

Littlehampton Churches Together

Praise and Prayer

February 2021

From Schools:

- for some coming back to school over the next few weeks will be a joy for others fear will take over. **Pray** for the staff who encourage and support all students making sure no one gets left behind.
- **help** the pastoral staff to support the many more who are grieving the loss of family. May the chapel become for them a real place of healing and peace.
- **help** the tutors re-establish relationships quickly giving space for listening and laughing as well as learning.
- **guide** Senior Leadership Team as they plan for what comes next and the many challenges they will face.
- **help** all understand that if this virus has shown us anything it's that we are all connected, all life is precious and to make the most of each day we are given.

Give thanks for:

- our wonderful children, families and staff who have continued to engage in learning whether at home or school. This has been challenging at times but the community has reached out to each other and supported one another to do their very best.
- for the numerous charities who have helped us support families with food banks.
- for more daylight and the signs of spring.

Pray for:

- that the community still finds strength and support in each other as schools open fully and we all readjust to a new normal again.

Give thanks for:

- the scientists who have developed the vaccines so quickly which in turn enables freedom for many as it rolls out.

Pray for:

- a successful school return for all children.
- those who are keen to return but also those who have anxieties.

Give thanks for:

- *that we have, so far, not had a case of COVID in school (we have a number of vulnerable members of staff, so that is really fantastic!)*
- *we have continued to benefit from some of the things that we have had done to our school building and grounds over the past few years that have made us a bit more resilient in the current climate e.g. our track around the field, has meant more usable outside space in the wintertime*
- *an amazing school community and wider community - governors who have been really supportive and staff who are willing and wanting to do the best for our children*

Pray for:

- *continued protection against the virus and that our families, children and staff would remain well*
- *that all of our children will return to school and settle quickly into school routines*
- *our staff have patience, wisdom and energy to meet the needs of the children as they return to school*
- *this is the last time school will need to close to most pupils again and*

- that the vaccination programme and other measures are a success*
- *some of our families are going to really struggle financially and emotionally with the continued restrictions, especially those who are self-employed, so for strength, courage and resilience etc for them*
 - *for the government and local authority to be realistic in terms of their expectations and demands on schools to 'catch up' children to where they need to be*

The HT of the above school also wrote:

Sadly, two members of staff have lost parents this term - and the current restrictions have made this really difficult for them to spend time with their families and grieve. I think this lockdown has been much harder for parents to cope with because of the previous lockdowns and because of the weather and the time of the year.

A Prayer from a Headteacher:

Dear Jesus, you who promise to be with our children always, I pray that you would be with all the children in Arundel, Littlehampton, Rustington, Clymping as they go back to school in March.

Bless the goings and the comings. Bless children's learning and playing.

Please protect the children's heart from fear.

Please keep them safe.

Please allow them to have good friends.

Give them joy this day and every day, and thank you for loving them from head to toe.

In your name. Amen.

From Turning Tides:

Pray for:

- the men and women who are experiencing homelessness or in danger of losing their homes - keep them safe.
- for those who lack food, work and shelter and for those who give support to vulnerable people at this time
- for an end to the Coronavirus pandemic and give thanks for vaccines and the huge effort to vaccinate our Community
- as home schooling continues, we pray for resilience, patience and understanding
- for strength and courage for people facing challenging times
- as we enter Lent, we pray for people reviewing their lives, renewing commitments and focusing on charity and good works.

From HMP Ford:

Pray for:

- for the Chaplains and Christian staff as they bring Christ's comfort and love to the locked down.
- that services and Christian groups will restart soon.
- the Christian men to shine out to others and minister to many.
- for new Lead chaplain Andy Kerr as he gets his ministry established.

From Town Chaplains:

Chaplains have been meeting on Zoom each Friday 10am to chat and pray as we are unable to go into the High Street due to government restrictions. This will continue throughout February. This will be reviewed at the end of February when we should know if it is feasible to be back on the streets from March.

- Please continue to pray for unity amongst the chaplains, the businesses in the town, the homeless, local shop keepers, local councillors and any other topics the Lord gives you to pray.

From Arun Angels:

The team haven't been out on a Friday evening since the latest lockdown started.

