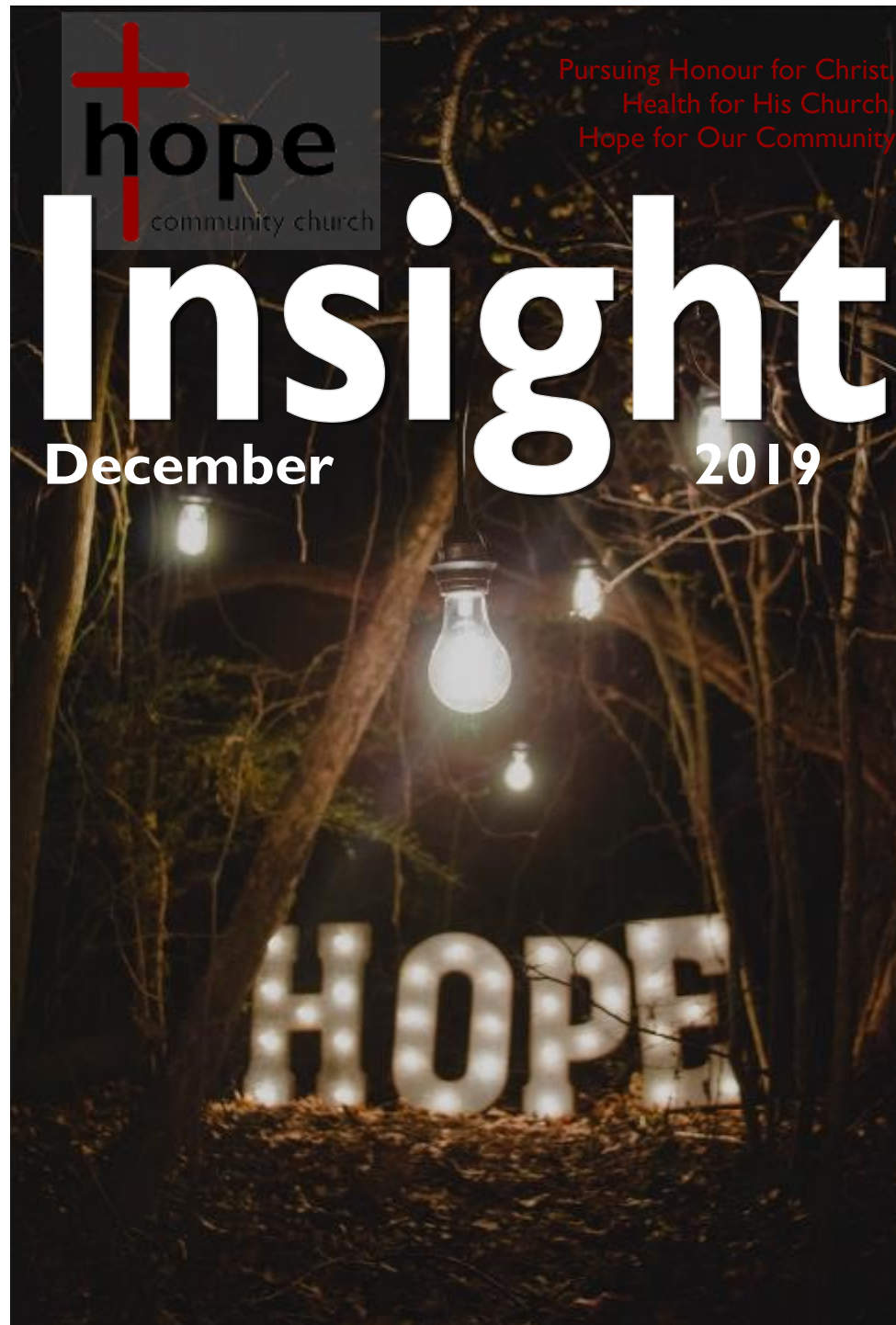




Pursuing Honour for Christ,  
Health for His Church,  
Hope for Our Community

# Insight

December 2019





We seek to be evangelical in our understanding and charismatic in our experience.

**Pursuing Honour for Christ, Health for His Church, Hope for Our Community**

**Insight** is the monthly newsletter, prepared by Margaret and Stephen Winfield and published in print and on-line by Hope Community Church, Hope Christian Centre, Stalybridge Road, Mottram, Hyde, Cheshire. SK14 6NF. Tel. 01457 764113.

