

Littlehampton Churches Together

Praise and Prayer

May 2021

From a local school:

Dear Father,

We thank you that you love us and care about every part of our lives.

We thank you that you are with us in every situation and wherever we are.

We ask you will be with our pupils and families and all the Littlehampton family group of schools during this time of uncertainty. We ask you to bring peace and calm to each classroom and office.

We ask you to be with the teachers, as they prepare their lessons for children in front of them this summer term.

We ask you that children will have peace as they return to, hopefully, more normality, and that they have fun being with their friends as they learn.

We ask for your healing power to be with the members of staff in the Littlehampton community, children and their families who are ill, that they may make a speedy recovery.

We ask that you will give wisdom to our Littlehampton, Arundel, Clymping, Lyminster and Rustington headteachers and senior leaders as they make decisions for their schools.

We thank you for our Governors and the work they do to provide support for our Headteachers and schools.

We pray you will give them wisdom as they seek to find creative ways of supporting the school during this time.

We thank you that we can ask all these things of you.

In Jesus Name,

Amen

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. **John 14:27**

From Turning Tides:

Sadly, for the first time ever there are an estimated 1,000 people, including families, living in temporary emergency accommodation across the county. Unless they are supported into proper housing and crucially given support to rebuild their lives, it is only a matter of time before many find themselves on our streets.

"Every time I see another store close in town, I know the knock-on effect that will have on local livelihoods and I worry what this increase in demand will have on our services." says Claire, one of the keyworkers in our Community Hub

Give thanks ...

- for the opportunities and benefits available to clients via group work and digital inclusion

Pray for ...

- support of our new launched Homelessness Crisis Appeal
- for all members of our community involved with mental health related issues
- for open hearts to embrace living our values of respect and tolerance
- for a move on opportunities to help ease a steady flow of clients throughout our services
- for everyone who is tackling things outside their comfort zone or dealing with awkward situations

From Town Chaplaincy:

Give thanks ...

- that the Chaplains are out on the streets each Friday morning and afternoon
- that they are able to have meaningful conversations with the market stall holders and punters

Pray for ...

- safety and good health for the Chaplains
- that conversations about Jesus will be blessed

From Arun Angels:

The team will restart their patrols on Friday evenings once a fortnight from 7th May.

Pray for ...

- *safety*
- *good conversations with people in the community*
- *friendship and fellowship across the team*

Please pray for our Chaplains and Arun Angels as they begin to engage with the Public and the local community with relevance, hope and care, to help to build up confidence in mingling and talking and being friendly and not disengaged.

From Churches:

Praise

- for the impact of the various Easter Services.

Prayer

- for the preparation for in-person meetings.
- for groups starting back with reduced numbers.
- for Alpha attendees and the course leaders.
- for the teams currently going over and above keeping everything ticking over.

Prayer for...

- *India and for all nations that are suffering the effects of the pandemic - where there is no medicine, no hospitals, no doctors, no oxygen. We pray that we may respond in love, sharing the good things God has given to us.*
- *nations suffering the effects of natural disasters. We remember particularly the people of St Vincent who have lost all. We pray that they may be strengthened in love and hope.*
- *our local community: that we may grow in compassion, tolerance and love for each other; and always be aware of each other's need.*
- *all who work in nursing and healing: that, in all the pain and weakness they encounter, they can continue to work with good humour and a sense of fulfilment.*
- *front line services personnel: that the redeeming love, protection, and care of Jesus may keep them safe and well to carry out their work of protection.*
- *the children in our own country who lack the care, support and guidance they need. We ask that they be kept safe from violence, involvement in crime and the pitfalls of social media.*
- *our families, especially those separated from their loved ones: that they may know God's presence with them.*

- *those in mental, physical or spiritual distress: that they may recognise in their suffering a sharing in Christ's Passion, and so share in his rising.*
- *those grieving for loved ones whose earthly life has ended. May God enfold them in His love and reveal His presence to them.*

Pray for...

- as we prepare a CAR PARK service for Pentecost and a return to In-Person Church on Trinity Sunday 30th May.
- LBC as we begin a week of Prayer and Fasting between the 17th-21st May.
- Ministers, Vicars and Pastors who are currently finding the dynamic of masks, no singing and no personal contact difficult to measure responses to messages and the usual fellowship dynamic.
- for those who have been isolated, alone and lonely as courage and boldness can take time to build and become part of their every waking day, once more.

Praise God...

"What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer."

- for this wonderful access to the very throne of heaven that we have through our Lord Jesus.
- that he hears and answers when we ask him to help and heal and comfort those in difficulty or distress.
- for helping those who have been ill or in hospital and are now recovering.
- for the very low infection rate and the lifting of some restrictions to be able to meet family and friends again outside.
- for some new people attending Sunday services.

Pray for...

- for two older men who have recently had surgery and are recovering.
- for the family of a dear brother who died recently of cancer after a number of years of pain and difficulty. His funeral is in church on Friday.
- for the encouragement and well-being of those who have yet to venture out much and are still quite lonely.
- for those in India who are suffering so much. Pray for an end to the terrible pandemic there. For Drs and Nurses in India's health service. For oxygen supplies and equipment to arrive quickly.

Praise ...

- seeing a range of people returning to in-person services as well as continuing to access online
- welcoming new Christians and enquirers into online and in-person groups and services
- honest and helpful responses to our church-wide survey of how people are doing and their thoughts for the future
- continuing good numbers at Lyminster 11am service

Pray for...

- wisdom on how to gradually help people get used to in-person fellowship again
- those who will be more cautious to not feel left out
- faith to see opportunities for mission amongst all people in Wick
- for families to return after a long break.

Pray...

- *for our Teachers and Educators who must deal with students who need to find a way to re-establish contact, learning and friendships back into an enforced*

“Other” routine which now needs to be replaced with one “OTHER” routine. Lord invest in our youth a resilience which any other generation in recent years have not needed to find.

- Father God, as we approach Pentecost, may we all use the time to reset our Spiritual Compass, to know your will in whatever the “NEW NORMAL” holds for Your Church, Your Bride, here in Littlehampton and across the UK and wider. Let us set our sails for the winds of Ruach to blow us in His direction.*
- against the evil of scams on the vulnerable by those who are just up to mischief. Scams by cold calling at front doors and telephones. Please give us all the wisdom to be gentle in our firmness and if it be Your will and the Holy Spirit resources us, to turn matters around so as to encourage those up to mischief to recognise their sin and make them think of a better way to behave, starting straight away.*
- Dear Lord, please protect the relationship between the churches, church leaders and Christians here in Littlehampton. Please continue to bless our local press who give your church room to write and give glory to Your Name. AMEN*

