violence whilst they go about their job to protect the public. More often than not they are meeting a member of the public because they are a victim of crime and not at their best, or they are arresting someone or a loved one, Or they are delivering the worst message you will ever want to hear. Rarely will they be the ones delivering good news at a good time in someone's life. The media often portrays the police in a poor light and they deal with some of the worst things in society.

Stoppa Coppa Society, was founded on Mothers' Day in 1980, by John Wright when he noticed mothers getting a big round of applause for being mothers. That made him think of other people that the public take for granted like the Police and Traffic Wardens. It was founded on the basis that to become a member all you are asked to do is to stop Police Officers and say: "Excuse me Officer, I would just like you to know that we appreciate you. Without you we would have chaos. Live up to your high calling!" This is true not just of police officers, but many whose roles in society are taken for granted.

1 Timothy 2:1-4 - "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

Action - Take time today to pray for those you know who work in jobs that provide a needed service within your community but often get overlooked and are not appreciated as they should be. Pray for their protection, pray for them to know that they do a valuable and important job. Stoppa Coppa today. Take time out to Stoppa Coppa (as long as it is safe and appropriate to do so) and tell them that you appreciate them, thank them for what they do, encourage them in their work.

faithandpolicetogether.org.uk

faith+
police
together

Day 14:

by **Jenny and Keith Raby, Revelation Daze**

Revelation Daze is a visual and innovative way of spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. They have partnered with Blackpool Street Angels and wrote the song “[He’s Sending Angels](#)” as a theme for this ministry which is close to their hearts. Keith and Jenny have been out on the streets numerous times with Blackpool street Angels, to share the Gospel and their testimonies through their music and animations.

Where would this world be without God who understands? **He’s sending Angels out onto the street - God sees every shattered dream and each tear stained cheek - He fights for the weak.** Where would this world be without God who understands?

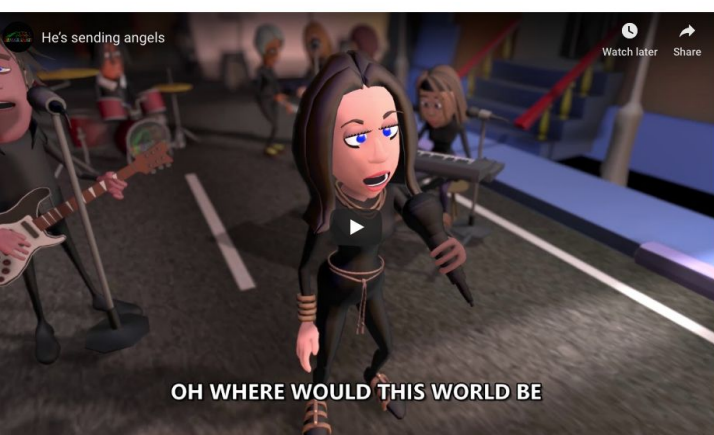
The heart of Revelation Daze and Street Angels is to reach out to people in vulnerable situations with the love of God.

Matthew 25:40 - "And the King will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

Action - One of the Blackpool Street Angels weekly outreach is to go onto the promenade and set up a serving station where the homeless and people in vulnerable situations can come and gather together for hot food, hot drinks, and an opportunity to talk and be prayed for and receive support. They also have a weekend mission in the town centre where people in the night time economy can come if they have lost their friends, feel vulnerable or have injured themselves. They are all first aiders who give freely of their time to help these people

who maybe others would not have any time for. This is putting the word to action. How can you put the word into action?

revelationdaze.com



Day 15:

by **Right Reverend Tony Robinson, Bishop of Wakefield / Patron CNI Network**

Many disciples of Jesus don't think they have enough faith for their own healing, much less someone else's. But that is not true. Saint Paul tells us that God has given to everyone the measure of faith. And that means you, too! He didn't give a little bit to some and a lot to others. **He gave us all the same faith. All that is necessary is that you believe it!**

The way that God is released... the way his power is released in your life and the lives of others... is through faith! If you believe God can do anything.

Mark 9:23 - "Everything is possible for one who believes."

