

May Dartford Prosper

August 2020

Praying for the Town, the Community and the Church

Welcome to the sixth special 'May Dartford Prosper', praying particularly for our town and nation in the light of the Covid-19 outbreak. For more details on any of these items, if there's anything you'd like included or if you wish to receive this electronically, please contact pooleyiz@hotmail.com

*See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. Is 43.19*

Our Neighbourhoods

Pray for those who live around you, (the two households either side of you and five opposite).

Please pray for each household, remembering especially:

- relationships and family life
- children and young people
- elderly people
- those at school and work and those who have no work
- physical and mental well-being and protection from Covid-19
- that we will have opportunities to be witnesses for Jesus by our words and actions

and that we will be a blessing to our neighbours by having:

- good relations with them
- sensitivity to their needs

Pray too for awareness of harmful activities, for example domestic abuse, gang culture, human trafficking and terrorism, and for safety on our streets.

Since the relaxation of the lockdown at the beginning of July pubs, restaurants, cafes, hairdressers and cinemas, among others, have started to open. Face masks must now be worn in enclosed spaces and spikes of increased Covid infection have been seen in several parts of the country resulting in local lockdowns. Schools and nurseries are due to reopen fully at the start of September. Church buildings can now open, but many have remained closed and continue to hold services online.

Pray

- For the safety of everyone in our area and that we will not see a spike in infection rates as lockdown restrictions are eased further.
- For businesses as they resume trading, especially for those who are facing an uncertain future. Pray that Dartford will prosper.
- For businesses that have not been able to reopen; for those facing redundancy or possible bankruptcy.
- For Bluewater, this area's largest employer; that there will be confidence here and in the High Street that it is safe to visit again.
- For continuing wisdom for the Prime Minister, Government and key advisors as they continue to balance the health of the nation with the need to safeguard the economy. Pray also for our MP Gareth Johnson.

Results of a large-scale survey recently published in the medical journal The Lancet show that by late April 2020 mental health in the UK had deteriorated compared with pre-Covid-19 trends. The study highlights in particular the needs of women, young people, and those with preschool aged children: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpsy/article/PIIS2215-0366\(20\)30308-4/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpsy/article/PIIS2215-0366(20)30308-4/fulltext)

Health providers, local authorities and emergency services across Kent and Medway have just launched a new mental wellbeing support hub providing information for people experiencing bereavement and loss, debt and financial difficulties, and for families needing extra support:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/health/coronavirus/looking-after-your-mental-health-and-wellbeing>



Pray

- For people whose mental health has been affected by Covid-19; those suffering from increased levels of anxiety due to the virus itself, loneliness, bereavement or the economic effects of the lockdown.
- Especially for families with young children and for young people who are facing an uncertain future. Pray for children who will be starting or going back to school in September, many of whom have been away for six months.
- For people struggling with overwhelming hopelessness and suicidal thoughts.
- That the newly-launched mental wellbeing initiative in Kent and Medway will be well-used.
- For those (particularly older people) who are not able to access online help or support.
- For people who have been shielding since lockdown began but who are now able to go back to work, visit the shops etc; many of whom may be feeling anxious and vulnerable. (Government guidelines for shielding finished on July 31st)
- For agencies working with those whose mental health has been affected by Covid; for the NHS, KCC, Dartford Council, local charities, churches, volunteer groups and others. Pray for continuing

community support for those who are struggling to cope.

Plans for next year's winter shelter look like being very different to previous ones; social distancing requirements are likely to mean that shared sleeping and washing spaces at multiple sites throughout the week are not going to prove practical.

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Pray

- Giving thanks that former guests from the Shelter are still being supported financially by the Council.
- Give thanks too that there are sufficient funds to employ Steve Ives, the Project Worker until the autumn. Pray for further provision when needed.
- For wisdom for Michael Smith the Project Administrator and the Steering Group and for additional help and support here in the coming months.



Although churches are now allowed to open their buildings, social distancing requirements mean that many are continuing to meet online. One of the main casualties has been worship, but God is doing something new- things will never go back to how they were!

A declaration for the Church and the nation

We decree throughout these next months, the sound of the worship of Jesus will be heard across this land as individuals, families and groups worship from heart and desire, even when unaided or supported by the flow of others. We declare in this atmosphere of worship, fresh joy and fresh strength will be released.

Lord we thank You for the transformational power of the wilderness to shape, to train and to anoint. We acknowledge You have been dealing with our pride, our independence, and the desire for position and title, but now You are calling Your people to experience and walk in a fresh revelation of Your Majesty, Power, and Covenant Love. We declare fresh joy and fruitfulness will both break out and become established in our lives, that in the British Isles, men and women will walk in the purpose and destiny written within them.

We praise You for those who will pray, for those who will lead, and for the fresh mantles being released at this time. and we speak the release of every ministry into their God-appointed place and position.

God is opening doors of great opportunity and in the Name of Jesus, we declare His grace, hope and mercy will position His people in the fullness of their call and we decree His people will recognise, overcome and go through the doors He has opened before them.

As Lockdown eases and the new normality emerges, we continue to declare a spirit of peace (prosperity, safety and well-being) will rest upon the cities, towns and streets of this nation. We agree great wisdom will rest upon our Parliament, upon the Cabinet, the MPs, Civil Servants and all Advisors, that every decision made will bring perfect alignment with God's Kingdom purpose for this land.

Written by Suzanne Ferrett of Passion for the Nation, 16 July 2020 <https://passionforthenation.uk>

