

May Dartford Prosper

Christmas 2020 & New Year 2021

Praying for the Town, the Community and the Church

Welcome to 'May Dartford Prosper', praying particularly for our town and nation in the light of the Covid-19 outbreak.

I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. John 8.12

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.

administrators as they seek to make the best use of resources.

- For Darent Valley Hospital, which was full at the end of November, that the rate will come down in the areas that it serves.
- For wisdom for the Government as they review the allocation of tiers next week.
- For Dartford Borough Council as they continue to serve and work with the community and businesses to minimise the effect of the virus.
- Give thanks that the Covid vaccine is starting to be made available. Pray for an effective roll-out in this area and for all those who are being trained as volunteer vaccinators. Pray too that testing will be readily available for anyone who needs it.
- For non-essential retail, open again following a month's lockdown. Pray especially for the hospitality sector who are only able to offer a take-away service in this area.
- For people who have recently lost their job or who are facing redundancy.
- For the food banks in this area. Give thanks that so far, 221 Aldi vouchers for £25 have been given to households using funding from the Council, and that hampers for families are being put together by various churches and also by the YMCA.

At the end of the second lockdown on 2nd December, Kent went into Tier Three, the strictest category of restrictions in England, due to the high rates of Covid in some parts of the county. Hospitals in Kent are either already full, almost full, or in the case of Medway and Swale, have declared a major incident and can no longer accept new cases.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-55091556>

Pray

- That the stringent measures currently operating in here will quickly bring down infection rates across the county.
- For the hospitals in Kent, that pressure will ease on beds. Pray for medical staff on the front line and

Christmas will be very different this year! The 'Christmas Bubble', a maximum of three households allowed to meet indoors from 23-27 December means that for many, Christmas will be a muted affair. Some churches are not yet open again after the lockdown or are continuing to stream online on Sundays. Many of the services and other events celebrating Jesus' birth which normally happen in church buildings or in the wider community will be not taking place this year.



Pray

- Give thanks that families will be able to get together albeit for a limited period over Christmas. Pray for those who have difficult decisions to make about whether to meet up, where to be or who to invite, and for anyone who is alone, in hospital or spending Christmas apart from loved ones.
- For peace to reign in every household. Pray especially for the protection of those for whom home is not a safe place to be.
- For churches as they celebrate Christmas this year in a different way, and especially for those Christians, many of them elderly, whose buildings have not yet re-opened and who do not have access to online services.
- That the 'pared-down' nature of Christmas this year will give an opportunity to wonder at its real meaning. Pray that many unbelievers will join in church services online or in person.
- That we will not see a drastic rise in transmission rates after December 27th.
- Pray for safety on the roads and protection from terrorism or cyber-attack, especially over the holiday period. Pray too for the emergency services.

In just over three weeks' time the transition period for the UK's withdrawal from the European Union will end, with or without a deal. A no-deal will fundamentally alter many aspects of our lives and have repercussions for the county of Kent as a whole.

Pray

- For the UK negotiating team led by Lord Frost and the EU team led by Michel Barnier. Pray for wisdom and stamina as the very final stages approach.
- For God-given wisdom for Boris Johnson and the Government, and for Parliament as it votes.

A prayer for the Brexit negotiations and for the Prime Minister

We declare You are the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end – You rule over the nations in Love and in Truth. Revelation 22:13

In the Name of Jesus, we decree and declare a finishing anointing is being released upon all the Brexit negotiations taking place. We decree that every aspect of the completed Agreement will be accurately and precisely according to the blueprints of Heaven, and we declare the Kingdom call upon this nation will overwhelm every work of the enemy to undermine or bring compromise to that blueprint. We speak the release of supernatural words of wisdom into all areas of difficulty and conflict, and we declare every blockage of man will be broken and every blockage of Heaven to fulfil God's purposes remain.

Now Lord, as you tell us to pray for our leaders, we lift Boris Johnson to You and we speak divine health, strength and wisdom into the core of his being. Lord, we thank You for the sense of destiny You have written within him, and we ask that Your Spirit will stir the dreams, the purpose and the courage. We specifically ask that in this time of enormous pressure, the sound of Your voice will be amplified within him, rising above the sound of the many voices, and that he will walk in increasing humility before You. We declare that in this day he will know what is urgent and what is not non-urgent, and what is significant and what is not significant – enabling him to prioritise according to Your will and Your priority. We cry out that Your mantle of wisdom will rest upon him.

What we pray for our Prime Minister, we also pray for our MP's, advisors and all those involved in negotiations.

By Suzanne Ferrett of Passion for the Nation November 27th, 2020 www.passionforthenation.uk

- That the final outcome of the talks will reflect God's plans for our nation.
- For preparations in Kent and this area in the event of a no deal, with many lorries expected to be delayed in the county awaiting processing of paperwork to cross the Channel.
- For our MP Gareth Johnson as he continues to represent the interests of Dartford in Parliament.

Also for your prayers...

Dartford Cold Weather Shelter

Plans for volunteers help to provide a meal each evening has been put on hold for the moment as existing guests have facilities to make their own meals in the Council-funded guesthouse where they are staying. Please pray for future arrangements in the event of new people seeking places in the coming weeks. Please contact office.dartfordwintershelter@gmail.com for more info.

Evergreen Care

Evergreen Care Bexley, a Christian charity providing practical support and friendship for older people at home are planning to launch in Dartford early next year, partnering with local churches. While there will be some paid staff, volunteers to provide practical help, support and friendship will be also needed. For more details go <https://www.evergreencarebexley.org/> For information about paid jobs or volunteering contact Gordon Raggett gordon@wilmingtoncommunitychurch.co.uk