Action: As we come across people who are in need help us to pray and believe that we can be the very person who can bring healing to them.



Day 16:

by **Elizabeth Norval, Prayer Coordinator Whitby Street Angels**

Whitby differs from most places where Street Angels operate in that many of the folk we meet are visitors to the town. Whether they have come for a summer holiday, a weekend break, to join in the special events run throughout the year, or for a hen party - there are always people about the clubs and numerous pubs in the town centre. It's not unusual to be asked for help by someone who can't remember where they are staying for the night! We do, of course, encounter incidents common to all Street Angels teams arising from excess alcohol or drugs, and we provide support, where we can, to vulnerable individuals. We would love more volunteers so there could be a team out on two or three nights over holiday weekends, but at the moment it can be a struggle to cover just one night a week.

During the seven years we have been running, the centre of Whitby has become calmer and both locals and visitors alike frequently express appreciation of our work. It's easy to accept the praise for ourselves, but **we pray that our care and compassion may be seen not simply as acts of goodwill, but as expressions of God's love through us.** We know that each individual we meet is known to God and we long to convey that they are precious to Him.

We are blessed by living in a beautiful area, with sea and moorland around us, and **we want others to know God and Jesus Christ, who created all this for us to enjoy.**

Colossians 4:5-6 - "Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone."



Action: This verse is our prayer that we may be wise in our actions and careful in what we say, that we may reflect God's grace. We need to think carefully how what we say and do may be interpreted by those whose background will be different from our own. Being positive and encouraging each other is a good start.

Street-Angels.org.uk
facebook.com/WhitbyStreetAngels

Day 17:

By **Michael Campbell, Founder / National Coordinator Alliance of Town & City Chaplaincies**

After a major English Defence League (EDL) demonstration in Luton we walked through Luton Town Hall and a Muslim friend approached us and quoted the words of Jesus from today's Bible passage below! There is no place on this earth where chaplains cannot go, we engage with people from all walks of life and from all cultures and faiths in order to "**Reveal the Kingdom of God**".

Chaplaincy is without doubt one of the best means of mission in the 21st century, it has a very long tradition, some would say going back to Martin of Tours 316-397. Since then Chaplains have faithfully served our Armed Forces, Royal Families, the Aristocracy, Prime-ministers and Politicians. Every prison in the UK have chaplaincy teams along with almost all Hospitals and Universities.

The breadth of Chaplaincy today is extraordinary from working in all major Ports to Pubs, Nightclubs, Retail, Industry, Business, Courts, Sport and Emergency Services. In Beachy Head there are 23 volunteer and two full time Search and Rescue Chaplains dedicated to encouraging people not to jump of the cliff face, and last year alone they prevented 400 out of the 425 suicides.

The 2015 Theos Report, A Very Modern Ministry, suggests there are at least 15,000 chaplains serving and supporting people in the UK. The author of the report Ben Ryan said "For faith and belief groups in particular," he said, "given the value of chaplaincy to them in the modern public square, there needs to be a greater priority given to strengthening and improving the impact of chaplains."

Matthew 5:9 - "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God"

Action: Our prayer is Lord we need more Peacekeepers, awaken your church and release the funds to do so for a time such as this!

atcchaplancies.org



Day 18:

by **Rosie Vickery-Brown - Big Church Day Out Team Manager**

We are really excited as Big Church Day Out is launching a brand new youth event at the BCDO 2020 event called BCYouth. One of our straplines for the event is 'Be the Influence' which got me thinking, what is an influencer? Going by society's current definition, we'd be led to believe an influencer is a person with a large social media following. Yet, while a social platform may be good, it is simply a tool and shouldn't be mistaken for the real influence God wants for us.

With young people today I am constantly seeing many with huge self-doubt, thinking that if they want to be of influence they have to have to be on a platform of significance or have a certain amount of likes on Instagram. **Yet God uses us whoever we are, wherever we are to influence those around us.**

Everyone is an influencer. God is not looking for platforms to use but people. Individuals who are willing to take any and every moment to share the grace and love of Jesus. Whether a conversation, a word of encouragement, or a gesture, every action is a seed that can be planted into the right soil for harvest.

