

Church Family Prayer Day

Friday 3 to Saturday 4 February 2017

6pm to 6pm

highstreetmethodist.org.uk

the church in the high street

Let us pray...

Acts 2: 42

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

Let us pray...

The day has been divided into prayer times, Bible reading and fellowship meals. You will find the times for these in the booklet. If you are able to commit to praying for a half hour slot through the night at home please sign up in the church foyer on the Sundays before.

During the prayer day there will also be a children's prayer activity area – this day is for the whole church family.

If you know of people who are housebound please take them a copy of this booklet so that they can also be involved.

The booklet will also be available on the church website.

Please use this booklet to pray for our church throughout the year.

As part of the Methodist “discipleship movement shaped for mission” OUR VISION is:

Lives, relationships and communities in this world transformed by the love of God in Jesus Christ

OUR STRATEGY for sharing in this work of God is to:

Encounter God

Equip God's people

Extend God's Kingdom

This booklet is a collection of prayer points contributed by those involved in the variety of ministries across the church and we give thanks for their prayerful contributions. We will start this year with 'Extend God's Kingdom.'

So, let us pray

Extend God's Kingdom



6.00 pm to 6.30 pm PRAYER

World & Society

We give thanks to God for:

- new and existing community connections, particularly for the links between our church and the Children's Centre
- continued support of, and donations to Red Fern, SHARE and our nominated charities, 'Azalea' and 'Orphans Know More', including the extra generosity shown over the Christmas period
- the safe return of Nick Simon and all he has done for Christian Aid through his Cairo to Cape Town bicycle ride
- those who have gone from High Street into the mission field on short or long term missions both past and present

Please pray:

- for every family in need of food and for changes to the unjust systems which necessitate the use of food banks, such that the need for them will be eliminated
- for all the women with whom 'Azalea' has contact and all those being helped by 'Orphans Know More', that they will know the presence of Christ in their lives
- for Red Fern to continue to identify those who would benefit from the support provided by the group to meet a wide range of very different needs, including support for parents of children with serious health conditions.
- for all those who are treated unjustly for speaking God's truth to power

Let us pray...

- for God's protection and blessing on those who are currently in the mission field working on projects to improve peoples lives and share the gospel of Christ's love and redemption
- for all those missions and societies support by people at High Street that God will bless their work and His name will be glorified

6.30 pm to 7.00 pm PRAYER

Building Blocks

We give thanks to God:

- for the popularity of this group in the community as a welcoming and friendly toddler group
- that new helpers have joined the team this year. We thank you for the teams that run the groups, help them to continue to serve cheerfully, creating a loving place of acceptance where all are welcomed and valued
- for friendships made and the opportunity to share faith

Please pray:

- for families struggling to cope with bringing up children and balancing this with work pressures. For parents who are finding life tough - that when they come to Building Blocks they feel affirmed and supported
- that through the kindness and love expressed by the team the presence of Jesus will be brought to all who attend
- for families who have children with challenging behaviour or additional needs. May Building Blocks be a place where all feel welcome. That all the children will feel safe and happy as they play and that through all we do they will experience the love of Jesus

Let us pray...

Mentalk

We give thanks to God:

- for a widening circle and deepening relationships
- that men outside the normal Sunday congregations are happy to join us
- that these evenings are building real friendships and a sense of “belonging” in a relaxed atmosphere

Please pray that:

- menfolk will begin to feel more comfortable in opening up about their real selves and current issues
- this time will deepen our relationships with God and within the church.
- these evenings will be able to minister to the needs of those attending.

Wesleys

We give thanks for:

- the opportunity, almost every weekday throughout the year, to offer hospitality to so many different people; for our many, regular customers, and those we see only once, or just a few times; for those who come on their own and those who come with family and friends; for people of faith and of none; each with their own life-story; some happy to find a listening ear; others, just happy to be there, and to sit quietly.
- our location and our open door onto the High Street, in the centre of the town, which makes it easy for people to come in, even if they are not used to going into a church building.
- all our volunteers, without whom it would not be possible to provide this service, and who are so key to making Wesleys such a welcoming and friendly place.

