

May Dartford Prosper

November 2021

Praying for the Town, the Community and the Church

Welcome 'May Dartford Prosper' for November, continuing to pray for our town and nation particularly in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic. For more information contact lizpooley@hotmail.com

Do not weep! See the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. Rev 5.5

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.



Covid infection rates have been rising since the end of September in many parts of the country including Dartford, where the number with a confirmed positive test has risen by 60% over the previous week. On 19 October there were 23 patients in hospital with coronavirus in Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust.

In the past month vaccinations have been made available to 12–15 year-olds and at the time of writing almost 80% of the UK population aged 12+ had received both jabs. The programme to give a booster vaccination to people at higher risk is now being rolled out. In the face of rising infection rates the Government is coming under pressure in some quarters to reintroduce measures such as compulsory face masks and working from home.

Pray

- Give thanks that God is in control. Give thanks too that the vaccination programme has lessened the seriousness of Covid for many and avoided admission to hospital.
- For Boris Johnson, Sajid Javid those who advise them, for wisdom as infection rates rise.
- For the right decisions to be made that protect the NHS while allowing the economy to recover and grow.
- For those who view the rising infection rates with great anxiety and for all whose mental health has been affected by the pandemic.
- For staff and patients at Darent Valley Hospital as admissions rise, and for protection for care homes as residents wait to receive their booster jab. Pray that the NHS will not be overwhelmed this winter.
- That the booster and flu vaccination programmes can be rolled out quickly and effectively.
- That people will protect themselves in crowded places and that infection rates will start to fall.



On Sunday 31 October world leaders will gather in Glasgow for COP26 (26th convening of the Conference of the Parties), hosted by the UK Government and presided over by Alok Sharma MP. The talks normally take place annually but were cancelled last year because of the pandemic. This is likely to be the most important climate change summit since the Paris Agreement in 2015.

Pray

- For every delegate from every nation who is coming to Glasgow.
 - For President Alok Sharma as he chairs the meetings, for wisdom and insight and for all those involved in the negotiations
- and (taken from 24-7 Prayer's COP26 Prayer Guide)
- For hope and ambition to be at the heart of COP26 rather than worry and uncertainty.
 - For transformation and breakthrough to be achieved that will create a positive impact for the future.
 - For world leaders to make joint commitments to get us on track to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees, and for a safer future for us all.

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

Following a dramatic conversion away from life in the criminal underworld, Lennox Rodgers and his wife Bali started Refocus which engages with young people who are at risk through eg bullying, gang culture, knife crime, county lines, grooming and money laundering. Lennox and Bali are based in Dartford and work with a number of churches and many other agencies, both Christian and non-Christian. <https://www.refocusproject.org.uk>

- Giving thanks for Lennox's testimony: a life turned around by Jesus. Pray that his story, "Breaking Better" will greatly impact those who read it.
- For continuing provision for Lennox and Bali as they expand their work in Kent and SE London.
- For fruitful relationships with the young people, parents, schools and other agencies they are currently working with.
- Give thanks that God's heart is for those at the margins. Pray that He will continue to work through Refocus, giving creative and innovative ways of engaging with young people most at risk.

Also for your prayers...

Protection for public servants

Following the tragic death of Sir David Amess at his constituency surgery on October 15th, please continue to pray for the protection of our Member of Parliament Gareth Johnson, for his family and for all those who serve the town in a public capacity.

Dartford Churches Winter Shelter

As the colder weather approaches, pray for premises to serve as a base for those who are homeless. Give thanks for the churches' good working relationship with Dartford Council and for God's provision in the past. Please pray for Project Worker Steve Ives as he continues to connect with existing guests and those living on the streets.

YMCA Café

Pray for the YMCA as they relaunch their café with a barista service before Christmas.

A blessing over Dartford

We declare that Jesus is the Lion of the tribe of Judah, and that He roars over the land.

We declare that Jesus has triumphed over all. He wears the victor's crown. He fulfils all things, is above all things and all things are under His feet.

In Jesus' name, we bless Dartford to know that Jesus is far greater and far bigger than all the works of the enemy. We bless the town with the fullness that Jesus comes to bring. We bless each and every household with every blessing from above.

We pray that this community will rise up and stand for righteousness, that Dartford will be known as a Godly place. We pray that the atmosphere over the town will be a touch of heaven on the face of the earth.

Taken from 'Keep Blessing your Community' by Jill Gower, 2012. Reproduced with permission.

<https://www.call2prayer.co.uk> price £3+postage