I was chatting to my cousin, who is aged 15 and she was telling me how she has started a Bible study with a group of friends from school in her local McDonalds every week. She is taking this opportunity to share how Jesus has impacted her life, she is an influencer, she is showing the love of God with that small group.

Matthew 5:14-16 (The Passion Translation) - "Your lives light up the world. Let others see your light from a distance, for how can you hide a city that stands on a hilltop? And who would light a lamp and then hide it in an obscure place? Instead, it's placed where everyone in the house can benefit from its light. So don't hide your light! Let it shine brightly before others, so that the commendable things you do will shine as light upon them, and then they will give their praise to your Father in heaven."



Action: We don't have to have it all together to be of influence, we just have to be willing to light up the world for Jesus. We're all influencers. So how can you influence someone today? It may be a conversation or a word of encouragement. You have the potential to change people's lives.

bigchurchdayout.com



Day 19:

by the York Street Angels Steering Group: Rev Dr John Billingham (chaplain), Liz Carrington, Chris Cooper, Gail Lazenby, Lisa Shephard

Street Angels York is a Church-led initiative and project of One Voice York (an interdenominational group of churches working together for the good of the city). We are made up of teams of volunteers seeking to make York city centre a safer and better place for residents and visitors to enjoy.

As we go out into the early hours, normally Friday and Saturday evenings, we pray for God's Kingdom to come. We stop and chat to people who are out for the evening and seek to practically help and listen to those in need; especially the vulnerable – who find themselves in difficult situations.

As well as York residents and local visitors the city centre is enjoyed, through the year, by tourists from all over the world. It is extra busy during university semesters (two universities) and York race days. We are always called upon to give out bottles of water and flip-flops as well guidance to those who are lost or had too much alcohol through the day. In this way we work closely with the emergency services, including ambulance workers, police, river-patrol and night-club door staff.

In all we do we seek to be salt and light in the name of Christ to the community.

Matthew 5: 13-16 - "Jesus said, 'You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses it saltiness, how can it be made salty again? [...] You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. [...] In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.'"

Action - Please pray for more volunteers to come forward from the church in York to help in this work. May we be led by the Holy Spirit to see God's Kingdom come and God's will to be done in the city of York or your local place. May people from all walks of life find help, peace and blessing from God as we serve together.

StreetAngelsYork.com
facebook.com/StreetAngelsYork



Day 20:

by **Abigail Thomas of The Hopeful Activists' Podcast (from The Praxis Centre for Hope and Activism)**

I was fascinated to read about a journalist, Jessica Pan, who classed herself as an introvert. She wanted to overcome her fear of talking to people and set herself a goal of talking to a stranger every day for a month. I thought to myself, just come to Bradford and get on a bus, you aren't learning to be an extrovert, you are learning to be northern!

By nature, I am an impatient extrovert - I have 2 modes, doing something or sleeping! But I am learning. For my job I interview Christians who have put their faith into action, and the most frequent message they bring is **the importance of taking time to be with Jesus**. Time after time activists tell us that being rooted in God is the only way they have maintained their activity in the face of opposition and adversity. As an extrovert, I struggle to stop and pray, but I have found the book of Acts incredibly helpful as I learn to immerse myself in God, not activity.

In the book of Acts, chapter 4, we hear that Peter and John have been arrested for teaching about Jesus. When they are released they go straight to the other believers and the first thing they do is pray.

Acts 4: 23-31 - "On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David:

"Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one.

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. They did what your



power and will had decided beforehand should happen. Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.”

It’s a simple prayer, it takes less than a minute to read. It acknowledges the **greatness of God**, **admits that they needed help** and **asks God to bring his kingdom where they are**. And this is how I have found that prayer works, acknowledging before God his greatness and my need of Him, and of his power, and asking him to act. I have seen time and time again **God get involved and change things: sometimes my circumstances, and sometimes me**. If we want God to make us bold to speak his word, first we need to be humble enough to come before him: and we will be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Action: Set aside some time today to be with God, and if you don’t have time, cancel something - there is nothing better to fuel our action!