Let us pray...

Please pray:

- that everyone who comes into Wesleys may feel equally valued; that each one may be treated with respect and sensitivity; that they may experience something of God's love through the genuine warmth and friendliness of our welcome, and the quality of service we provide.
- that this may be a place through which people can come to experience God's love in their own lives - perhaps for the first time - encouraged by the love, friendship and fellowship they find here.
- that we may continue to find volunteers so that we can maintain the service; that they may find the grace, patience and strength to carry out their task cheerfully, encouraged by knowing that what they do is so much more than - *just serving coffees, clearing tables and washing up . . . but a real labour of love . . .*

Shoppers Lunch

We give thanks to God:

- for the team of people who serve and prepare the food
- for the opportunity to show God's love through serving
- that this is a place where those who would otherwise be alone, have an opportunity to share a meal and conversation with new and old friends

Please pray:

- that shoppers lunch will be a place that will always be open to new people, that they will always feel welcome and that it be a place where they can find love and support.

7.00pm to 7.30pm BIBLE READING
7.30 pm to 8.30 pm FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Let us pray...

8.30pm-9.00pm PRAYER

FUEL – a youth service led by the 2:67 project which happens once every other month at High Street or in St Albans

We give thanks to God:

- for the work of 2:67 encouraging and equipping churches in their youth work
- for the opportunity young people have to take a lead in the worship through the FUEL team
- that we are able to host this event at High Street

Please pray:

- that God will bless and direct this venture
- that young people will encounter God and use their gifts

X:SITE: - an ecumenical event for junior school children held at High Street three times a year.

We give thanks to God:-

- for all the churches in Harpenden and surrounding villages who come together to make X:Site possible
- that as we approach our third year of running X:Site the number of children attending has continued to grow
- for the families that have begun to attend a church through the ministry of X:Site

Please pray:

- for the X:Site core team as they plan the year ahead
- that more primary schools will be open to the team advertising X:Site through the schools
- that X:Site will be so much fun that the children attending will invite their friends to come

Let us pray...

Drama

We give thanks to God for:

- a lively and growing youth team with a growing commitment to sharing their faith.
- the continuing success of "The Journey" and "The Way of The Cross" which reached people in very different ways
- the successful voice workshop held in conjunction with the High Street Players and The Religious Drama Society of Great Britain which benefitted a number of our members

Please pray for:

- continued development of our youth drama work, in particular that more young people will be encouraged to take part.
- greater integration among those involved in drama activities at High Street, sharing of resources, and development of drama which draws on the gifts of the many talented people.
- wisdom in discerning the most effective use of our limited time and resources in drama

9.00 pm to 9.30 pm WORSHIP LED BY WORSHIP GROUP

9.30 pm to 10.00 pm PRAYER

Youth Outreach

Friday night chill/After school chill (FNC/ASC)

We give thanks to God:

- for the support we receive particularly from our weekly volunteers
- for the opportunities the youth leaders have for outreach in Harpenden schools, teaching with STEP
- That young people love to come and hang out at the LX

Let us pray...

Please pray:

- for continued growth, particularly sustainable growth, and that we can continue to reach out to as many youth as possible through opportunities in schools.
- that we hear what God is saying for the future of the youth work at High Street
- for blessing and safety for leaders and young people
- for Samantha and James as they prepare for their marriage

10.00 pm to 10.30 pm – BIBLE READING



10.30 pm to 11.00 pm PRAYER

Ministry Team

We give thanks to God for:-

- God's hand on stationing us here
- The blessings and privileges of ministry
- The love and care we receive

Please pray:-

- For discernment of what God is saying to HSMC
- For help with prioritising
- For the drawing out of the gifts of others to enable a shared ministry

Let us pray...

Stewards Team

We give thanks to God for:

- our continued health and energy as a team
- our continued safety and freedom of worship and service
- our ministers and Leadership Team who guide us so well

Please pray:

- for a growing knowledge of, and sensitivity to, all members of the congregation – particularly the newer members
- that we will be guided by the Holy Spirit to be wise in our decision making and work in a joined up and supportive way with Church Council and the Leadership Team
- that as a team, and as a church, we will all draw closer to God – and by so doing – closer to one another.

