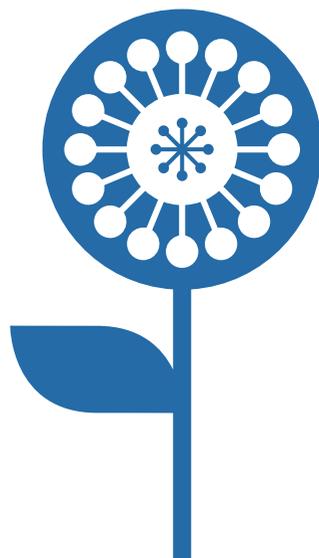


# MONTH OF PRAYER AND FASTING

30 JANUARY -  
26 FEBRUARY  
2017



WHO IS JESUS?

## INTRODUCTION

Mark's gospel starts with the pithy sentence, "The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God...". Our theme for this month of prayer and fasting is simply the question, "Who is Jesus?" In fact it is our main teaching theme for the year.

At a time when we are watching flawed leaders take control and power over our lives I am deeply moved by the prospect of examining instead the life and purpose of a leader who lived a perfect, flawless life and whose call to follow him fills us with both a high challenge and a boundless hope.

He shines a light to reveal our brokenness - but then sacrifices himself to bring redemption. He sees the problems in the world and the troubles in your life - and he draws not on anger or violence but on grace and the power of life over death.

Who is this Jesus? We will discover a wonderful man - who is also God who loves. A Saviour with power to rescue and a Healer of wounds who brings wholeness and reconciliation. A leader with authority and legitimacy who steers us into the brightness of a shining new eternal day.

We will reflect on who this Jesus is in four phases:

## EXISTENCE

John 1:1 starts by saying, "In the beginning was the Word ...". Jesus exists outside of time, He existed before the beginning and will exist forever.

## ENCOUNTER

But, as part of God's plan of salvation, we can encounter him as a man. In the flesh, just like you and me. His life is a matter of historical record. And just as men and women bleed, so did he.

## EXPERIENCE

Amazingly, we experience Jesus today through the presence of His Holy Spirit in our lives. The person we read about in the bible is made real today, in our lives.

## EXPECTATION

And our prayer is Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus. We wait with expectation for Jesus to return and inaugurate a new heaven and a new earth.

So, in the next month, I am inviting you to fast and pray for the whole month with the specific focus of exploring who Jesus is.

Each week day the Prayer Guide will provide you with a scripture, a reflection and a personal prayer. Each will open up a different facet of who Jesus is. At the weekend the Prayer Guide will give you a focus for outward prayer specific to Leeds Vineyard.

If you don't already write in a journal - this might be a good time to start. Just jot down your prayers and what you sense the Lord saying in reply. Make a note of decisions or questions or thoughts. If the Lord gives you a prophecy or a word of knowledge for the church or others, write it down. At the end of the month you can look back and see what He has been saying to you and through you.

In the **Notes For Joining In Prayer** there will be a range of suggestions for praying on your own and with others - it is a glorious thing to be able to reach out to the Lord alongside those who are on the same kingdom adventure as us, so please do join in if you can.

In **Notes For Joining In The Fast** you will find notes about Swap-your-Screen. You can find other guidance on fasting on the website: just search for "fast".

And then on Sunday 26 February we will give time to hearing from everyone about what the Lord has been saying to you.

David Flowers



## NOTES FOR JOINING IN PRAYER

Here are some ways you can join in prayer with everyone else this month. Keep an eye open for other opportunities to pray together too.

### 1. Swap-your-screen for time with God

Each day the Prayer Guide will provide you with a scripture, a reflection and a personal prayer. These will open up a different facet of who Jesus is. At the weekend the Prayer Guide will give you a focus for outward prayer specific to Leeds Vineyard. Start a journal and keep a note of what He says each day.