**Articles** for inclusion should be submitted **before** the deadline indicated on the 'diary dates' page. Contributions should be sent to 4, Hall Drive, Mottram, or by e-mail to [stephen\\_winfield@btopenworld.com](mailto:stephen_winfield@btopenworld.com)

We do ask that contributors submit their name for inclusion with submissions, as personal contributions are accepted on the understanding that they are not necessarily the opinions of the Editors or the Church Leaders.

**Church Child Protection Policy**  
All church children's and young people's work is carried out by personnel who have undergone disclosures and in accordance with the Church's Child Protection Policy. To view this policy please call 01457 764113.'

Cover photo | By Ron Smith  
courtesy of [freelyphotos.com](http://freelyphotos.com)

**Martyn Cooling**

**Leader, Hope Community Church**

## Advent, the Season of Hope!

From Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> until Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December, we are in the season of **Advent** which is observed and celebrated by Christians all over the world.

**Advent** is a word originally rooted in a Latin word which means "coming"!

**Advent** is the season when we look back with joy and thanksgiving to the coming of God's Son from the glory of heaven to the suffering of earth, and to a brutal cross to rescue many, many people from sin, death and judgment and lead them into a glorious future.

**Advent** reminds us of the historical fact of Jesus' virgin birth, life, death, resurrection and exaltation to the highest honour.

To God's children, Israel, who eagerly expected the Messiah and promises of future glory foretold by the prophets, it must have felt like a never-ending wait for his coming. And when at last he did come, as Jesus of Nazareth, they missed him! Anticipating a successful conquering king, Jesus was too weak, obscure and disappointing to be their Messiah.

But he came, exactly as the prophets foretold. And he suffered and died, exactly as the prophets foretold. And he rose again and defeated death, exactly as the prophets foretold.

**God's word is utterly trustworthy and true. What he promises, he performs.**

**Advent** is also the season when we look forward in joy and thanksgiving to the second coming of God's Son, the man who is God, Jesus Christ, from heaven's glory to our groaning world. But his next coming will be in radiant glory. He will be unmistakable as God's chosen eternal King over creation, taking his place as sovereign over his eternal kingdom where everything will be made new. This future is so glorious that all human suffering is light and short-lived in comparison!

To God's children, all who are in Christ, who eagerly expect Jesus' return and the glorious new creation he has promised, it can feel like his coming is very overdue. Christ's return can seem so detached from our daily struggles that we can live now as if the promised **Advent** is not real.

**But God's word is trustworthy and true. What he promises, he performs. Jesus is coming again.**

And not this time in weakness and suffering, but in such glory and power that every human empire will collapse, every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess that he is the everlasting, perfect and unrivalled King of an eternal kingdom of righteousness, joy and peace!

Peter teaches that this is the basis our living hope: the historic fact of Jesus Christ's death

MAY GOD, THE  
**SOURCE OF HOPE**  
FILL YOU  
**COMPLETELY WITH JOY AND PEACE THROUGH TRUSTING HIM**  
SO THAT YOU  
**OVERFLOW WITH CONFIDENT HOPE**  
IN THE **POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**  
ROMANS 15 : 13

and resurrection and the future glory of his certain return!

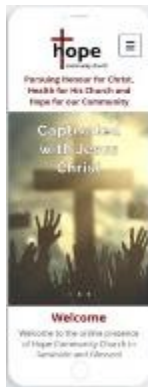
During this season of **Advent**, we shall explore some of the practical implications of Christ's certain return for the way we live now in a fallen world.

We shall consider this from the text of Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians – why not take some time to read it through several times during **Advent** and pray that the Spirit will cause confident hope to abound in your heart!

**Maranatha! Come soon Lord Jesus!**  
**Martyn**



# Hope Community Church Matters



## Website Developments

We have added a new page to the church website. Called **“stories of hope”** this page provides very brief stories which explain the reason for the hope that is within us.

We already have a few simple testimonies of God’s kindness to some members of HCC online for people to read. Take a minute over a brew to have a look at what some have already contributed at

[www.hopcommunitychurch.online/stories-of-hope](http://www.hopcommunitychurch.online/stories-of-hope)

If you would like to put your story of God’s work in your heart and how he has stirred up a living hope in you, why not send it to Martyn Cooling along with a head and shoulders mug-shot. It would be good to have a selection of stories like this that we can rotate to keep the website dynamic and fresh!

## Good News Christmas Card

Instead of our traditional Good News magazine, we have prepared a Christmas Card praying for God’s blessing of joyful hope for our friends and neighbours in the community around us.