Day 21:

by **Pip Mossdrop BEM, Coordinator of Hope in NE Cheshire and Street Angels Macclesfield**

Many years ago I was woken up by a dream that still means a lot to me today. In this dream, I was walking with friends in the Peak District on a cold and foggy moor when we came across a long fence. We were loathe to climb over and decided to walk along it until we came to a stile or a gate which would allow us to get to the other side. As we walked along, out of the mist appeared a man standing beside a gate! We stopped and debated amongst ourselves whether or not we should ask him to allow us to pass; he appeared to be the guardian of the land on the other side. He was clearly aware of our presence but wanted us to take the initiative. So we went up to him and asked if we could go through. At this request he opened the gate, which incidentally was not locked, and welcomed us through!

So you may well ask why did this apparently innocuous dream have such a profound meaning for me? Well I felt then, and I am convinced now, that this was God's personal message to me to let everyone know that **the gate to His kingdom is open and anyone can enter no matter how ordinary or bad they are**. However, they do have to ask to enter! The ordinary-looking quiet man standing at the gate, Jesus, is not the guardian of His kingdom but the welcomer to it!

So when we are on duty as Street Angels in Macclesfield Town Centre on Saturday evenings, **we are not guardians but welcomers**. We hope and pray that, through what we do and say, people who have no idea about Jesus' healing power will glimpse what it is to be in his kingdom!

John 10: 1–15 (selected) - (The Message Bible): "If a person climbs over or through the fence of a sheep pen instead of going through the gate, you know he's up to no good—a sheep rustler! The shepherd walks right up to the gate. The gatekeeper opens the gate to him and the sheep recognize his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. . . . I am the Gate for the sheep. All those others are up to no good—sheep stealers, every one of them. But the sheep didn't listen to them. I am the Gate. Anyone who goes through me will

be cared for—will freely go in and out, and find pasture. . . . I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.”

Action – Let us pray that we shall always be welcoming and willing to give our time to listen to those seeking support and understanding encouraging them to seek Jesus for themselves.



Day 22:

by **Rev Lisa Holmes, Lead Minister of Skipton Baptist Church and Chair of Spring Harvest Harrogate**

As the leader of a local church one of my roles is to **enable and empower people to engage with our community and make a real difference for the kingdom of God**. As churches in our town we are able to offer help with issues of debt, unemployment, food poverty and loneliness as well as Street Angels. It is amazing what favour rests on the church as those around begin to see us take our place and really care for the community we are part of. There is a passage from Isaiah 58, which has come back to our church time and time again. God isn't too happy with his people because of their judgemental attitudes and the way that they have been treating the marginalised, their workforce and anyone who is suffering but he uses a really significant word "IF". He says IF they give up the attitudes and behaviours that offend him THEN he will offer to them the possibility of change and blessing. A number of years back we were more insular, more concerned about ourselves but we have found that as **we uphold the values that are on God's heart we see him more and more at work** and that is so exciting as we see people lives transformed and we are transformed in the process. It is the final part of Isaiah 58 especially from The Message version that has spoken to us many times. It is our hope and vision that in God's power we will see peoples' dignity restored, the hungry fed, those in debt released and given hope and our community being renewed.

Isaiah 58:12 (The Message Bible) - "You'll be like a well-watered garden, a gurgling spring that never runs dry. You'll use the old rubble of past lives to build anew, rebuild the foundations from out of your past. You'll be known as those who can fix anything, restore old ruins, rebuild and renovate, make the community livable again."



Action - What is it that you see around you now that looks like ruins and rubble? Places or people? Ask God to give you eyes to see what he sees about how things COULD be if we cooperate with him and his purposes.

springharvest.org

Day 23:

by **Ellie Barrett, Nightlife Assistant - Club Angels London / Third Space Ministries**

Through our work at Club Angels London it is a privilege to immerse ourselves in the nightlife industry of this city to share the love of Jesus in places people would not expect Jesus to be. As we pray for and visit the nightclubs in London, our consistent presence enables us to demonstrate that Jesus not only loves the people in there but that He will meet them wherever they are at. Through visiting these clubs we have many opportunities to share Jesus' love whether it is through handing out home baked goods to staff and security, offering prayer and encouragement or demonstrating God's love in a practical way through cleaning up, sitting with and helping people home where they are lost, drunk or alone.