Church Council

We give thanks to God:-

- for all those who have so willingly given their time and commitment over the years to serve on Church Council and more generally for the church.
- for the democratic and inclusive way in which our church business can be discussed, agreed and acted upon.

Please pray:-

- that members of Church Council can feel that they are able to speak honestly, openly and without fear.
- that any discussions will be held in a non-confrontational manner and always with the best interests of the church at the heart.
- that the meetings will be conducted in compliance with the procedures and standing orders set down in the 'Constitution, Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church'.

11.00 pm to 11.30 pm BIBLE READING

Let us pray...

11.30 pm to midnight PRAYER

Prayer Team

We give thanks to God that:

- we have so many opportunities to meet with others to pray in freedom: with our families, church, home groups and at prayer meetings.
- church members are being used by God to pray for other people's needs and to bring them into God's presence – through prayer tree requests, HS prayer needs book, prayer ministry and through pastoral contacts.
- we, as a church, continue to grow in knowledge of God's love for the world of and his longing to help and heal.

Please pray that:

- High Street worshippers might have a growing thirst for intimacy with Jesus through God's Spirit and his Word.
- we might all grow in knowledge of God's will regarding our prayer lives and that the Lent Prayer Course might be a blessing to High Street.
- the team might have wisdom as we introduce focused intercessory groups for the workplace and world issues and ways in which to focus prayers for our town.

Leadership team

We give thanks to God for:

- the people who are willing to serve
- the expertise each person brings to the various roles
- the enthusiasm and the good spirit in which the meetings are conducted

Please pray:

- for wisdom and guidance on planning and decision making
- that we can translate High Street's vision into action

**The church will be closed at midnight and reopen at 6.00 am.
Please continue to pray through the night as you are able.**

Let us pray...

6.00 am to 6.30 am BIBLE READING

6.30 am to 7.00 am PRAYER

Worship Team

We give thanks to God:

- for the grace, sensitivity and wisdom with which the members of this team have been able to lead the church through the various consultations.
- for the tremendously rich variety of our worship at High Street, the servant hearted commitment of the many gifted volunteers who enable our worship
- that so many new people are finding a spiritual home at High Street as they encounter God in the worship we share

Please pray:

- for the ongoing work of the Worship Team in supporting the ongoing development of our various styles of worship
- that the Worship Team together with the Leadership Team will be granted wisdom and guidance as they continue to consider how we might best adapt our worship space.

Local Preachers

We give thanks to God for:

- members of High Street Methodist Church who have responded to the call to explore local preaching in the last year
- the talents of local preachers who encourage and challenge through the delivery of the message
- for the willingness of Local Preachers at HSMC to tutor and mentor others to explore their calling

Please pray for:

- collaboration and shared preparation in services so that all may be involved remembering that we are honouring God in our worship

Let us pray...

- local preachers to have the time, space and peace to prepare the word and to hear God in the preparation; and that preachers can discern what comes from them and should be forgotten and what comes from God and needs to be shared
- that we would hear and receive the preaching of God's word through all preachers, lay and ordained

Worship Leaders

We give thanks to God:

- for the worship leaders at High Street and the variety of gifts that each brings to facilitate worship at High Street
- for writers of songs and hymns of worship
- for freedom to worship

Please pray:

- that more people will answer Your call to worship leading and through the new training programme be encouraged and equipped
- that as worship leaders we will be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's guidance in our preparation as we seek to serve the variety of worshippers at High Street so that all can encounter God
- that our corporate acts of worship will be a place to be changed and empowered by God and that through the use of our different gifts we will build up and strengthen the body of Christ

7.00 am to 7.30 am BIBLE READING

Let us pray...