The card contains details of Christmas activities, a verse from the Bible, a verse from a carol (Hark the Herald Angels Sing!) and some very brief stories of hope from members of the church (the same ones as on the website).

These cards will be ready for distribution by around the 8<sup>th</sup> December and it would be great to have a team of volunteers willing to distribute them around Longendale.

Please pray that the message of hope reaches many hearts this Christmas.



## Gospel Intentionality

Conscious of our potential to drift from the foundation of the gospel as the only power of God to save people from sin and death, we are in the process of reviewing all our ministry and mission activities “through the lens of the gospel”.

Our desire is to display our confidence in the gospel to transform individual hearts, and through that, our families, our communities and even our nation by restoring gospel-centred ministry to “first importance”, as Paul told the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

Please pray for the elders, wider leadership team, the mission support team, the community action team and the minister’s fellowships in both Glossop and Hyde as we agree together what it means to form intentional gospel partnerships in Tameside and Glossop.

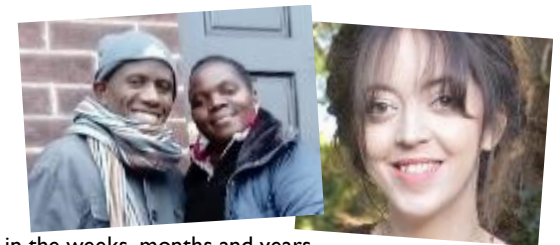


Pray for a commitment to unity in the gospel even though there may be differences in secondary issues, so that we consistently proclaim a message of repentance and hope through Christ crucified! Pray that we stand firm in the face of resistance and hostility to this message. And pray that Jesus’ glory will fill the area as the Spirit softens hearts to yield to him as saviour and Lord!

## Re-Entry from Sabbatical

Please continue to pray for both Debs and Zeph and Wema as they return in the next few days to ministry and mission following their month-long sabbaticals.

Please pray that the things that God has revealed to them during their time away from front-line responsibility will shape their thinking and activity in the weeks, months and years ahead. And please pray for a strong anointing of the Spirit on them as they begin to step into the things God has prepared for them to do!



## Tanzania Gospel Partnership

Martyn Cooling will be returning to the Mbeya region of Tanzania during the first week of December to work alongside Peter Cockrell and Arthur Mbuku (see photo) to encourage and instruct the pastors and leaders of around 120 churches in that region.

Pray that the Lord will grant us wisdom as we begin to build the team of people in the UK who are gifted and available to contribute to this teaching ministry (and, no doubt, in many other ways!).

Pray too that our brothers and sisters in Tanzania will remain faithful to the gospel of Jesus Christ as foundations of understanding are laid.

## Christmas Day Lunch

We are beginning to take bookings for the Christmas Day Lunch from people across the community of Tameside and Glossop who would otherwise be alone on Christmas Day.

At the time of writing, we have about 30 guests booked in and contacts for further information are being made from people in the NHS and other welfare agencies on behalf of the lonely and vulnerable.

Please pray for the planning, preparation and the event itself, that it will be a joyful opportunity to share the love of God with many local people. And if you can offer to help with cooking, serving, transport, musical contributions, financial gifts and in prayer support, please let Debs know when she returns to us at the beginning of December!



**Martyn**

# Night of Prayer

On Friday 25th October through to Saturday 26th, we held our first night of prayer. Between 7:00pm and 7:00am, the Hope Christian Centre building was open for people to come, spend some time in prayer, and go when they needed to. Around 20 people visited throughout the night.

God met with us as we sought His face in adoration, His heart for this locality and nation and His will for His church. He revealed a number of things throughout the night, surprising us with the way He spoke and confirmed things through different people at different times throughout the 12-hours.

Some of the things God reminded us of are:

- \* His unimaginably brilliant holiness, His absolute perfection and glory and praiseworthiness in every season;
- \* The propensity of our hearts to waywardness and wickedness and how easily sin entangles, and the call to genuine repentance which is evidenced in unrelenting battling with sin and changed lives;
- \* that in Christ we have a sure and certain hope of eternity, and despite the buffeting which occurs in this life, that we are born again into a Kingdom which cannot be shaken
- \* that He works in His ways for His glory. Recognising how self-sufficient we can be – even in ministry activity – and turning from self-reliance to plead He would teach us to labour in His might;
- \* the Good News of the Gospel of Christ Jesus needs to be boldly and persistently proclaimed to all and any we get the chance to share with; fear has potential to paralyse, but for us to trust in the One who has promised to be with us always;
- \* that we are called to take the Good News to the lost, the last and the least, and that doing so will be costly, but that God wants us to take the Gospel mandate seriously – wherever it takes us, and whatever it costs.