### 2. A (very) small group to keep in the loop

I'd like you to find one or two or three people whom you can keep in touch with and share what it is that the Lord is saying to you as you pray during this month – and also to pray for each other. You can do this over a telephone call or text or message. If you need a bit of help finding people please chat to a growth group leader.

### 3. The Power is there in Engine Room prayer

On each Sunday evening (29 January, 5, 12, 19 February) we will pray in the church offices. More details on the website. On a ship the forward propulsion comes from the engine room. It's not necessarily a very comfortable place but it releases power. In the same way, our prayer together directs, propels and powers us forward.

### Feedback

And then on Sunday 26 February we will share what the Lord has been doing in and amongst us as we prayed and fasted.

## NOTES FOR JOINING IN THE FAST

During our times of prayer and fasting we forego something which brings comfort. This time I am inviting you to "Swap-your-Screen". Of course, this may not apply to you or you may prefer to fast in a different way. That's fine. If you would like ideas or some explanations about fasting please go to the Prayer & Fasting section of the Teaching Series page of the website (under Resources).

### SWAP-YOUR-SCREEN

Most of us have times in the day when we look at a screen – TV, computer, smartphone or tablet. Maybe even a smartwatch.

- First thing when you wake up
- TV or phone whilst eating a meal
- Phone on the bus or in between meetings/classes
- TV in the evening when you get home from work
- Your tablet in bed before you go to sleep

These are times when you may be catching up on social media, listening to a podcast, checking emails and messages, watching a box set, playing a game. And none of that is necessarily bad. In fact, it's often good of course.

But whatever you're doing – what you're not doing is engaging with the present and in your own body. You are somewhere else, attending to someone or something else than that which is around you.

Sometimes we do this too much, without restraint, and in so doing exclude the presence of God from our "now" and from our body, from where we are. In mind and body we are almost on the other side of that shiny oblong.

So pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you a time and place when you can swap your screen – swap that regular time when you look at the phone or computer or tablet – swap it with time in conversation with Him. Turn off the device and use that spell to tell him about your life and your day, to hear him to speak to you, to message you!

You may find it useful to use the Prayer Guide each day. Please note, this is not instead of your regular devotional time, it is a Screen Swap – for a month!



## BREATH PRAYERS

Here are some ways you can join in prayer with everyone else this month. It's easy for our minds to wander when we are trying to pray. The breath prayer is a simple way of meditating on one of God's attributes and our response to it. It is usually said silently within. But some people sing it; others chant it. It's your prayer; use it your way. Simply repeat the prayer over and over keeping your attention on the prayer. If your attention wanders, gently return to the prayer.

Breathe in the first phrase/word and breathe out the second phrase/word. Find which prayer resonates with you and fits the heart of your needs. There's no limit really to developing your breath prayer. It may be the same from day to day or it may change. Here are some general suggestions.

- I am here...You are with me
- Lord...Have mercy
- The Lord is my shepherd...I shall not want
- You are good...Your love endures forever
- Jehovah Jireh...My Provider
- Keep me from wilful sins...May they not rule over me
- The Lord is my refuge...I will not be afraid
- Praise the Lord, O my soul...Forget not all His benefits
- The One who calls me is faithful...He will do it
- You are the same...yesterday, today and forever
- Nothing separates me...From the love of God
- My help comes from the Lord...Maker of heaven and earth
- When I am afraid...I will trust in you
- Not my will...But yours be done
- Your Kingdom come...Your will be done
- Come...Lord Jesus
- Come...Holy Spirit
- You are in control...I will trust in you
- You are...My hiding place
- It's Your breath...In our lungs

Or you can create your own for this month of prayer and fasting. Sit quietly for a while and think about one of the names or descriptions of Jesus. Ask him to draw your attention to one. And then ask him to reveal a short prayer response for you to use. For example: Jesus will return ... Maranatha, come Lord, come.