7.30 am to 8.00 am PRAYER

Choir/Organists

We give thanks to God that:

- we are a vibrant, enthusiastic and committed group of singers that regularly enhances worship
- there is a strong bond of friendship and fellowship
- preachers and members of the congregation are appreciative of the contribution of the organists and choir in worship

Please pray:

- that we are able to continue a traditional choir presence which enriches worship and brings glory to God
- for increased numbers – we particularly need more men to join
- that we are seen as an integral part of the congregation

New Creation

We give thanks to God:

- for all the support given by New Creation choir members
- for the fellowship we have enjoyed throughout the year
- for being able to worship God through our singing in the services

Please pray:

- for those members who are having a difficult time through illness
- for continued blessings on us all as we start another year together

Junior Choir

We give thanks to God for:

- the group of children currently in the junior choir who are brilliant and really hardworking
- the commitment of the parents to bring their children each week and support of the junior choir

Let us pray...

- the commitment and support of David Noble the accompanist at each rehearsal and service or event when we are present

Please pray:

- we would love to encourage and welcome new members to join
- that the current members continue to enjoy themselves

Praise Band

We give thanks to God:

- for the many talented and committed members of HSMC that enable such a diversity of musical worship styles. We are so fortunate to be led in worship in so many different ways
- for the expertise of those who help to give us the sound through the P.A. each Sunday and for their patience
- for the gifts of music. Help us to use them to glorify You and to help other to draw closer to You

Please pray:

- that through the different styles of worship, many more people will be able to draw close to God
- for the energy, enthusiasm and patience required for preparation for the early starts of the 9:15 am service

Worship Group

We give thanks to God for:

- the privilege of leading High Street's congregations in worship
- new musicians who have joined our group with violin and oboe
- the success of our new 'Soaking Worship' times

Let us pray...

Please pray:

- that we may continue to be true to God and worship Him alone
- for fruitful and worshipful time during our band practices

8.00 am to 9.00 am FELLOWSHIP MEAL – BREAKFAST
9.00 am to 9.30 am BIBLE READING

9.30 am to 10.00 am PRAYER

Door stewards

We give thanks to God for:

- the privilege of greeting people as they come to church
- being part of a team, which frees the congregation to concentrate on the worship (whilst we organise hymn books, collections etc)
- the wide variety of worship we experience

Please pray that:

- we greet people sensitively
- we recognise and welcome new people and visitors, making them feel at ease coming into church for the first time
- more people would like to become door stewards

Communion Stewards

We give thanks to God:

- for the wonderful communion team that we are blessed with
- for the support that we give to each other.
- for the privilege in helping to administer the elements.

Please pray:

- for more people to come forward as communion stewards (younger people if possible)

Let us pray...

- that the worship pattern continues to provide opportunities for regular communion
- For the home communion team and the recipients of home communion.

Flower Team

We give thanks to God:

- for the beauty of the earth, for the healing of a quiet meditative walk in the countryside
- for the beauty of flowers and for the donors whose contributions each week enable the flower team the privilege of arranging the flowers for our Sunday services
- for the pleasure and solace these flowers give when distributed on Mondays

Please pray:

- for new people as our prayers for new team members have not as yet been answered and we are losing existing members due to ill health. Some younger people would bolster our ageing team
- for the good health for the ladies of the flower team to enable them to carry out their duties
- that our hearts, our eyes and our hands may receive his inspiration, enabling us to glorify His House with the beauty of the leaves and blossoms which He has created

Let us pray...

Transport Team

We give thanks to God for:

- all our very willing and capable drivers
- the fact that valued, long term members are able to come to worship when otherwise they might be unable to
- the relationships that have built up between drivers and passengers over the years which must be of benefit to all
- the new drivers who have so generously volunteered during the recruitment drive

Please pray:

- for this work to continue as long as there is a need for it
- that we may continue to find new drivers when needed

AV Team

We give thanks to God:

- for our team of dedicated, hardworking and friendly people
- that musicians and preachers alike continue to put their trust in us to help them communicate God's word

Please pray that:

- we may continue to find new, willing volunteers both for the sound and visual teams as we continue to meet the growing needs of our church
- we may continue to make best use of some limited technology
- we may always ensure that we are putting God first and that we aid His message and do not detract from it

Readers

We give thanks to God:

- for all the readers who so readily agree to read on a Sunday morning and enrich our services through their reading

Let us pray...