The Scriptures which were brought time and again were Hebrews 11 & 12, Isaiah 58 and Psalm 56.

The evening created the opportunity for people to seek God together for prolonged periods of time – as they were able – and to listen to His voice; *what a privilege to be able to hear from the Almighty as we waited on Him.*

We were struck at times by an awareness of His presence as we worshipped, repented, lamented and pleaded before Him. This truly was a time when we knew the privilege of prayer and intimate communion with our Father, without the pressure of time that so easily gets in the way. In addition to

the extra time and space this event provided, there were different 'stations' that people could utilise in order to engage in different types of prayer for different issues; the creative approaches that had been provided were an excellent way of facilitating different people with different styles engaging in prayer.

People are recognising how God has used this event as a catalyst for invigorating or transforming their prayer life, and I want to encourage all the HCC family to engage in the essential ministry of prayer both individually and in partnership with others at any opportunity. If you're wanting to figure out how you can get involved in praying – or want to talk about the benefits of praying with others – please speak to one of the elders.

I wish to thank all those who came and engaged, and not only encourage you to continue to invest in the prayer ministry of the church, but warmly invite any who didn't engage this time to come along and get involved when we next meet in

this way. Until then, keep praying!

I wish to specifically thank Hephzibah, Helen and Sam for all of their hard work in generating ideas and putting the event on.

Steve



## 11+ Youth Events in November

....something a bit different this Nov /Dec

**'Shoebox' Saturday Social | Sat 30th Nov | 8.00am to about 3.30pm | Meeting @HCC**

Hugely popular last year! A chance to give your time to an incredible charity as Samaritan's purse prepare shoeboxes to go and bless children all around the world. A day trip to the Liverpool warehouse, a shift checking the boxes and a little time for lunch out together at a fast food place of your choice.



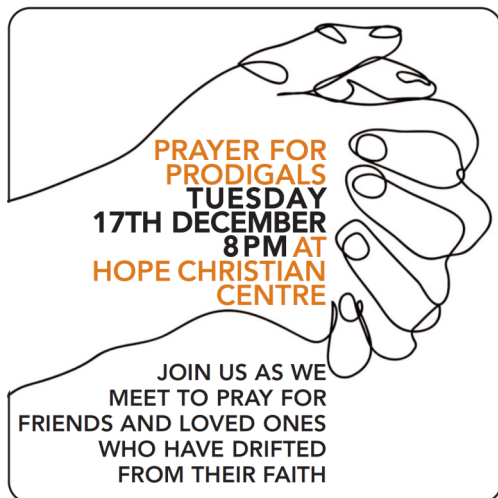
**Kairos Youth Event | Friday 6th Dec | 7.30-9.00pm @Holy Trinity Stalybridge**

A DJ, an incredible music set with Lily- Jo including testimony and an awesome Friday night youth event for 11-18 year olds. Book your free tickets and join us at Holy Trinity Stalybridge. (If you need help with booking tickets or a lift speak to Sam)

Sam







One of the greatest sadness's in any Christian family is when one of our dear ones, for whatever reason, drifts away from the Lord they once knew and is living a lifestyle we know is grieving to God, as well as to us.

**But even when those we love have become terribly caught up in sin and are living in disobedience, the Lord can use our prayers and actions as a means to bring restoration.**

So we should **pray** for them!  
**Pray** for the Lord to open doors!  
**Pray** for persistency!  
**Pray** faithfully!  
 And **pray** on ... for their salvation!

SO, JOIN US AT  
**HOPE CHRISTIAN CENTRE**, MOTTRAM  
 ON TUESDAY NOVEMBER 26TH  
 AND TUESDAY DECEMBER 17TH  
 FROM 8 PM  
 TO **PRAY FOR OUR PRODIGALS**  
 (AND OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS WHO  
 AREN'T YET BELIEVERS)!

**Bryan**

## Christmas Day

Last year we hosted our first Christmas Day meal at HCC.



What a joy it was!  
 We fed 65 on the day and around 40 of those were people brought in from around Tameside who would otherwise have been on their own for the day. The feedback on the day proved just what a blessing it had been both to those who came and to those who volunteered. One lady, who hadn't had a Christmas Day meal in over ten years said 'it made me feel human'.

