

May Dartford Prosper

November 2020

Praying for the Town, the Community and the Church

Welcome to an extended '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 pooleyliz@hotmail.com

Rejoice at all times. Pray without ceasing. 1 Thes 5.16-17

But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds."

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. James 2.18

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.

As from yesterday, the whole of England entered a 28-day lockdown in an attempt to stem the increasing rate of Covid transmission which will put enormous pressure on the NHS over the winter. While many aspects are similar to the first lockdown in March, nurseries, schools and universities will remain open. The circumstances this time, however are very different; we are approaching winter with colder weather and shorter days. The pandemic has brought a deterioration in mental health for some and many have been hit hard economically, especially those who are in the poorer- paid sectors.

Pray

- That the new lockdown will be effective in substantially reducing transmission rates, and that everyone will follow the new rules.

- For NHS staff and care workers and all those whose jobs put them in contact with young people or members of the public.
- For those who will suffer economically from the closure of shops and businesses.
- For the Prime Minister and Government, for God-given wisdom in balancing the need to reduce infection rates with the nation's economic and mental well-being.
- For those for whom home is not a safe place, especially during lockdown.
- For churches who will again start to meet online, and for individuals who are not able to do this.
- That non-believers will continue to engage with online Christian services and other content, and for increasingly creative ways to share the gospel.

Some facts about the polarising financial effect of the pandemic in the UK during the initial lockdown:

. Those able to work from home and earn a full wage during lockdown reported an increase in the amount they had been able to save.

. Low-paid workers were far more likely to be furloughed than the rest of the workforce, and far less likely to have their pay topped up by their employers. Two million workers were pushed below the legal National Living Wage in April.

. Low income households were twice as likely as richer ones to have increased their debts during the crisis.

. According to a YouGov poll, of those who consider themselves financially distressed, 37% say they've eaten less than normal, and 31% have reduced the number of showers or baths they're taking.



<https://capuk.org/connect/keep-up-to-date/blog/how-a-pandemic-changed-the-landscape-of-debt>
<https://yougov.co.uk/topics/finance/articles-reports/2020/07/10/covid-19-and-changing-financial-services-landscape>
<https://www.resolutionfoundation.org/press-releases>

Pray

- For those suffering economically from the effect of lockdown in this area.
- Give thanks that the furlough scheme has been extended until the end of March.
- That as Christians we will be aware of those suffering financial hardship who live around us.
- For the Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Debt Centre in Dartford, giving thanks that appointments have been able to continue online throughout the pandemic. Pray for the Debt Centre to work more effectively with other agencies and for Debt Coaches Karen and Peter as they deliver the service to those in need.
- For clear communication and client understanding, and for the CAP volunteer befriender team who seek to provide emotional support to clients.
- For the budgeting courses to be run jointly by Dartford Community Church and Christchurch in November and January. To sign up contact capmoneydartford@gmail.com
- For foodbanks in this area, giving thanks for the generous financial and other support given by Dartford Council. Pray that each foodbank will always have enough to meet the needs of those who come each week.

For your diary...

Sunday 8 November 7-8pm: Service of Prayer and Remembrance Join pastors and leaders from across Britain on Revelation TV Sky 581 or eurovision.org.uk

Intercessions led by Colin Urquhart, Ian Cole, Clifford Hill, Jonathan Oloyede, James Aladiran, Preethy Kurian, Matt Timms, Yemi Balogun, Dennis Greenidge and David Hathaway. Worship by Vinesong, Huw Priday, Worldwide Mission Fellowship and Rebecca Aladiran. <https://www.eurovision.org.uk/>

Prayer for the Nation in November. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York and a number of senior church leaders are inviting Christians across the nation to participate in a month of prayer launched on Thursday 5 November at the beginning of the second lockdown in England. Go to <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/stories/prayerforthenation> for more details. #PrayerfortheNation

Friday 13 November: UK Day of Prayer called by the Evangelical Alliance. Go https://www.eauk.org/what-we-do/prayer-centre/uk-day-of-prayer-november-13th-2020?utm_source=Evangelical+Alliance&utm_campaign=559cd1284f-HEADLINES_5_NOVEMBER_2020_COPY&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_9c7f3b9355-559cd1284f-302265809&mc_cid=559cd1284f&mc_eid=15f7300992

Due to Covid restrictions, the multi-venue pattern for the Winter Shelter cannot take place. Dartford Council has however secured Government funding to block-book between 8 and 12 bedrooms in guesthouses in the Dartford area from the beginning of December until the end of March. Once the venues are confirmed, the Council Housing team will delegate the management and supervision of the bed spaces to the Dartford Churches Winter Shelter project. Volunteers will be needed to provide an evening meal at each guesthouse.

Pray

- Giving thanks for Dartford Council securing funding to run a Shelter for four months this winter and for the very good working relationship between the Churches in Dartford and the Council. Give thanks too that funding is also being provided, via the Council, to ensure the Shelter project coordinator Steve Ives remains in post until at least March 2021.
- For suitable local accommodation to be finalised and for the practicalities of setting up a shelter, including meals, within the Covid guidelines.
- For volunteers to come forward to provide meals each evening.
- For the guests that will come, and that no one will need to sleep rough in Dartford during this winter.
- For the Shelter steering group as it prepares for its opening at the start of next month.



Saturday 14 November 12 - 4pm: Prayer Storm the Gathering Four hours of worship, prayer and fasting for the UK. Join via Facebook page, Prayer Storm TV or go to prayerstorm.org
Updates on <https://www.instagram.com/p/CHGGFjDJAYy/>

YMCA Appeal for Christmas

Thames gateway YMCA aims to provide hampers for the families and gifts for the young people they support in Dartford, Romford and Woolwich. Because of Covid they are launching a crowd funding page for donations to enable this to happen this year. To donate go to <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/community-christmas?tk=2d5be49aa64519e782fc178b05e8b8457b96dad4&fbclid=IwAR3qj3NzpdnmxAi7YIDxkvEnOyK1tJFb0-Oyki-gUPjXCPNdhxjhuUFKZB8>

Please contact Penny Culliford PennyCulliford@ymcatg.org for more information

A Blessing for the United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland

We bless You, King of the Universe, Sovereign of the World, to be exalted above all things, to be enthroned over our Nation, to be honoured, glorified, revered, worshipped and adored.

We bless the United Kingdom to fulfil its calling and destiny in Christ Jesus. We bless our great Nation to rise up in its apostolic calling to be a nation to take forth the Gospel once more to other nations, and to see the Kingdom of God advance, and be expressed through righteousness, justice and godliness.

We bless this Nation to uphold its Judeo/Christian roots, to build solid biblical foundations. We bless our Government and the corridors of power at Westminster with honesty and integrity. We bless our politicians to walk in truth and humility.

We bless the people of the United Kingdom with love, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. We bless every home to be a place of safety. We bless marriages and each family to be wholesome, and every child to feel safe and protected. We bless those who are homeless and alone with security and the help they need.

We bless the church in the land to be a city set on a hill proclaiming the true light of the Gospel. We bless you Great Britain and Northern Ireland with the Shalom that comes from the Father – wholeness, well-being and completeness.

In the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Taken from Call to Prayer Norwich <http://call2prayer.co.uk/>