- for the commitment, reliability and general helpfulness of the readers that contribute to the worship at High Street
- that our list of readers has increased
- for Lewis for arranging the new large print NIV Bible for readers to use and for projecting the readings onto the screen

Please pray:

- that existing and new worshippers at High Street will continue to feel called to read God's word on a Sunday
- that God will richly bless each of these readers through their role in the service

10.00 am to 10.30 am WORSHIP LED BY THE CHOIR

10.30 am to 11.00 am PRAYER

Children's Church

We thank God for:

- a clearer vision of where we need to focus and how to deliver the sessions
- more helpers on the team
- growing numbers of new children and therefore new families at Church
- children enjoying the sessions and engaging with the themes and resources
- positive feedback from parents

Please pray for:

- still more helpers as we really need one helper per age group in the hall and our ratios of child to helper in the rear rooms mean we need a big team there. Also people to offer to help more than once a month
- guidance on how best to work across the 5-11 age group given the space we have. Opportunity to experiment on different solutions, given enough helpers, so that we can separate the older and younger children on occasions

Let us pray...

- helpers to be found to work with those children with additional needs

JAM

We give thanks to God:

- for the increased number of teenagers attending regularly
- for the team of volunteers who help each week

Please pray for:

- the weekend away, that all planning is in line with what God wants to share with our young people. Also for the right number of people to want to come and sign up
- our team to increase so that we can invest more time to speaking with the young people
- numbers to continue to grow steadily, in line with the Lord's will
- for break-through and revelation of who Jesus is in the lives of our young people

Insight

We give thanks to God for:

- the difference He has made in the lives of these young people
- taking this group to Soul Survivor and the wonderful testimonies we heard on their return
- great material to challenge, inspire and engage the young people

Please pray for:

- the move back into the LX. May there be a welcoming family feel for everyone
- continuing growth in discipleship for the young people; may they feel more comfortable to bring friends along. Again, at a sustainable rate so that we can grow in a stable way

Let us pray...

- the older group of youth to continue to engage in focusing on the Lord and that a high majority come to Soul Survivor!
- Soul Survivor Saturday celebrations, that we can get enough drivers so that we can take many youth!
- the Soul Survivor camp in the summer, that we will have our max number of youth (46)

The Gathering

This is a new ecumenical time of worship and sharing for people who have a learning difficulty, to be held on the second Tuesday of the month from 10.30 to 12.00.

We give thanks to God for:

- the people who have come forward to train and plan in readiness for this opportunity to enable worship
- the link with Prospects and their excellent materials

Please pray for:

- the launch in February, that many new members will come and that they and their carers will be able to engage in meaningful worship
- the team to prepare each session prayerfully to meet the needs of the members
- for more people to join the team from other churches as well as High Street

11.00 am to 11.30 am BIBLE READING

Equip God's People



11.30 am to 12.00 noon PRAYER Office/Reception/Administration

We give thanks to God for:

- the dedication and hard work of the people who work in the office and on reception
- the service Jenny Frith has given to us at High Street over the last 15 years
- the guidance God has given us over the last year

Please pray that:

- those welcoming and helping people may continue to radiate Christ's love and grace to all
- we may be guided by God as to the priorities and changes required in the year ahead
- as our team changes, we may work together in a supportive and loving way

12.00 Noon to 12.30 pm BIBLE READING 12.30 pm to 1.30 pm FELLOWSHIP MEAL - LUNCH

1.30 pm to 2.00 pm PRAYER Pastoral Care & flower distribution

We give thanks to God for:

- all the ways in which we experience ***His amazing and unfailing love***, which inspires and underpins our life together, and our approach to pastoral care within our church family

Let us pray...

