

May Dartford Prosper

October 2021

Praying for the Town, the Community and the Church

Welcome to October'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 information contact lizpooley@hotmail.com

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. 2 Cor 13.11

He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Mic 6.8

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.

Infection rates are falling in England, in Kent and in Dartford at the moment (Sept 22). Almost 90% of the population in the UK aged over 16 has now had a first jab with over 80% having had both, although percentages in Dartford for both of these is lower.

Vaccinations are being extended to 12 to 15 year-olds and centres are now recruiting healthcare workers and volunteers to deliver the winter vaccine programme.

Pray

- Giving thanks that infection rates are falling at the moment and that there are fewer hospitalisations.
- Give thanks that vaccinations are now available to younger secondary school children. Pray for protection from infection for primary school children and staff, and for young people going to university.
- Give thanks that plans are underway to boost the protection of elderly and clinically vulnerable people with a second vaccination programme. Give thanks for the many volunteers who are involved with this and that the booster programme can be rolled out effectively.

In addition to the pandemic and the aftermath of Brexit, the country is facing a number of challenges in the weeks ahead, among them a sharp increase in gas prices and uncertainty over supplies to supermarkets and other outlets.



Pray

- Give thanks that in the midst of all of this, Jesus is our peace and protection.
- That we will be salt and light to our families, communities and workplaces.
- For wisdom, energy and stamina for national and local leaders, remembering especially the Prime Minister and Government, our MP Gareth Johnson, Council Leader Jeremy Kite and Dartford Council members.
- For those who will be especially hard-hit by higher energy bills.
- For protection from terrorism and for safety on our busy roads, especially as the clocks go back at the end of the month.

Young people are experiencing unprecedented levels of anxiety and other mental health issues, exacerbated by the pandemic. Emerge is a Christian youth work charity which equips and enables Christians to support young people aged between 10 and 25 who are in their local A&E or hospital wards because of self-harm, a suicide attempt or an emotional crisis. Emerge are setting up a project at Darent Valley Hospital and are looking to train local Christian volunteers in engaging with young people who find themselves in hospital and supporting them for up to three months afterwards.

To find out more go to <https://emergeadvocacy.com>

Pray

- For young people who are suffering from mental health issues and especially for those who find themselves in A&E.

A blessing over Dartford

For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him. Col 1.16

We proclaim that the Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, is the Creator of heaven and earth.

We declare that the Lord is the one and only true God. He created all things in the heavens and on earth. We declare that "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it". (Ps 24.1)

In Jesus' name, we bless the people of Dartford to know the one and only true God. We bless their hearts to open toward Him. We bless them to see God in all creation around them. We bless them to see with fresh eyes the beauty of nature and the complexity of all He has made.

Taken from 'Keep Blessing your Community' by Jill Gower, 2012. Reproduced with permission. <https://www.call2prayer.co.uk> price £3+postage

- For Emerge, their work across the South East and projects in hospitals at Darent Valley, Medway, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells.
- For Immy, Project Lead for Darent Valley and for volunteers to come forward to provide support in hospital, follow-up in the community and to pray for the team and young people.
- For parents, friends, schools, work colleagues, and churches to become more aware of the issues around the mental health of young people.

Also for your prayers...

COP 26 October 31- November 12

A number of prayer and other initiatives have been developed by Christian organisations in preparation for the United Nations Climate Change Conference taking place in Glasgow <https://ukcop26.org/>

For a briefing on the spiritual issues connected with climate change (90 mins) go to

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gpxTKhX0pec&t=8s>

For ideas how to pray:

<https://www.24-7prayer.com/great-britain/19/pray-for-climate-justice-cop26>

<https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/cop26>

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/pray/prayer-chain>