### So... how's about it for 2019?

We're looking for people who would like to contribute to the event in a few different ways - here's a few:

- Decorating the building
- Table host on the day
- Kitchen (most of it is pre-cooked and brought in but will need heating through)
- Driver on the day (even if it's just the drop off and pick up)
- Financially (there's no guarantees we will have the same funding as last year and no funding can cover the £5 gift bag we would like to give to each guest).
- Elf - packing the gift bags a couple of days before the event

Have a think and a pray and if you think one or more of those are something you are able to offer help in - speak to Debs, Mark Lee or Martyn Cooling.

Thanks! **Debs**

# CHRISTMAS EVENTS AT HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH

**CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT  
 FOLLOWED BY MINCE PIES  
 AND MULLED WINE**

6.30 pm Sunday 22nd December  
 At Hope Christian Centre, Stalybridge Road,  
 Mottram, SK14 6NF

**CHRISTMAS DAY ALL-TOGETHER SERVICE  
 AN HOUR OF ALL-TOGETHER WORSHIP**

10.30 am Christmas Day  
 At Arundale Primary School, Lowry Grove,  
 off John Kennedy Road, Mottram SK14 6PW

**CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH  
 FREE FOR ALL WHO ARE ALONE  
 ON CHRISTMAS DAY**

12.30 pm – 3.00 pm on Christmas Day  
 At Hope Christian Centre, Stalybridge Road,  
 Mottram, SK14 6NF

**BOOKING ESSENTIAL - TO BOOK YOUR PLACE  
 PLEASE CALL 07596 276304**

# What, Where, When and Who

**What happens in and around our Church,  
When it happens,  
Where it takes place and  
Who to contact for more details  
and to volunteer.**

**Sundays** (see Diary Dates for full details)

10.30 am **Hope Community Church Morning Worship**  
Arundale Primary School  
Lowry Grove, Mottram. SK14 6PW  
Martyn Cooling 01457 238016  
martyn@motttramec.co.uk

**Various Days**

**Various times HCC Small Groups**  
Martyn Cooling 01457 238016  
Steve Percy 0771 814 2599

**Monday**

2.00 pm **Mottram Monday Matinee**  
HCC  
Debs F 07446 893445

**Tuesdays**

6.30 am **Early Morning Prayer**  
HCC- Drop in as convenient.  
Susan C. 07947 632283

9.15 am **Tuesday Prayer**  
HCC  
Martyn Cooling 01457 238016

11.15 am **Tuesday Café**  
HCC  
School term

4.30 pm **Rock Solid**  
Ages 8 to 13  
Meeting Place  
Sam Patterson 07870 984863

8 pm **Prayer For Prodigals**  
HCC  
Bryan Blakeborough

**Wednesdays**

9.45 am **Hattersley Prayer**  
4 Worthington Close,  
Hattersley.  
Sylvia Garry 0161 368 0952

9.30 am to 11.30 am **Mums' Bible Study**  
HCC  
Susan C. 07947 632283

1.30 pm **Pilates**  
HCC  
Debbie Hansom 07758 217754  
Susan C. 07947 632283

6.30pm **Creative Drop-in Sessions**  
Ages 10-16.years  
The Hub  
Simon Davidson 07770 427313

7.30 pm **Lifecentre Youth Group**  
High School Age  
The Hub  
Simon Davidson 07770 427313

**Thursdays**

9.30 am **The Meeting Place**  
HCC  
Susan C. 07947 632283

10.00 am **HCC Womans' Prayer & Bible Group.**  
HCC  
Carol Barlow 0161 366 8531

6.30 pm **Kids 4 Christ**  
Junior School Age (8+)  
HCC  
Jim Towell 0161 330 9058  
jim@towells.info

8.00 pm **Worship Group**  
HCC  
Susan C. 07947 632283

**Fridays**

4.00 pm **Adventure Club**  
Ages 8-14 years  
Simon Davidson 07770 427313

**Saturdays**

8.00 am **Mighty Men's Breakfast**  
(2nd Saturday)  
HCC  
Martyn Catterall  
administrator@motttramec.co.uk

# Miscellany

## Message South Africa

Workers from the Message South Africa spend time on a regular basis in Drakenstein Young Offenders Prison and I was encouraged to read this report from Desmond Henry after working alongside Message workers.