- the words of Jesus that, as a key mark of being his disciples, we must, ***Love one another as I have loved you***
- all the spontaneous love and care, and for the warmth of our fellowship, underpinned by our network of home groups and pastoral contacts, helping us to keep in touch, and provide effective pastoral care within our different congregations and our large, diverse and growing church family

Please pray:

- that each member of our church family **may feel equally valued** and **may experience the love of God** through the warmth of our fellowship, through the way we relate to each other and through our whole approach to pastoral care
- that more of our members will find fellowship in a home group that works for them; that we will find more people, across our different congregations, to act as pastoral contacts (both within groups and for those not in groups} so that we can keep in touch effectively with all members of our church family
- **For God's blessing on each and every member of our church family , as we seek to share the love of God in our life together.** We remember before Him especially the Ministry Team and all the many folk who serve in many different ways . . . as leaders of groups, as pastoral contacts, and pastoral coordinators, who, week by week, try to identify those people who need our special love and prayers, sending them cards and messages on behalf of the church family, and those who take out flowers from church each Monday morning. In all of this, we pray that we may respond to His call that, ***we must love one another – as He has loved us***

Let us pray...

Bereavement Support

We give thanks to God for:

- opportunities to support those in real need
- outreach opportunities to be in touch with non-church people
- many of those that we have been in contact with are making positive progress rebuilding their lives
- those we contact are very grateful for this ministry

Please pray:

- that those bereaved will feel comfortable to be approached
- for an additional male volunteer to join the team
- for the long-term ongoing support and encouragement for those bereaved

2.00 pm to 2.30 pm BIBLE READING

2.30 pm to 3.00 pm PRAYER

Finance

We give thanks to God:

- for all those who give their time and money with prayerful generosity to equip High Street to fulfil its mission
- for the care and professionalism of all those responsible for controlling the finances of the church to ensure that the benefit to God's Kingdom is maximised
- for the diligence of those responsible for spending the money of the church in ways that will ensure both protection of assets and the delivery of best value

Please pray:

- that the funding required to deliver the long term vision of the church can be safely secured

Let us pray...

- we ask you, Lord, through your Spirit, to enter the hearts and minds of all at High Street, the committed and the not so committed, so that they will more fully embrace the vision for the church
- as we proceed to deliver our vision objectives, we pray that all those involved in the leadership of the church are blessed with the skill, commitment and diligence to ensure these objectives are safely met

Operations Team

We give thanks to God:

- that we have had a successful transition from one way of working to a new one
- That the right people came forward at the right time and were able to take on roles

We pray:

- for understanding and helpful relationships between the caretakers and members of the congregation, as well as those who use the premises regularly or on an occasional basis

Use of Buildings

We give thanks to God:

- that our buildings are used to the full and as a result have contact with many different members of the community
- for those who handle the complexities of booking rooms

Please pray:-

- that the church building bears witness to Christ
- that we make the buildings fit to deliver the vision of HSMC

3.00 pm to 3.30 pm BIBLE READING

Let us pray...

3.30 pm to 4.00 pm PRAYER Theology School

We give thanks to God:

- for the variety of speakers to challenge us
- for conversations that help us to crystallise our thinking
- for laughter and the joy of exploring God together

Please pray:

- as we complete BibleTrack this year may we hunger for God's word
- that through the sessions as we grow in knowledge we will also grow in love for God and be transformed as we study His word
- that there will be a growing desire to explore faith more deeply across the church and circuit that we will be equipped in our task to see lives, relationships & communities transformed by the love of God

SOUP

We give thanks to God for:-

- the fellowship between the SOUP members
- new members who have further enhanced the group
- those members who have been brought closer to the church as a result of SOUP

Please pray:-

- that more young adults will join the group
- that the group will continue to grow in fellowship

Home Groups

We give thanks to God:-

- for new home groups, several formed in the last year and for the devoted service of home group and Outlook leaders to care for members and provide suitable programmes

Let us pray...