30 January

Jesus is known as: Son of God

### Scripture

Mark 1:1 *The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God.*

Mark 15:39 *And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, 'Surely this man was the Son of God!'*

### Reflection

Christianity starts and ends with Jesus as the Son of God. He is one of the three persons of the mysterious trinity creating what the early church fathers called perichoresis – the dance of love around each other. Not just a good man but God the Son, the Lord of lords and the King of kings.

### Prayer

I bow, I kneel, I humble myself before you Lord Jesus. I acknowledge that you are God, God of the universe, before time and after time, the Alpha & Omega, uncreated and holy. I declare you to be God of my life.

31 January

Jesus is known as: Son of God

### Scripture

Mark 1:9-11 *At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.'*

### Reflection

The Father loves the Son and declares it publicly – affirming and blessing Him. The intense intimacy is at once a little awkward to witness yet it is inspiring to get a glimpse into the love that is the defining characteristic of God. The love between Father, Son and Holy Spirit and which spills out, torrentially, upon us.

### Prayer

I stand in awe at the love you have revealed in who you are. Your love for me is great. Open my heart to receive your love. Teach me - I want to learn to love and to affirm like you do.

1 February

Jesus is known as: A human being

### Scripture

Mark 14:32-36 *They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I pray.' He began to be deeply distressed and troubled. 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,' he said.*

### Reflection

Jesus did not approach his execution with stoic detachment or a fighting fury but with fear, nausea and an agonising struggle with himself. He lived and died among us as a human being. He was hungry and thirsty, he bled like you and me, and when the cosmic horror of his death approached he staggered back at the prospect before him.

### Prayer

Thank you Jesus that you, the Holy One, were obedient through all the extremities of humanity and then finally accepted the pain, humiliation and brutal abandonment of the cross, for me, so that I could be forgiven. Thank you that you who had everything became nothing so that I who am nothing could have everything.

2 February

Jesus is known as: Ultimate authority

### Scripture

Mark 1:23-34 *The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, 'What is this? A new teaching – and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him.'*

### Reflection

Authority; some people just have it, a sort of charisma. Others are given it: a policeman or the Queen for example. I am sure Jesus has the charisma but in these verses people are recognising that he has been attributed authority from God. Jesus is able to heal the sick and cast out demons because he has authority over the natural and supernatural worlds.

### Prayer

Lord Jesus I recognise and gladly accept your authority over every area of my life. Help me to bow my knee to you in all things. You assigned your authority to us to go and do as you did. (Matthew 28:18). Fill me with your Spirit and grant me courage to live in your authority – speaking, healing, casting out demons in your name.

3 February

Jesus is known as: Bringer of the Kingdom of God

### Scripture

Mark 1:15 *After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 'The time has come,' he said. 'The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!'*

### Reflection

When we see evidence of the kingdom we know Jesus is near. When Jesus is near we encounter the kingdom. John was in prison but the kingdom had still come. It's not about our circumstances, it's about his presence. It's not how we feel, whether life is "good", but it is faith, repentance, forgiveness, new life, healing and freedom.

### Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one, for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever. Amen.

4 - 5 February

Please pray for: the people around you

There's space here to write down a list of three of your neighbours

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

your three closest non-Christian friends/family

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

and three people you see regularly – maybe at work or school

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Pray something like this:

*Lord Jesus, these are the people you have placed around me. I pray that they will experience your love and grace. Show me if there is something I could say or do, for one or more, to share and show the good news about you. And then make a note of what comes to mind as you pray.*

## NOTES

And then please pray for the Alpha Course (starts on Monday 6 February): *Lord Jesus bless this Alpha Course. Thank you for the leaders, grant them a sense of your presence as they plan, prepare and lead. May many people encounter you and decide to follow you.*

And finally, ask the Lord to show you whether there is anyone you could invite to Alpha – or to weekly worship (remember, it is the invitation that is important, not their response!)