It is God's job to judge and it is our job to love. He has called us to comfort the brokenhearted and bring joy and peace into every place we go. In a world where many people who have made lifestyle choices outside the will of God believe that they are judged and rejected by the Church and by God, it is a privilege to find those people and encourage them that **they are loved and pursued by Jesus.**

Isaiah 61: 1-3 (New Living Translation) "The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me, for the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed. He has sent me to tell those who mourn that the time of the Lord's favor has come, and with it, the day of God's anger against their enemies. To all who mourn in Israel, he will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing instead of mourning, festive praise instead of despair. In their righteousness, they will be like great oaks that the Lord has planted for his own glory."



Action: Ask God which people in your life don't know that Jesus loves them. Maybe it is a location with many people or maybe it is one individual. Pray about the right opportunity to share the love of Jesus with them.

thirdspaceministries.co.uk
facebook.com/clubangelslondon
instagram.com/clubangelslondon

Day 24:

by **Derek Baker, Boardmasters Festival Angels / CNI Network South West Coordinator**

We are often surrounded by people who seem to live life at a frantic pace. They seem driven and anxious about what will happen next. We see this on the streets and in the night-time economy. People anxiously looking around, avoiding eye contact and feeling that they must either respond instantly or they will get left behind.

When I consider the life of Jesus I try to put myself in the situation, the place, the crowd, the conversation and think what can I learn from this. Above all he appeared never in a hurry or yielding to external pressure to move on or respond in a particular way. He was always available to listen and to be in the moment without stress or anxiety over what would happen next. Whether he was surrounded by crowds, in a storm or being violently accused of stuff, he was able to listen and respond to the individual person. Wherever he was, it seemed he was always a “non-anxious presence”.

I first heard this as part of the role of a mediator in helping two opposing parties to come to some sort of agreement although I know it can be applied to many other situations. It describes being there in the midst of a situation and completely at peace about what is happening, what might happen next and having the confidence to continue to respond as things progress. This way of being is so relevant to the role of the Street Angel. I recall engaging in conversation with a young man in a group who spoke with us about regretting losing contact with his old church youth leader. He was happy to give his contact details for me to subsequently pass on. While we were chatting, in the background a person who was part of the group was being arrested and detained by Police for something that had happened earlier in the evening. I heard later that the young man had indeed been able to reconnect with the church fellowship and was now growing in his faith again. On another occasion we were approached by a young woman who asked if she could stand next to us as she was being pestered by a man who wanted to be with her. We were happy to oblige and spent as long as we needed to just chatting and listening to her news. We had supported her some months earlier when she'd been badly affected by strong alcohol – she couldn't remember what happened but her friends had told her how we had supported her and she knew that we were a safe place amidst the stress of the streets.



When our Street Angel team prepared for patrol, we gave time to praying together and finding that place of being a “non-anxious presence” and I’d like to think that is what we carried with us as we continued on our patrol. Scripture tells us that Jesus would often seek out a place of quiet in order to be with Father. I believe it is preparation times like these, if we model how Jesus lived, that prepare us to be in challenging circumstances and yet to still be able to listen and to speak words of affirmation and grace to those who might be distressed.

John 14:27 (The Passion Translation) - “I leave the gift of peace with you—my peace. Not the kind of fragile peace given by the world, but my perfect peace. Don’t yield to fear or be troubled in your hearts—instead, be courageous!”

Action - Aim to model Jesus in the way he appeared never in a hurry or yielding to external pressure to move on or respond in a particular way. Whoever you are talking to, despite what is happening around you, listen and respond to the individual person. Pray that you will be in a place of “non-anxious presence” when with other people. Seek ways you can listen and speak words of affirmation and grace to those who might be distressed.



boardmastersfestivalangels.org.uk
festivalangels.org.uk

Day 25:

by **Bart Harder, Summer Nightlife Outreach, Youth With A Mission**

Seeing the young people in the party scene transformed through an encounter with Jesus! That is what Summer Nightlife Outreach is all about!