- for those groups that have come to a natural end, having served their purpose, and pray blessing on the members and their leaders in their future path
- for deep friendships that are forming and the caring that takes place in each group, and for the deepening of faith in Jesus

Please pray for:

- more groups to be formed and new leaders to come forward to lead existing or new groups; also inspiration of how to work discipleship for people for whom 'traditional' home group times doesn't work
- people to have the desire to belong to a home group so that they can benefit from the friendship and ministry
- a renewed sense of community amongst our groups and the leaders and a welcoming spirit amongst groups so that people get personal invitations and feel it's a safe place to explore their faith and grow
- support, inspiration and persistence for all home group leaders and for as many as possible to attend the proposed leaders day event for Home Group leaders provisionally scheduled for June

Resource Centre

We give thanks to God for:

- the financial provision by Circuit & HSMC to purchase new materials
- the central position of the Centre in the foyer to entice newcomers to take a look in
- the Centre's ministry in supporting preachers & group leaders in their work

Please pray to:

- encourage more people to use the inspiring materials on display

Let us pray...

- seek the greater interest of families in using the special provision for children
- inspire in each other a desire to deepen understanding of the Christian faith

Newcomers Team

We give thanks to God for:

- a continuing steady stream of new people of all ages, families, singles and older people, who attend worship at all our services
- the many visitors who attend either with friends or relatives, and sometimes because they have heard of our church or want a change from their own church
- a wonderful team who give up their time to take care of new people because they wish to see God's kingdom extended
- the opportunity to draw alongside some very interesting people who God has brought across our church threshold, which takes some pluck and courage as a first timer

Please pray for:

- all newcomers, that they may be touched by a warm welcome and experience the love of God; that the whole congregation will look out for, sit next to, and befriend every single new person, so that this becomes the mission of all
- guidance to develop a smooth transition into church life for new people e.g take part in Alpha; join a home group; become a church member; attend prayer evenings etc. Newcomer numbers fall off after they have attended a Newcomers' Tea. At this stage the team has to hand them on in order to concentrate on the next wave of new people
- more volunteers; it would be so lovely to have more men to interact with the new men who arrive

Let us pray...

4.00 pm – 4.30 pm BIBLE READING

4.30 pm-5.00pm PRAYER

The Alpha Course is a brilliant way to help understand the Christian Faith. Over the years, many people have come to a personal faith in Jesus as a result of attending Alpha, and many others have had their faith lamp reignited

We give thanks to God for:

- those who have developed and promoted the Alpha course, making it easier for us to tap into a great set of resources to point others to Christ
- the many lives that have been changed as a result of people attending an Alpha Course
- the positive impact on families and relationships through a new-found or rekindled faith

Please pray for:

- the increasing numbers who have found or renewed their faith through Alpha, as they seek to move on and to grow in their Christian lives
- future Alpha courses; that many who may have been coming to church for years but have done little more than attend worship, may find Alpha a source of deeper understanding and spiritual renewal; that Alpha may help those who contact us out of curiosity or who are genuinely seeking, to find what they are searching for in their spiritual lives
- our response as a church, for those who lead and host Alpha Courses, that we may constantly be ready with teams of caring leaders and helpers sensitively to encourage others in their developing faith.

Parenting Courses

Primary school aged children.

We give thanks to God:

Let us pray...

- that High Street has been able to regularly run parenting courses for young families including to a small number of families from the wider community (not part of HS)
- that the parents who attended the 2016 parenting course were able to come regularly over the six week duration, enjoyed themselves and got lots out of the experience.
- for High Street's new conference room which provided the perfect location and facilities to run the course well.

Please pray that:-

- the church is able to discern which parenting course is the right one to offer (given that the numbers of parents have been quite small over the last two years).
- whatever parenting course is offered, that more families from outside the church, might attend.
- more course facilitators might feel called to deliver future courses.

Secondary school aged children

We give thanks for:

- good attendance for our last course
- one story of much improved parent/child relations
- the resources, time, place, people to run our second course

Please pray for:

- new people to come forward in January to attend the course
- fruitful and interesting discussions
- time to allow people to attend all 6 weeks

5.00 pm to 6.00 pm SHARING AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

Let us pray...

Psalm 67 verses 1-2

May God be gracious to us and bless us
And make his face shine on us –
So that Your ways may be known on earth,
Your salvation among all nations.