6 February

Jesus is known as: Teacher

### Scripture

Mark 1:21-22 *They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law.*

### Reflection

Jesus doesn't recycle inane truisms from the internet, he doesn't quote the wise or poetic. Jesus teaches ex nihilo, from nothing. He is the starting point, the source of truth and meaning. He doesn't have to justify or reference any other authority. He's the man.

### Prayer

Teacher, thank you for your words, your certainty and for the way you speak into my heart and mind. I honour you and submit all my bright ideas, my wisdom and my thoughts to your cleansing, inspiring, elemental truth.

7 February

Jesus is known as: Messiah

### Scripture

Mark 8:27-30 *Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, 'Who do people say I am?' They replied, 'Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.' 'But what about you?' he asked. 'Who do you say I am?' Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah.'*

### Reflection

In the film the Matrix, Morpheus tries to persuade Neo that he is the One. The One they have been waiting for, the One who will lead the insurrection of enslaved humans against the machines. The Jews had been waiting for the long-prophesied Messiah to come and set them free – and it began to dawn on the disciples that Jesus is the One. Jesus didn't operate in bullet-time, he was from outside of time and he gave his life to set us free.

### Prayer

I need look no further, I need wait no longer. There is no one else under the sun who is worthy to carry the title "Messiah". Jesus, I choose to follow you, to lay my life down for you, to take the risks you put before me, make the sacrifices you ask of me and to acknowledge you as the One, the Lord of my life. You are the Messiah.

8 February

Jesus is known as: Son of man

### Scripture

Mark 8:31 *He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.*

### Reflection

Jesus did not match the disciples' expectations of what the Messiah should be like. He rarely matches our expectations either. He adopted the rather enigmatic title, "Son of Man" as a way of saying that He was fully human and yet he had a divine calling to bring about the Kingdom of God.

### Prayer

Lord Jesus, I am all too human and I am awestruck that you would voluntarily take on this humanity to cover the blinding glory of your divinity. As you are lifted up, draw me to yourself in redemption and resurrection life.

9 February

Jesus is known as: Lamb of God

### Scripture

Mark 14:12 *On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples asked him, 'Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?'*

### Reflection

The sacrifice of a lamb at the first Passover meant that the people of Israel were saved from judgement and set free from slavery. That first Passover pointed forward to The Lamb, Jesus, whose sacrifice would take away the sins of the world, save us from judgement and set us free.

### Prayer

I am not worthy of your love and forgiveness. But as I repent I choose to believe your promise of salvation and freedom and I thank you. May I live each day more and more aware of your sacrifice.

**Scripture**

Mark 8:31-32 *He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this...*

**Reflection**

A brutal mode of execution used by a brutal regime to punish dissidents and establish a distressing deterrent. And it really happened. An innocent man was falsely accused and convicted and tortured to death. More astounding still, He chose this pain of substituting himself in our place so that God's plan of salvation may come to pass.

**Prayer**

O Saviour, the cross looms across history to confront me with a choice – to reject your sacrifice or accept your life given for mine. I choose to bend on grateful knee, humbly acknowledging that it was my sin that took you to the cross. I repent and receive your forgiveness knowing that my hope rests on your grace alone.

Leeds Vineyard has always had a calling to serve children and young people. Since the Lord placed us in Headingley we have begun to serve students too.

Pray for these areas of ministry remembering:

(1) the staff (Anne Buchan & Liz Harden) and many volunteers who give time & energy & love to so many;

(2) the children & young people (and their families) who are growing up in a fast-changing world and in school environments which are often hostile to faith;

(3) the students who are learning to live away from home, learning to think for themselves, making significant relationships and big decisions. Thank the Lord for the gift of joy and life which the children, young people and students bring to our community. Ask the Lord to grant them the gift of his presence day by day and a real experience of his transforming power in their lives.

13 February

Jesus is known as: Holy One of God

### Scripture

Mark 1:23-24 *Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are – the Holy One of God!'*

### Reflection

Sometimes we are put to shame by others who seem to recognise who Jesus is most readily – especially those who are evil. Let us walk with heads held high and conviction on our words as we follow the Holy One of God in every part of our lives – looking for his kingdom every step of the way.

