

December 2024

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to all men on whom his favour rests.”

Luke 2 14

Christmas Events

Thank you for praying for the Christmas events at our church. **Praise God** that many people have been able to hear the gospel and have taken tracts home with them. About 15 children came to the Christmas party and Erika, our church member, was able to share about the meaning of the nativity. **Praise God** that a handful of new people came to our Christmas music night. **Please pray** that God will continue to bring new people to hear the gospel through that ministry.

NZ team

Thank you for praying for the team of six short term missionaries from New Zealand who joined us to run a day of events on the 28th of November. **Praise God** for the ten or so who came to the cooking class in the morning with many returning in the evening for the NZ night. **Please pray** that God will continue to work through the gospel messages they heard. Our neighbour, Mrs Sugar, said she couldn't sleep that night because she was so interested to hear about another culture. **Please pray** that God will use this interest to draw her to Christ.

Baptisms

Praise God that yesterday (22nd of December) two of our Sunday School boys were baptised. Praise God for the encouraging time we've had together preparing for this day. **Please pray** that they will be committed to reading God's work and following Him and that nothing will lead them away from Jesus. **Praise God** for the good time of fellowship we had in the afternoon at our Christmas Party.

“Please tell me what this means”

Mr Wingfield came to the church some time ago because he'd received a Bible verse from a Christian customer and was asking what it meant. Since then, he has been to our worship service a few times but less so recently. Last week, he returned to ask more questions about the Bible. **Praise God** that he is now open to doing one-on-one bible study. **Please pray** that God will answer his questions and lead him to believe in Jesus.

A Mystery Visitor

For a couple of months now, we're had a middle aged man attending our worship services who quickly goes home at the end before we have chance to speak to him. **Please pray** that he will understand what he's hearing and believe in Jesus.

Can I really be a Christian if I sin?

M rang the church just over a month ago to ask to bible study. She has made friends with a local Christian and hoped to get more answers about the bible through bible study in church. **Praise God** that Yuzuki has been able to meet with her five times now. She struggles with questions about sin and what it means to be a Christian. **Please pray** for firm faith for her and for her to regularly join fellowship.

American Short Term Team

Praise God for the YWAM team from the US (8 adults and one child) that will be staying with us from the 13th of January for three weeks. We are planning events with Minecraft, English, craft and cooking as well as using the opportunity to deliver lots of flyers. **Please pray** for good planning for this team, for effective ministry and for good fellowship.

Holiday

We are **thankful** to have Grace visiting from the UK at the moment during her university winter holidays. From the 28th of December, we will spend a few days in Tokyo before Grace goes back to Southampton. **Please pray** for a good rest after a busy Christmas.

Changes in the new year.

New year is very important in Japan and people take time to “forget the old year” and to look forward to the new year. For us as a staff team, the new year will bring change. Please pray for guidance to a

**The Gelsthorpes – working for OMF leading a church plant in rural, northern Japan.
mark.gelsthorpe@omfmail.com sarah.gelsthorpe@omfmail.com**

December 2024

**“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to all men on whom his favour rests.”
Luke 2 14**

new ministry for Yuzuki as she will leave in March. We are then hoping to get a couple and a single lady short term to live in the church from April. **Please pray** that God will provide the right people and give them fruitful ministry.

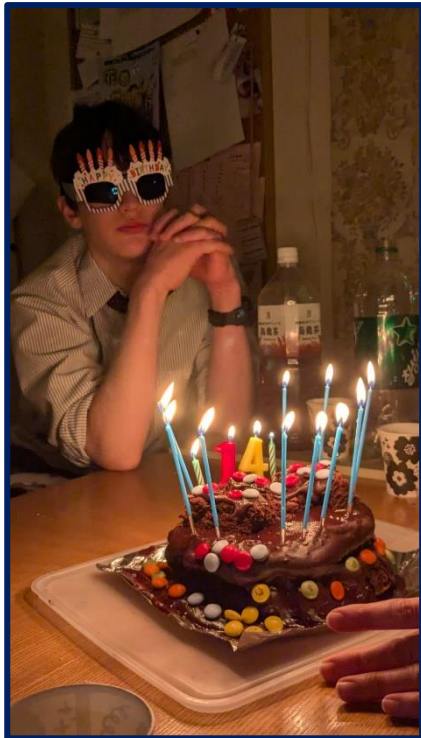
If all goes to plan, Isaac will finish his A-Levels in the summer of next year and then begin a Gap Year. Thank you to all those who've been thinking about possibilities for this time. Please pray that God will provide a good year for Isaac before he goes to university.

Prayer Letter Mailer Needed

Some of our prayer supporters need to receive the prayer later in the post. Would you be willing to print it out and send it to them please? If so, please get in touch.

Thank you for praying for us, please let us know how we can pray for you.

With love from Mark, Sarah, Grace, Isaac and Caleb



Christmas Café
Craft



Baptism



Candlelit Service

**The Gelsthorpes – working for OMF leading a church plant in rural, northern Japan.
mark.gelsthorpe@omfmail.com sarah.gelsthorpe@omfmail.com**