*I was blown away by the Message South Africa team who lead an exceptional outreach at Drakenstein! They serve there each week and do a fantastic job!*

*I was moved today seeing 9 young men surrender their lives to Jesus and had over 40 come forward to pray for forgiveness! I got to pray for 5 of them individually and hear some of the brokenness that only God can heal!*

*It's great to serve the Lord and see so many amazing churches, organizations and leaders work together for the cause of the Gospel!*

Desmond Henry was with Tim Innes and Shaun Leigh Pretorius at Drakenstein Correctional Centre (14.11.19)

Alan

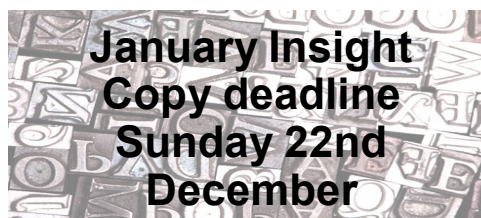


Alan Smith has found a helpful election document produced by the Christian Institute. Their Election Briefing 2019 can be found at [christian.org.uk/election](http://christian.org.uk/election)



**Mighty Men's Breakfast  
Saturday 14th December  
from 8 to 9.45.**

Please let Martyn Catterall know if you will be there for catering purposes



## Thank You!



For your generous support of the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal.



Following Shoebox Sunday, 77 shoeboxes filled with goodies and love are now on their way to deserving children.



Please pray for the safe delivery of the boxes and for the children receiving them. May they know Gods love through your generosity and then personally through 'The Greatest Journey' course offered by Samaritans Purse church partners .



# December Diary Dates

*LIFE Group Meetings most Wednesdays and Thursdays at various times and locations*

<b>Sun 24th Nov</b>	APS	10.10 am	Prayer 4 Church
	APS	10.30 am	All Together Worship
		7.00 pm	Missions Support Team (@Isherwood's Place)
<b>Mon 25th</b>	HCC	1 to 3 pm	Monday Drop-In
	HCC	7.00 pm	Prayer 4 Revival
<b>Tue 26th</b>	HCC	6.30 am	Tuesday Upper Room Prayers
	HCC	9.15 am	Team Prayers
	HCC	8.00 pm	Prayer for Prodigals
<b>Sun 1st Dec</b>	APS	10.10 am	Prayer 4 Church
	APS	10.30 am	Morning Worship and Lord's Supper
<b>Mon 2nd</b>	HCC	2 to 4 pm	Monday Matinee
	HCC	7.00 pm	Prayer 4 Revival
<b>Tue 3rd</b>	HCC	6.30 to 8 am	Tuesday Upper Room Prayers
<b>Sun 8th</b>	APS	10.10 am	Prayer 4 Church
	APS	10.30 am	Morning Worship
	HCC	7 to 9 pm	Search The Scriptures
<b>Mon 9th</b>	HCC	2 to 4 pm	Monday Matinee
	HCC	7.00 pm	Prayer 4 Revival
	HCC	8.00 pm	Wider Leadership Team
<b>Tue 10th</b>	HCC	6.30 to 8 am	Tuesday Upper Room Prayers
<b>Wed 11th</b>	HCC	8.00 pm	Members' Meeting
<b>Sat 14th</b>	HCC	8.00 am	Mottram Mighty Men's Breakfast
<b>Sun 15th</b>	APS	10.10 am	Prayer 4 Church
	APS	10.30 am	Morning Worship and Lord's Supper
		<b>Various 3 to 5 pm</b>	<b>Silver Sunday Carol Services</b>
<b>Mon 16th</b>	HCC	2 to 4 pm	Monday Matinee
	HCC	7.00 pm	Prayer 4 Revival
<b>Tue 17th</b>	HCC	6.30 am	Tuesday Upper Room Prayers
	HCC	8.00 pm	Prayer for Prodigals
<b>Sun 22nd</b>			<b>January Insight Copy Deadline</b>
	APS	10.10 am	Prayer 4 Church
	APS	10.30 am	Morning Worship
	<b>HCC</b>	<b>6.30 pm</b>	<b>Carols by Candlelight</b>
<b>Wed 25th</b>	<b>APS</b>	<b>10.30</b>	<b>Christmas Family Worship</b>
<b>Sun 29th</b>			<b>January Insight available in print and online</b>
	APS	10.10 am	Prayer 4 Church
	APS	10.30 am	All Together Worship

## Event Location Key

APS  
BAL

Arundale Primary School  
Balmoral Care Home

HCC  
MAG

Hope Christian Centre  
Magdalene Centre