We are a ministry of Youth With A Mission that reaches out to the young people that are on holidays in the party resorts of Europe. **We see a great need to be present in these resorts, where young people come to seek fulfillment in alcohol, sex and drugs, but are often feeling empty at the end of the day.** Yet as today's Bible passage says full and real life is found in Jesus! So we have made it our aim for those who are out to party to encounter Jesus as we get opportunities to connect and pray with them!

We encourage you to see the holiday resorts of Europe as a place where the message of Jesus can be demonstrated as a reality. As young people relax, have fun and take time to think about the future years ahead our prayer is that the Summer Nightlife Outreach team will connect with countless young people to show hope and purpose in life and to help many have a supernatural encounter with Jesus. If you know someone who would love to be part of this amazing summer adventure check out the website!

John 10:10 - "Jesus has come to give us life and for us to have it abundantly!"

Action: Please be praying for the land of Europe so that when teams go out to sow the seeds people will be open to hearing the Good News and experiencing God's mighty love and power again. If you are

already serving in the nightlife scene, then we would encourage you to come and share your knowledge and skills with us over the summer too as we would greatly appreciate the opportunity to learn off each other and work together to bring God's Kingdom to earth.

summernightlifeoutreach.com

facebook.com/summernightlifeoutreach.ywam

instagram.com/summernightlifeoutreach



Day 26:

by **Vic Van Den Bergh - Tamworth Street Angels**

One of the most important things we do as Street Angels in Tamworth is to make real our strapline 'God's love on the streets'. We do this by meeting the people where they are in whatever need they have, regardless of their situation and circumstance, to share God's love. There's a great story in the Bible (Luke 15.2-7) which tells of a shepherd who, having a lost sheep, goes out to find it. When he does find it, he puts it across his shoulders and carries it home to safety.

Over the course of the evening we often engage with people who have been sick, broken by arguments, injured by falls or through conflicts and we tend their wounds, clean them up, and make sure that they are well and able to continue their evening or make their way home safely.

People often apologise for the state they are in and struggle to accept the love and care they receive. **One person, having been picked up, cleaned up and made sober remarked how God couldn't love them because they were always doing wrong.** The look on his face when he heard the words below, was priceless:

Romans 8.38-39 (paraphrased) - "For I am convinced that nothing you've been, nothing you've seen, nothing you've done and nothing you can do can separate you from God's love. There's nothing anywhere or anyhow that will ever stop Him loving you."

Action – Take time to think of the power of these words in your own life and look at what they mean for you. What is there that you think separates you from the love of God? Whatever you think it is, no matter how much you think it does, nothing stops God from loving you! Having done this, take time to think of those who have become separated from you because of something that they've been or done

to you. If God can forgive and reconcile you to Him, how can you not do the same to those who have wounded you? And perhaps with this in mind you might take the time to say 'sorry' to those who you have likewise wounded.



facebook.com/TamworthStreetAngels



Day 27:

By **Mark Knight, Lead Chaplain, Aylesbury Town Chaplaincy**

I noticed the phrase 'Thy presence my light' the other day as we were singing the hymn 'Be thou my vision.' Got me thinking...

Do I consciously know God's presence and acknowledge it in my life and do I appreciate it as my source of the light in my life? The phrase is preceded with the words 'Waking or sleeping.', so it's **all of our life**.

I hope we would never strive to minister, but instead are conscious of God's light and life flowing through us to others as we step out reflecting and bearing His light.

My prayer for us all is that when people meet us they experience the **light of Christ lighting their lives and His love touching their hearts**. (Be assured 'The rumour of God' is being increased by our cumulative actions day and night).

So, it doesn't require any effort on our parts other than knowing the Father's love and presence in our lives and reflecting it.

Matthew 5: 15-16 - "Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. "



Action - Look around, can you spot someone on their own, looking lonely? Take a seat next to them and ask them 'How's it going?'

