

# May Dartford Prosper

## May 2021

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

Welcome to May's edition of 'May Dartford Prosper', continuing to pray for our town and nation particularly 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 [pooleyiz@hotmail.com](mailto:pooleyiz@hotmail.com)

*...and He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end... Is 9 6b-7a*

#### 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.

As the country continues to move towards lifting Covid restrictions, all being well, mid-May will see six people or two households being able to meet inside again with indoor hospitality reopening and some larger public indoor and stadium events.

The infection rate across the UK is continuing to fall, as is Dartford's; rates are now what they were in early September. To date, almost 34 million people in the UK have received a first injection and over 13 million, their second.

#### Pray

- Give thanks that infection rates are still falling and that a quarter of the adult population has now received both jabs.
- That rates will continue to drop as we approach the next stage of the Government's road map on May 17.
- Give thanks that many businesses are now open again in Dartford town centre and Bluewater.
- Pray for those who have been badly affected by the lockdown, that they will now prosper.
- For companies that have ceased trading during the last lockdown and for all those who have lost their jobs or who are facing redundancy.
- For local foodbanks and others working, for example with schools to alleviate food poverty.
- For Christians Against Poverty who are planning to set up a Debt Centre in Gravesend. Pray for Dartford CAP's Debt Manager Karen Simmons as helpers are recruited and a new venue is put in place for Gravesend.
- For churches in this area who are planning to reopen their buildings in the next few weeks and for those seeking to combine some face-



to-face meetings with an online presence. Pray for wisdom for church leadership as these changes are introduced. Pray for Crossways Community Church who are holding an open-air meeting (for up to 20 cars) on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Elections for Kent County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent take place on 6 May. The area covered by Dartford Council has six divisions in which 21 candidates are standing. Of the council tax levied in Dartford this year, 75% goes to KCC, 11.5% to Police, 4% to Fire and Rescue and 9.5% to Dartford Council.

Details of candidates for KCC in Dartford can be found at

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/how-the-council-works/kent-county-council-elections/election-notice/dartford#tab-1,5,6>

For information about candidates standing for election as Police and Crime Commissioner:

<https://whocanivotefor.co.uk/>

#### Pray

- For each of the County Council candidates standing across Kent and that those elected will stand for righteous and justice.
- For a high turn-out in each area.
- For the election of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent.
- For more Christians to consider standing in future local and national elections.
- For wisdom for Members and senior officers of our local Council and for the newly elected Kent County Council.

Students would normally be sitting their GCSE and AS and A Levels in May and June, but due to Covid will be assessed wholly by their teachers this year.

#### Pray

- For young people in this very disruptive year for their education.
- For teachers as they assess students' work, and for the additional pressures that this may bring.
- That the results will fairly affect the ability of each pupil.
- For young people suffering from anxiety or other mental health issues and for those who struggle with being at school.
- For increased opportunities for church workers to take assemblies etc once the pandemic has ended and for those who are able to offer sessions to pupils online.

#### For your diary...

A number of prayer initiatives are taking place this month:

**Revival Prayer Push** continuing until Pentecost (23 May):

<https://www.revivalprayerpushuk.org/>;

**Virtual Pentecost** taking place on Pentecost Sunday:

<https://www.ndopw.com/pentecost/about-virtual-pentecost/>

**Thy Kingdom Come** 13-23 May:

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>



## A prayer of blessing over local government

*Adapted from a blessing on Parish and Local Councils taken from 'Keep on Praying and Bless' by Jill Gower, Robbie Bain and Caroline Anderson, 2012. Reproduced with permission.*

- We proclaim that Jesus is the Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- We declare the government of God and His wisdom and strategy over our Parish, Borough and County Councils and the upcoming elections.
- We bless our local Councils with sound management, with skill in leadership, being good stewards of our council taxes and managing the resources in our community. We bless them with righteousness, justice and unity.

*copies of 'Keep on Praying and Bless' can be ordered from <https://www.call2prayer.co.uk> price £3+postage*

