

A table of hope and salvation.

The Lord is the source of our provision ([Psalm 136:25-26](#)) and His kindness and faithfulness are honoured by all those who look to him ([Psalm 145:15,6](#)). At the launch of a local food alliance, people met to address the problem of ensuring all in the borough had access to sufficient and healthy food, against rising levels of need. Many were Christians running foodbanks and pantries, offering some hope, helping meet the very real material needs of people and showing the love of Christ in action ([Matthew 25:35-40](#)). These provide opportunities to meet other practical and social needs. However, as important as this is, above and beyond is a deeper and more urgent need to address the spiritual poverty in this land. God is not lacking nor unwilling to extend an invitation to his table and share his bounty ([Isaiah 55:1-2](#); [Matthew 22:1-8](#)). *Pray for many to recognise their spiritual poverty and to hunger after the Lord. Pray that we can work together to bring spiritual food to those in need, to tell them of the hope that lasts for ever and of the food and drink freely offered that will satisfy for a lifetime and into eternity ([Revelation 21:6](#)). Give thanks for the many outreach and discipleship materials already available. Pray that get into the minds and hearts of those who need them and for the development of good digital resources.*

A table of joy and restoration.

Scripture records many stories of shared meals, some elaborate, some humble, many places of profound encounters with Jesus. At Jericho, Jesus invited himself to Zacchaeus' home and he "received him joyfully" ([Luke 19:6](#)) leading to his restoration to the family of God. Jesus declared "salvation has come to this house" ([Luke 19:9](#)). When the prodigal son returned home, his waiting father welcomed him with open arms and killed the fatted calf. He had to celebrate and share his joy with family and friends, showing acceptance, and restoring his son to the family and the whole community ([Luke 15:20-24](#)). There is joy when what was lost is found. *Give thanks for those already welcoming Jesus into their homes or turning back towards home. Pray for those who are waiting to be found, who are ready to open the door and meet with Jesus where they are. Pray for an awakening among those who have walked away who need to return, for the homecoming of the prodigals to the Father's House.*

A table of thanksgiving and fellowship.

Meals are a great way to reach out and connect with those outside our close circles. Eating together with Jesus was also a regular part of the life of the disciples as they travelled and ministered with Him. At times, we all need to draw aside for fellowship with Him and one another, and to worship and rest in His presence. Passover has been at the heart of Jewish faith and identity across the world for centuries. Before he died Jesus told his disciples he "had eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer" ([Luke 22:14](#)). It remains at the heart of the community of faith as followers of Jesus Christ. We can all draw together from whatever background and give thanks for His sacrifice and the great gift of salvation, the new life and covenant to which we are called for eternity. *As we give thanks again for this amazing privilege and the price paid, pray for all trying to keep their faith and hope alive, gathering at His table amidst persecution, fear or turmoil today.*

'Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts'

We lament over the cruelty and the loss of life in Israel and Gaza. The whole world, and Christians too, is divided over the role of Israel in these last days, as we hold the pages of the Bible up to the latest news. We seek peace, but not as the world gives ([John 14:27](#)). Paul instructs us: "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts" ([Colossians 3:15](#)). The word for 'rule' means 'referee'. As the one holding the whistle on the pitch has authority to send off players who have crossed the line, so the peace of Christ has authority to drive out the fear and anxiety that world events would instil in us. And given that peace, and the indwelling Word of Christ ([Colossians 3:16](#)), we seek the Lord for nations at war - for His will, in His way, in His time. *Pray for peace in our hearts and homes, on our streets and wherever there is strife.*

Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the children of God ([Matthew 5:9](#))

Upcoming events

25 November 2023, 9.00-10.30 PM

Online prayer for rural life and mission.

7 December 2023, 7.30-9.00 PM

Online prayer and sharing, continuing our theme of 'a movement of hope in the countryside'.

Login for both events:

Link: <https://web.zoom.us/join>

Meeting ID: 821 1671 9194

Passcode: 905289