

# MISSIONARY

*When children live in poverty, Christmas isn't special  
But you can give a gift that could change their lives .....*

Consider the children around the world who won't be celebrating Christmas quite like us this year. The orphans missing their parents, the young refugees who still can't go to school, the children living in war zones.

Yes, this is a busy time. But please will you choose to remember a vulnerable child this Christmas – and give the gift of God's word, **to bring joy and hope**. You may not realise how special the gift of a Bible can be for children who have nothing .

**Twelve- year-old Esther** is an orphan, along with her baby sister. Their mum died 2 years ago, & their dad a month later – both from an AIDS-related illness. They now live with their Uncle & his family in a small mud building in a rural village in Malawi.

The Bible Society people visited Malawi, and gave out Bibles in Esther's church. She got one –& she cherishes it because it brings her hope. ' I started reading to learn the word of God & memorise the stories' she said. My favourite verse is Philippians 4.4. "Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say, rejoice". These words bring me comfort when I'm sad.'

These timeless stories can speak to children everywhere .... to orphans like Esther, young refugees I've met in Jordan, street kids in S. America , & children living in crushing poverty across Africa. In the Bible, young people discover they are loved and have a purpose. They see there's a better way to live.

What an incredible gift to offer to a child living in situations we can barely imagine!  
*Alan Kember of Bible Society*

Your gift can provide a children's Bible to a little boy or girl like Esther bringing hope amid the darkness. **Our Christmas Day Offering** at Upney will be given entirely to forward the ministry of Bible Society in providing Bibles and Bible booklets to needy children, traumatised children and orphans in very poor and distressed parts of the world

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**The Explorers Group** report by Nicola Turner

Our Explorers group, in answer to prayer, has begun to grow in numbers. We would love for more children in the area who don't come to church to start attending so they can hear God's word also.

**Please pray** for strength and energy for the leaders with busy home lives and the upcoming new additions to some of their families.

**We ask for prayer for the new year** that the children will hear, understand and believe the word of God.



Upney  
Baptist  
Church

# In Touch

*Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision  
for the flesh.  
Romans 13:14*

SUNDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2018

## 10.30 AM MORNING MEETING

Welcome to our Christmas presentation of the  
Christmas story by our children & others  
Jonny will be preaching on Matthew 2: 1-18

A crèche facility is available for very young children should you require it during  
the morning service.

Following the service many of us will be enjoying refreshments together and  
we warmly welcome you to join us.

## 6.00 PM EVENING MEETING

Please join us this evening for our  
Carols by Candlelight Service  
Jonny will be preaching on Luke 2: 25-35

If you have any questions regarding today's services or concerning the church  
please speak to Jonny (Pastor) afterwards

Pastor: Jonny Dowds

2 Brockdish Avenue  
Barking, Essex, IG11  
Mob: 07872 176 799

# DIARY DATES

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**MONDAY:**

9.30-11.30am Tot Stop  
7.30am Home Fellowship Group Social

**TUESDAY:**

7.30pm Home Fellowship Group Social

**WEDNESDAY: NO GIRLS' BRIGADE**

**THURSDAY: NO EXPLORERS OR IMPACT**

**FRIDAY:**

7.00am Prayer Meeting

**SUNDAY:**

10.15am Prayer Meeting  
10.30am Pastor Jonny Dowds  
4.00pm Pastor Jonny Dowds—no meal

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**Dates for rest of December:**

**Either 17th or 18th - HFG Social**  
**23rd - 4.00 afternoon service—no meal**  
**25th - 10.30 am CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY SERVICE**  
**30th - No evening service**

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The Falconer Home's Christmas letter & Love Russia's magazine are on the back table.  
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I (Beryl) shall be preparing rotas in the next week or two. We could do with more people on the crèche & Sunday school rota or perhaps you have a gift of arranging flowers or like me not much of a gift, but still take a turn. Be good to have some men come on board!.

A challenge for you:  
A six year old (It's got to be Clara) came up to me, and said Beryl "When I'm old enough I want to be on the creche rota." She has had experience keeping an eye on her baby sister, Alice. Thanks Clara, but meanwhile we have three new babies coming next year!!! and children moving up to Sunday School, so make a bee-line for me and offer your help.. Thank you.

# PRAYER REQUESTS

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 "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."  
  
*Philippians 4:6*

**SUNDAY:** Pray for Hazel, out in Morocco visiting a Missionary friend and to get a glimpse of what it's like to live and work there and how to pray for the people. Pray for safety in travel.

**MONDAY:** Pray for Jonny as he goes into Manor Longbridge to take the assembly this morning, may he get the Christmas message over to the many children who perhaps have never heard it before. Pray for Tot Stop as they have a little party for the children and carers. May it be a happy time as they hear the story of Christmas.

**TUESDAY:** Continue to pray for Nathaniel. He has been moved from a high dependency ward in hospital to a hospice nearer home, whilst he is recovering from the surgery preparing him for the next chemo sessions. Val Bebbington needs our prayers as she recovers from the two recent operations she has had on her legs. Pray too for Paul, as he is far from well, and needs our help and care.

**WEDNESDAY:** Continue to pray for those who need a healing touch: Les Lange, John & Sylvia Price, Liz Henry, Javier, Rebecca Standing, Norma Callcut, Linda Young, Maggie Woodvine, Brenda Blows, Graham & Christine King, Helen Kelly's father, Mary Servante, Cathie Hughes, Alan & Ann May, Olive's nephew Richard, Christine Dowds, Joyce Sparks, Matthew Wilson, Rebekah Lindsay, Jimmy Martin, Jenny McClenaghan, Colin Wylde, Martyn Fisher, Ken Luck, Jeannie Hurrell, Sharon Crawley, Emma Wylde, Christine Cook, Linda Rice.

**THURSDAY:** Pray for Rebekah & Calvin as they eagerly await the birth of their first child. Pray for a safe delivery. Also pray for Sharon & John and Lorna & Cameron as they prepare for new life in 2019.

**FRIDAY:** The schools have now broken up and the children are extremely excited. Pray for patience for parents in these last days of preparation for Christmas.

**SATURDAY:** Keep praying for the lonely and the men and women who haven't a home, this Christmas, that God's love will be shown to them this Christmas time. Many will be sad because there is an empty place at the table.

**SUNDAY:** Pray for Jonny as he preaches this morning. Pray for Jonny & Hannah as they prepare and look forward to their marriage

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