### Prayer

Holy One of God I want to know who you are more and more! I want it to be apparent that I serve and minister in your name. I want to see you in action: in me, through me and around me. Put me to your work.

14 February

Jesus is known as: More powerful than demons

### Scripture

Mark 9:14-29 *A man in the crowd answered, 'Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech ... When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the impure spirit. 'You deaf and mute spirit,' he said, 'I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.' The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out.*

### Reflection

Demons exist although they have a fun time convincing some people that they don't. But just as people may experience the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives (he is life-giving and good) they may also experience the influence of demonic spirits (they are destructive and evil). Jesus has no time for demons but he does have total power over them. He is much, much, much higher up the spiritual pecking order (he is at the top) and in his name demons must go.

### Prayer

Thank you for your total power over demons. I thank you that you love to fill me with your Spirit and protect me from the influence of the enemy. I worship you, claim you as Lord and thank you for your power in my life. More than just that, please use me to banish demons in your name – setting people free from illness and afflictions.

15 February

Jesus is known as: Leader

### Scripture

Mark 1:16-18 *As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will send you out to fish for people.' At once they left their nets and followed him.*

### Reflection

It's a compelling invitation, "follow me". But if we acknowledge him as leader are we willing to leave everything behind: our relationships, our career, our possessions, our ambitions, our plans? They dropped their nets. What would you find difficult to drop?

### Prayer

Lord, I am yours, and I must belong to no one but you. My soul is yours, and must live only by you. My will is yours, and must love only for you. I must love you as my first cause, since I am from you. I must love you as my end and rest, since I am for you. I must love you more than my own being, since my being subsists by you. I must love you more than myself, since I am all yours and all in you. Amen. St Francis de Sales (1567-1662)

16 February

Jesus is known as: Compassionate

### Scripture

Mark 8:1-10 *During those days another large crowd gathered. Since they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to him and said, 'I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat.'" (read the rest of the story!).*

### Reflection

Sympathy can come easily, we are sorry for someone. When we actually feel someone's pain we call it empathy. Some of us more than others! But until sympathy and empathy are injected with action we don't see compassion. Jesus is not distant but close and aware and he is love. He often looks at people and has compassion – and this means action. He took the ultimate action of sacrificing himself because of his compassion for us.

### Prayer

Oh Compassionate One, move me from sympathy or empathy into your compassion. Give me eyes to really see people and a heart that is moved by love to take action and make a difference. Give me your words to speak and your deeds to do. May I grow in faith to pray for healing and restoration and change in those around me.

**Scripture**

Mark 7:31-35 *After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spat and touched the man's tongue. He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, 'Ephphatha!' (which means 'Be opened!'). At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosed and he began to speak plainly.*

**Reflection**

Jesus sees our sickness and knows what we need. Sometimes he denies the crowd's demands and takes us to one side, on our own, then touches us to demonstrate "I'm here and I know what you are going through" and then heals us.

**Prayer**

Thank you that you see and understand me and my being. Thank you for your touch on my life. I come to you with \_\_\_\_\_ and seek your touch to set me free, to heal and restore me. May I see and hear and speak again.

In Jeremiah 29:7-8 God says to us, *"seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you ... pray for it because if it prospers so you too will prosper"*.

So we pray for Headingley and for those parts of Leeds in which we live and work - and for the whole of Leeds.

We acknowledge and pray for the Vision for Leeds: "We have set our Vision to be the best city in the UK. Not the richest or the biggest, but the best for all who live and work in Leeds - our children, our communities and our businesses." Our prayer is that:

- Leeds (and Headingley) will be fair, open and welcoming;
- Our economy will be prosperous and sustainable;
- All our communities will be successful.

20 February

Jesus is known as: Forgiver of sins

### Scripture

Mark 2:1-12 *A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. Some men came, bringing to him a paralysed man, carried by four of them. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralysed man, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.'* (read the rest of the story!).

