

Littlehampton Churches Together

PRAISE AND PRAYER

November 2020

From Schools:

Give thanks for ...

- an amazing staff team, who are all working really hard to support all of our children
- parents are 100% behind the school at the moment and we are managing to find ways to do things in school that are helping to keep our community identity and spirit up and support the children and their families.
- our children are generally happy with things we are putting in place to help them so, we have started Forest Schools this year, instead of trips off site. Children are happy to wear their PE kits to school and we have non uniform almost every Friday
- this week it is Children in Need and we are doing a relay of laps around our school field to raise money.
- importantly, so far, we have had no confirmed cases of Covid in staff or pupils! Long may it continue!
- *Give thanks for the birth of a baby girl to a local Headteacher*
- *Give thanks for the birth of a baby girl to a Higher Teaching and Learning Assistant*
- PRAY for 3 teachers who are going on maternity leave at the end of term

PRAY for schools coming up to Christmas

- we are trying hard to provide the children with as much 'Christmas fun' in December as, due to Covid, things will be so much harder.

- pray for the staff during this challenging time as they have all been so positive (as always) in their work for our children.
- We have about four pupils that are causing us a huge problem at the moment and taking up an enormous amount of time.
- safeguarding is taking up a significant amount of time (the police have been involved with one pupil on two occasions) and I have excluded another pupil for trying to climb the fences after repeated warnings not to (both pupils are 6-7 year olds).
- trying to get strategic work done or think beyond the here and now is challenging, impossible, just not happening. I put a post out to other headteachers on Facebook and I had 47 comments from headteachers agreeing that they are only managing the day to day operational things not the strategic.

From Churches - Give thanks for:

- *enthusiasm of participants in ongoing Alpha - moving to Zoom now.*
- *continuing good contacts between the Church family during lockdowns.*
- *all the people who are doing their best to reduce infection by wearing masks etc.*
- good contacts with our local community through Remembrance Sunday, a new soup kitchen and the joint 'Cook' food deliveries
- time to meet in person some of those we've connected with online this year

- a great alpha with four people near to, or at the point of, coming to faith in Jesus
- faithful consecutive Bible teaching which strengthens and challenges and the joy of faith in Jesus.
- faithful fellowship which comforts and encourages us all.
- the privilege of prayer to our Father God who listens and answers.
- commitment to Christ and His church by all believers who trust that in all things God works for the good of those that love Him.

PRAY for:

- members of the Church family who are facing difficult times and big changes in their lives: that they will know the presence of God and the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- guidance as the Leadership team try to think ahead to the Christmas season.
- that the minority of non-compliant people who are putting themselves and others at risk will be given wisdom and change their attitudes.
- more people to volunteer as Town Centre Chaplains, to replace those that have had to leave.
- protection for all public service workers.
- a safe and effective vaccine
- for wisdom and creativity to find ways of sharing the true meaning of Christmas and God's love this year - that will likely mean online Carol services, Christingles/Family services, and plans for an online Christmas Holiday Club.
- for those in our church and community for whom even a lighter lockdown threatens loneliness, worries and isolation - wisdom to make sure everyone feels valued and included
- those who have recently lost a loved one.
- those who suffer loneliness, anxiety and pain.
- the Christmas outreach and sharing of Gods love with leaflets, cards and service details to the local community.
- to be able to hold Christmas services together again.
- our Pastors, Vicars and Church leaders to have the energy and joy from the Lord to minister over this busy time of year.

From HMP Ford:

- Tony Oering has retired, and a new lead chaplain appointed but not announced yet. Great praise for this as he looks like an excellent choice. Pray for the other chaplains - Dominic (RC) and Andy (Free Church) - as they facilitate this.
- Alpha Course: Going well with 3 groups of 8 men. Sunday afternoons for the rest of November with double bill Holy Spirit Day on 22.11.20. Members of the Prison Fellowship (PF) helping with this.
- Alpha Plus: A group of 8 - 10 men who finished the Alpha course and wanted something more. Facilitated by James Baron (Lyminster Church) and Andy. Held on Wednesday evenings. Looking deeper into Alpha themes.
- Sunday Services: No visiting teams allowed in at present because of Covid 19 restrictions. Dominic runs a catholic service in the chapel.
- Prison General: Pray for the Governor (Andy Davy) to be open to effective gospel ministry, and for all the staff there.
- Angel Tree: Christmas gifts for children of inmates underway. Pray for blessing to flow from this.
- Letter writing: Several PF members are writing to inmates.
- Ford Forward: A chaplaincy-based project aimed to ensure all men released have a roof over their heads, a job to go to and, if Christian, a church connection. Tony Oering set this up and will continue to oversee it. Dave Green (All Saints) involved in this.