AylesburyTownChaplaincy.co.uk



Day 28:

By **Revd. Simon Biddlestone - MINT Festival Angels**

MINT Festival has been held at a number of venues over the years but, since taking up home at the former RAF Church Fenton in 2018, Festival Angels has been part of the setup. This team's role is very short-lived – the festival is on just one Saturday in September.

The Angels support festival goers in whatever ways they need. The support given is very varied but the most common things that we do are helping people who have lost their friends, ensuring that people have access to water and dishing out foil blankets when the temperature plummets. We also go searching for the lost and those who may need support but who aren't able to ask for help.

The Festival sees a large number of people descending on one place for a short time, some of whom can be potentially vulnerable. **Sometimes, people struggle to understand why we care and are overwhelmed by the love shown to them by a stranger.**



Matthew 25:35-36 – “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

Action – Open your eyes to those around you. Does something look out of place? A tear-streaked face? Clothing that doesn't match the weather conditions? Someone looking scared? Look for ways to support people who find themselves lost and afraid and try to get some knowledge of organisations that you can signpost them to.

festivalangels.org.uk



Day 29:

By **Sarah Leonard, President of Ricky Leonard Evangelistic Association**

As an Evangelist, I have a passion for two things. First, I want to see people put their faith in Jesus as their savior every day! **Can you imagine how our world would be changed if we were seeing people believe in Jesus and be added to the church daily?** Second, I want to see church people become more Christ-like in character and behavior. **What was Jesus Christ like?** A person on the street will tell you that he was a good man and a good teacher, and he was. But **Jesus was also bold.** He spoke out against traditions men had long been following. He cast out demons without fear. He spoke gently to children, and harshly to oppressors. He healed people all around him out of compassion. He taught his disciples with great patience. Jesus was full of love, forgiveness, compassion, kindness, and also of justice. Jesus said that he did what the Father did (John 5:19), and spoke what the Father said (John 12:49). In other words, **Jesus spent so much time with the Father God that he could repeat God's words and mimic God's behavior.**

If we are to become more Christ-like, we need to follow Jesus' example and spend time with God in prayer, and in studying the Bible. Jesus said that men and women speak from the overflow of their hearts (Matt 12:35). **What you fill your thoughts, your time, your meditation, your energy with is what you will talk about.**

If you want to see people changed by the power of God's love then you need to read, consider, meditate, and immerse your thoughts in what the Bible has to say about God's love. The more you do this the more naturally you will find it to be loving to others, and then to talk to others about God's love. If you're struggling with sharing about God with someone you know, just think about John 3:16-17 "For God so loved the world" Wow! As you consider and rehearse this passage in your mind, over time you'll find that message of God's love just slipping out of your mouth before you realize it. Remember, what you fill your heart with is what will come out of your mouth!

Matthew 12:34-35 (Common English Bible): "What fills the heart comes out of the mouth. Good people bring out good things from their good treasure. But evil people bring out evil things from their evil treasure."

Action – Take a few moments to read a scripture that you find encouraging. Then re-read it, consider it, say it out loud, write it down and anything else that helps you to remember. This should only take about 5 minutes. Try to rehearse it throughout the day. You'll be surprised at how your understanding of this passage grows as you do this exercise. Then I think later in the day or week you will find you've come across someone else who needs that same encouragement, and because you've filled your heart with a piece of God's word, you will be able to encourage someone else!



Day 30:

by **Paul Blakey MBE - CEO and founder Street Angels - CNI Network**

I hope you have found this 30days Prayer and Action guide as inspiring as I found collating it. I am encouraged that God is very much alive and at work through amazing people in community after community all across the globe! God has a heart and love for people and community - and he invites each and every one of us to partner with him in helping demonstrate his Kingdom as a reality here on earth! **Don't make this the end of the adventure** - commit to a life where you love the person in front of you and create communities others want to be part of!

Action - Spend a few minutes reflecting on this image (created by Chris Bambrough from Northallerton Street Angels) and pray that more opportunities will open for you to put into practice the reflections, actions and Bible verses from this guide... You may also want to check out do1nicething.org.uk - CNI Network's Lent daily challenge!



30 Days Prayer and Action Guide produced by

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