### Reflection

No matter where I place the blame for my troubles, my deepest need is for forgiveness – not healing, money, romance or even food. Jesus sees the man's physical brokenness but starts by addressing his spiritual brokenness. Jesus' aim is always to restore us to himself by releasing us from the paralysis of sin.

### Prayer

Search me, O God, and know my heart. Test me and know my thoughts. Look to see if there is any wickedness within me, and lead me in your everlasting way. You know my folly, O God; there can be no hiding my wrongs from you. I have wandered astray like a lost sheep. Fashion a new and unblemished heart within me, O God; imbue me with a true and faithful spirit. Psalms 139:23,24;69:5;119:176;51:10.

21 February

Jesus is known as: The body and blood

### Scripture

Mark 14:22-25 *While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take it; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it. 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.'*

### Reflection

The reality and effectiveness of Jesus' death is brought home to us every time we share communion. We remember what he did yesterday and we receive his forgiveness today. We can come to him with our sin, shame and brokenness and as we eat bread and drink juice it enacts once again the sacrament of grace and mercy in our lives.

### Prayer

We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us.

22 February

Jesus is known as: Not of this world

### Scripture

Mark 9:2-8 *Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them ... Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: 'This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!'*

### Reflection

It is an awesome thing to behold the presence of God. We are not fit to see anything more than a glimmer of Jesus' true reality – for fear of withering up in his white-hot splendour. Our worship is but a tentative step from belief in him to experience of him. Although we always want more of Jesus, our worldly minds and bodies cannot conceive of the power and glory of Jesus' full identity.

### Prayer

Lord of the world beyond we harbour this "inconsolable secret" as we worship. At present we are on the outside of the world, the wrong side of the door but the rustle of rumours that it will not always be so invigorates our prayers and songs to you and silent awe of you. Grant us more of you as we worship.

23 February

Jesus is known as: The true Messiah

### Scripture

Mark 13:21-23 *At that time if anyone says to you, "Look, here is the Messiah!" or, "Look, there he is!" do not believe it. For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform signs and wonders to deceive ... so be on your guard.*

### Reflection

How do you know false truth from true truth? How do you know a false messiah from the true Messiah? We are warned to be on our guard because many will try and convince us that they are worth following. But it won't be difficult to tell – you'll know, everyone will know. The question is will we have given our allegiance to another?

### Prayer

We worship you and you only. We long for your return. Protect us from the enemy's designs to distract us with seductive celebrity, phoney prophets, empty messianic promises and the deception of riches. Grant me discernment to know what is false and dangerous. Keep me in the flow of your righteous river of life.

24 February

Jesus is known as: Returning One

### Scripture

Mark 13:26-27 *At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.*

### Reflection

The Son of Man will one day bring about the final cataclysmic events which will end the world as we know it and usher a new heaven and a new earth where He is King. Jesus tells us to look for the signs, to pray for His return and to be ready!

### Prayer

Lord Jesus it is too easy to live only in the preoccupations of the present. Prepare me, prepare us, may we be expectant and ready for your return. We pray with the early church, Maranatha, come Lord, come soon.

## NOTES

25 - 26 February

Please pray for: the Precious Pearl

Jesus told us these parables: 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. *'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.* (Matthew 13:44-46).

We believe we have found a great treasure in the heart of Headingley. A building which, if we were to buy and refurbish, would be an outstanding resource to our community and from which God will release a treasure of good things into the city. It will be costly to buy and to equip but is a pearl without price as we pursue our calling to win Headingley for the kingdom.

Pray:

firstly that you will know what and how you can give to this vision;

secondly that we will be successful in our negotiations to agree the purchase at the right price;

thirdly that the right person emerges as our Project Manager;

fourthly that the Lord would anoint the whole project with his blessing and give us wisdom as we enter into this endeavour.

leeds  **vineyard**