

# May Dartford Prosper

## January 2021

### Praying for the Town, the Community and the Church

Welcome to a special January edition of 'May Dartford Prosper', praying particularly for our town and nation in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic. 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](mailto:pooleyliz@hotmail.com)

*The LORD is my light and my salvation- whom shall I fear?  
The LORD is the stronghold of my life- of whom shall I be afraid? Ps 27.1*

#### 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.

England has just entered its third lockdown for an unspecified period. As in March, schools are closed to all but children in specified groups. Kent has been badly hit by the new variant of Covid which caused cases to rise rapidly even during the November lockdown. At the time of writing Dartford has the highest rate of infection in the South East region and more than double the national rate.

#### Pray

- That this lockdown will be effective in bringing down infection rates.

- For Darent Valley Hospital where currently around half of all beds are occupied with Covid patients. Pray for the protection of staff and healing and complete recovery for patients.
- For the local economy and especially businesses that have been forced to close due to the lockdown. Pray for those whose jobs are under threat or whose incomes have been reduced.
- For those whose mental health has been affected by the pandemic. Pray especially for those feeling vulnerable in any way as we enter a third lockdown.
- For children and young people who again will learn at home and for their parents and carers. Pray for staff as they adapt once more to on-line teaching. Pray too for staff and children who are still going to school (this now includes those who do not have access to the Internet or a suitable device at home).
- For Dartford Council as it works with local partners to keep residents safe and maintain services and for our MP Gareth Johnson as he represents the interests of the town in Parliament.
- Give thanks that the vaccination programme for the most at-risk groups is underway. Pray for the speedy distribution of the vaccine to local centres. Give thanks too that free bookable walk-in Covid tests are now available to all Kent residents.
- Give thanks that places of worship can remain open. Pray for wisdom for individual congregations as they decide whether to continue to meet in person or online. Pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to touch people wherever they are, giving thanks that God's Spirit is on the move.



As a result of the extremely high infection rates in this area, the Winter Shelter has decided that deliveries of food should be made directly to the (currently) six guests living in the house in Dartford which has facilities to prepare and store food in each room, meaning that volunteer help to provide a cooked meal is not at present needed. Other guests are being housed in Gravesend with access to cooked meals there and Dartford Council are providing additional accommodation in Erith if needed (this will be managed by the Council).

### Pray

- Giving thanks that a safe place to live is currently being provided for those who need it.
- Give thanks too for the support of Dartford Council and all those who have volunteered to help this winter.
- For the safety and good health of each guest and for those delivering food, for the Shelter Administrator Michael Smith and Project Coordinator Steve Ives.

The foodbank is currently serving 60-70 households including a lot of new families. Items are collected from Lowfield Street on Tuesday mornings with deliveries to those isolating being made on Thursdays.

Extra measures to keep volunteers and customers safe have been introduced following the sharp rise in infection. The organisers have been moved by how donations have continued to come in via the supermarket collection boxes at Sainsbury's in Dartford and Crayford and Asda in Greenhithe and from other organisations. (Gifts of longlife milk, squash, tinned meat, cooking oil, nappies, washing up liquid, washing powder, tinned fruit, custard, rice pudding and chocolate spread are especially appreciated.) <https://www.facebook.com/Dartford-Foodbank-336725973780874/>

### Pray

- Giving thanks that the Foodbank has remained open throughout the pandemic. Give thanks especially for the small group of volunteers that has made this possible.
- For the safety of helpers, delivery drivers and everyone who visits the foodbank on Tuesdays.
- For households who have started to come as their economic situation has changed because of Covid.
- Give thanks for the generosity of individuals and groups who have allowed the foodbank to serve increased numbers. Pray that there will always be enough to meet the needs of those who come.

## A declaration over families

In the Name of Jesus, we speak over this land and we declare

*"You are gracious and compassionate... abounding in love" (Psalm 103:8.)*

We declare God's people will grasp the wisdom and the treasure of His principles contained within His word, modelling and celebrating a new way of living, that as society shifts, healthy families will again become a foundation of society; that wholeness and wellbeing shall come to the people, strengthened and supported by the laws of our land. We declare the love of God and the mercy of God will cause families to stand strong and healthy, supporting and encouraging each other across generational divides.

We agree relationships within families are being restored, new lines of communication are being established and love and respect increased. As families adjust again, we speak peace into the pressures and we decree and declare this season will be a season of strengthening of marriages, of families and of parent-child relationships. In Jesus' Name, we ask God's healing and comfort to come to those wounded by their experiences, that fresh hope and fresh direction will be released. We speak health and healing to all families and wholeness to children across our land, that the power of God's love will bring change and transformation.

Now we specifically declare the educational needs of the children in this land will be met and we release routines, methods and timetables, that parents and teachers will rise to the challenge of the season.

We speak health instead of sickness, life instead of death, prosperity against all lack in matters concerning finance and the economy, that in these days of shaking many will turn to Jesus. We agree great wisdom will rest upon our Parliament, upon the Prime Minister, the Cabinet, the MP's, Civil Servants and all Advisors, that every decision made will rightly divide between the competing pressures and we speak strength in Jesus Name.

By Suzanne Ferrett of Passion for the Nation 8 January 2021 <https://passionforthenation.uk>

