

Tuesday 21st January; Clayton and Accrington

Ernest Street Baptist; St Andrew's CofE; St Clement's CofE; Antley Methodist; All Saints' CofE; St Mary's RC

Wednesday 22nd January; Baxenden/Woodnook

Trinity Community CofE/Baptist LEP; Open Heaven Redeemed Christian Church of God; St John's CofE; St Anne's RC; Christian Life Ministries

Thursday 23rd January; Accrington

Peel Street Baptist; Oasis Elim Pentecostal; St Mary Magdalen's CofE; St James CofE; Accrington Community Church, Assemblies of God

Friday 24th January; Christians Together

Pray for the conversations between us locally; for a desire to learn from, and be humble, towards each other. Pray for the Street Angles project, the Food Bank, and the new Homelessness Pastors.

Saturday 25th; the wider church

Pray for the Circuits, Dioceses, Districts, and other wider associations we are part of. Remember all Christian leaders, moderators and bishops. Especially pray for all who worship in places of persecution, fear or darkness; all whose belief in Christ is dangerous and costly. Pray for all who long to hear Christ's peace, forgiveness and healing.

Finally, pray too for yourself, beloved of God.

Do you
believe
this?



**THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR
CHRISTIAN UNITY
18th–25th January 2025**

**An invitation to pray for
our sisters and brothers
in Christ, locally in
Accrington and
Oswaldtwistle, BB5**

The first official Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was held in 1908. Now it happens internationally every year, overseen by the World Council of Churches. In the northern hemisphere is usually observed between January 18th and 25th.

For more information and resources, visit the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland website (search "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity").

2025 marks the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, when Christians from around the world gathered in what is modern Turkey to confront their differences and tensions. There, with joy, they re-discovered their common rootedness in Jesus Christ.

This year we are invited to spend a week reflecting on the story of Martha's confession of faith in Jesus, as narrated in John 11:17-27. Each of us is asked to sit with Jesus' provocative question to Martha: "Do you believe this?"

Praying for each other is surely the first step towards realising Jesus' prayer at the Last Supper; that all those who follow him "might be one". That prayer is partly for Christians to be more effective together in mission, but also because unity *in itself* is a reflection of the glory of our Trinitarian God (*John 17.20ff*).

Father of compassion, renew our faith in you. Bind us closer together through your love, so that we can recognise each other as your children and come together as one. We praise you through Jesus Christ, your only-begotten Son, in the communion of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

This prayer leaflet lists Christian congregations and churches that meet across the BB5 area. It's been produced on behalf of Churches Together in Lancashire, and it's almost certainly incomplete!

Please take it as a work-in-progress, and for all errors or omissions please accept our apologies. You can contact Stephen Brown, stephenlanside@gmail.com with any updates. Stephen is a Denominational Ecumenical Officer for the Diocese of Blackburn in the Church of England, and recently retired as a Vicar in Haslingden.

In due course, the intention is to publish a map showing all the local Christian places of worship, plus contact details – partly so that we can become more aware of each other, and partly to help anyone looking to find a church to belong to.

Please note: the sub-divisions below are not exact!

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Saturday 18th January; Oswaldtwistle

Stanhill Methodist; West End Methodist; St Mary's RC; St Paul's CofE; Union Road Community Church

Sunday 19th January; Oswaldtwistle

Holy Trinity Free CofE; Immanuel CofE; All Saints' CofE; Brave Church; Rhyddings Methodist

Monday 20th January; Altham, Huncoat, Accrington

St James' CofE; St Augustine's CofE; Cambridge Street Methodist; St John's CofE; St Joseph's RC; St Paul's CofE