

May Dartford Prosper

April 2021

Praying for the Town, the Community and the Church

Welcome to the April edition of 'May Dartford Prosper', continuing to pray 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

For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Jesus, and through Jesus to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through the blood of His cross. Col 1.19-20

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 wellbeing 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 last bulletin the schools have returned in the first stage of easing the lockdown restrictions, and on March 29 people will no longer have to stay at home and up to six people will be allowed to meet outside or in private gardens. On April 12 (all being well) shops, hairdressers, gyms and outdoor hospitality venues, among others, will be able to re-open.

At the time of writing, approaching 30 million people have had the first dose of the vaccine and over three million the second. Meanwhile the number of hospital admissions and the number of fatalities each day continues to fall.

Pray

- Giving thanks that the prevalence of the virus in the UK is reducing and that well over half of the adult population has now been vaccinated.
- Give thanks too that children have been able to return to school. Please continue to pray that all young people will be able to make up the ground lost during school closures.
- That the infection rate will continue to fall as people start to meet again outdoors, and that the UK will be protected from the third wave of the virus currently seen in a number of European countries.
- Pray that the Government's four conditions will be met to enable the lockdown to be eased on 12 April and for retail and other businesses in this area as they prepare to open again.
- For the Prime Minister, chief advisors and Cabinet, for wisdom in all they do. Pray too for our MP Gareth Johnson and for Dartford Council Members as they prepare for the local election on May 6.
- That the prospect of the lockdown easing, the lighter evenings and coming of spring will raise the spirits of the nation. Pray for those, especially young people, whose mental health has been impacted negatively by the lockdown.

Our second Easter in lockdown is upon us! Churches have for some time been allowed to open for services where safe to do so, but many will continue to meet online beyond Easter, and once again there will be no gathering at One Bell Corner on Good Friday.

Pray

- Giving thanks for all that Easter means to us, praying that as last year, many thousands of non-churchgoers across the UK will join online services.



- Give thanks that many churches in this area have seen far greater numbers at their online services than attend in person.
- For churches here who will be opening for the first time in months for Easter, and for wisdom for others as they consider when to start meeting again in person.
- Give thanks that the Easter message is timeless and equally powerful whether delivered in person or over the Internet.

Evergreen Care, offering practical help and befriending to elderly people in their own homes are planning to launch in Dartford in February 2022. They are now seeking volunteers in this area to visit in person or befriend over the telephone. For more information about volunteering, giving or supporting in prayer, please call 01322 431765 or info@evergreencarebexley.org
 For background on the very successful project operating in Bexley go to www.evergreencarebexley.org

Pray

- For preparations for the launch in Dartford next February.
- For Wilmington Community Church who are partnering with Evergreen Care to deliver the project in Dartford.

A declaration over the Church

"For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed" Romans 8:19

We come into agreement with God's word, "No longer will they call you Deserted or name your land Desolate. But you will be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah; for the Lord will take delight in you, and your land will be married," and we thank Him for the release of the Spirit of Revival into our land, that many will encounter Jesus, turning the nation back to the heart of the Father. We declare the fullness of His love, and His Kingdom purpose of peace and righteousness will be released within the land.

We declare He is reconnecting His people to the Root and to the Branch, to the Maker, Creator and founder of our faith, to Jesus Christ the One through whom life flows.

We praise Him for the heart of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; we praise Him for the foundational truths of the Gospel and for the message of the Gospel.

We decree and declare in this year every historical addition, the add-ons of religion and the rules of man will fall to the ground, that the authentic Gospel of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom will resound across this land in simplicity and power. We confess and renounce where these have hindered or divided your people, and we decree from this time in this nation, there will be a fresh unity within His body.

We thank you for uniqueness of God given gift, call and vision, and we decree and declare that the Body of Jesus Christ will arise in this nation, in full glory, with Jesus at the Head. We come into agreement with Amos 9:13 and we decree "the days are coming, when the ploughman shall overtake the reaper".

Even as love protects, we thank You Lord, for all those You have called to serve our communities, whether police, emergency services, or the NHS. In the Name of Jesus, we declare they will be supported by prayer, protected by wisdom and honoured by community. We speak Your peace and wholeness into their lives and the lives of their families in the Name of Jesus.

By Suzanne Ferrett of Passion for the Nation, Mar 15 2021 <https://passionforthenation.uk>

- That many of the churches in the town will get involved to support this through volunteering, giving or prayer.
- For Evergreen Care as they expand into Dartford while continuing to provide a service to around 600 elderly people in Bexley.

Also for your prayers...

New venues

Please continue to pray for Dartford Foodbank as it looks for a site to which to relocate. Pray for somewhere convenient for clients and suitable to welcome people and to store food. Please pray also for Crossways Community Church and Gateway Church who are both looking for a new venue.

Winter Shelter

Please also continue to pray for those living in accommodation in Dartford and Gravesend, giving thanks for the support given by the Council. Pray for the project Administrator Michael Smith and Project Coordinator Steve Ives.