We are meeting through Zoom to pray together and catch up with each other. Keep praying for wisdom as to when we can be out on the streets again.

From Churches:

Give thanks for:

- our 2nd online Holiday Club during half-term went well with a mix of church and community families
- online Alpha and Alpha follow-up continue to see God at work, generating some great community and seeing people make steps of faith
- despite the challenges, we've had some answers to prayer and people growing in faith and sharing God's love with others

Pray for:

- as for everyone, a lot of people are finding it very hard at the moment for all sorts of reasons
- for wisdom to know how and when to gather in greater numbers again

Give thanks for:

- For new families connecting with our online content.
- monthly Parents & Kids (up to 10-year-olds) resource pack that reached 80 local families.
- the 145 people still attending the online Alpha course! We have three weeks left of the current course.

Pray for:

- families moving to the area and engaging with the church
- the last three weeks of our current Alpha course. Please pray that we can continue building relationships with attendees after the course has finished.
- our online Easter plans. We are producing some videos and we would love to be able to do this outside so please pray for good weather!

Give thanks for:

- *sacrificial giving and the Lord's blessing which is enabling our Church finances to stay healthy, and pray the same for ALL churches, particularly those who have to pay rent even while they are unable to meet.*
- *the amazing vaccine rollout; for the scientists who made it possible; for the Government's foresight in enabling it to happen; the huge numbers of volunteers giving up their time to make the programme run smoothly and the good numbers of those accepting the job, bringing the numbers of cases and deaths down markedly.*

Pray for:

- *those unable to receive our online YouTube services will not feel separate or left out. We pray that the Lord will show us if there is anything else we can do to include them.*
- *the Lord to guide the Leadership team as to when to re-open the Church.*
- *LBC who are spending Lent praying around the United Kingdom for it to be brought into God's Kingdom, county by county. We have the days of Lent on a calendar with all the counties listed, day by day and county by county. We can make this calendar available to anyone who would like to join us in bringing our country to God, county by county.
Apply to contact@revmartin.com.*
- *those who are lonely, anxious, living with abusers, or losing confidence in their own abilities because of shielding for so long.*
- *that problems with supplies caused by Brexit will be sorted out; that supplies to shops will continue and that the elderly and disabled will be able to continue receiving deliveries.*
- *the homeless especially in this cold weather and ask for special help for those seeking to help them. Particularly we pray that they may be protected from covid-19.
"He will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge." Psalm 91.4*
- *AGAINST the misinformation regarding the vaccines which are widespread on social media, causing distress and doubt to many who really need the job.*

- *guidance for the churches as they try to plan for Easter at this uncertain time.*

Give thanks for:

- *the courage, skill and tireless service of NHS staff caring for those with Covid. Please sustain their mental and physical health and of all those who have been affected by the strain and stress of the pandemic.*
- *a "roadmap" out of the worst of this lockdown.*
- *the effective vaccines now being given.*
- *the hope of meeting family and friends more in the months to come.*
- *all the pastoral work that has continued throughout the lockdown.*
- *protecting those who have been able to meet Sunday by Sunday in church.*
- *the increasing ministry of your word and worship services enabled by the Internet and social media.*
- *all the volunteers that help and all those who support the work financially.*
- *all our children and young people.*

Pray for:

- *that as churches we will know how best to help reach those who are in need.*
- *the real possibility of safe Easter services in our churches and all the blessings of worshipping you together again.*
- *comfort for all those who mourn in this town and across the nation.*
- *healing and peace for all those in our fellowships who are lonely,*

unwell, and recovering from operations.

- *all our church leaders and ministers during this long and difficult time with many churches closed and with the pressures of providing online services, and all the limitations of not being able to meet people socially.*
- *that many across our town and nation will come to know you as their Lord and Saviour.*
- *the poor in our community and the work of CAP, Turning Tides and the Foodbank.*
- *that the children and young people will receive all the support and help they need to continue their education and fulfil their aspirations.*
- *all our teachers and school communities. Lord give them your wisdom and strength to deal with all the arrangements for a return of the children to school in March.*

Father, we give thanks and pray for all those who work in and for our communities. Help them to know how much they are appreciated.

Bless them in their work and keep them and their families safe.

Amen.

