

May Dartford Prosper

Christmas 2021 & New Year 2022

Praying for the Town, the Community and the Church

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

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Is 9.6*

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.

All but two districts in Kent, including Dartford, are currently seeing rising rates of infection. The last week has seen the emergence of the Omicron variant and the reintroduction here of compulsory wearing of face masks in shops and on public transport. The booster vaccine programme is now to be rolled out to all adults.

Pray

- that the newly introduced measures to wear facemasks will increase the level of public protection, particularly in crowded spaces.
- For the effective roll-out of an accelerated booster programme, and that it will soon be available to adults three months after their second jab.
- That fear will not be stirred up over the emergence of the Omicron variant, and that Christians will demonstrate the peace in their lives that comes only from Jesus.

- For the scientists working to refine existing vaccines and anti-viral drugs that combat new strains of Covid. Give thanks for all those who use their God-given gifts for the public good in science and medicine.
- For wisdom for the Prime Minister, Health Secretary and their expert advisors.
- Continue to pray for all those who live in fear about the pandemic and its effects, for patients and staff in Darent Valley Hospital and all those suffering from long covid. Pray too for patients who have had treatment for non-covid conditions postponed.

A message from Michael Smith, Dartford Winter Shelter Project Administrator:

The ongoing Covid pandemic means that the style of winter shelter we have been running since we started 8 years ago is just not possible again this year.

Dartford Borough Council are doing an amazing job with the street homeless in Dartford and Steve, our Project Worker, continues to work closely with the Council and the other charities working in this field.

We are confident that we are doing everything we can to support those who are living on the street, but there is currently no plan to house them together anywhere because of their individual circumstances and so we do not need volunteer support. Thank you to all those who have already been in touch.

Pray

- Giving thanks for the eight years in which the churches in Dartford have been able to work with those who are homeless and for the many hundreds of volunteers who have helped over this time.
- For Dartford Council, giving thanks for the resources they have invested in the project, and for the excellent working relationship they have with the local church.
- For Steve, the Project Coordinator as he continues to work with the Council and charities on behalf of the



homeless people in our town. Pray for ongoing provision of funding so that this work can continue.

- For all those who find themselves living on the streets, especially as the weather worsens. Pray for their protection and safety and for permanent housing to be found for the future.
- For all those who, like Jesus 2000 years ago, have nowhere to lay their head, remembering especially the many migrants currently crossing over to Kent.

Dartford town centre has been undergoing a major transformation over the past few years, with a number of town centre improvements and redevelopment projects now anticipated or underway.

Pray

- Giving thanks that the town centre is being revived, for the improvements taking place in Market Street and the High Street, for new businesses recently opened and that the redevelopment of Lowfield Street is well underway.
- For the successful redevelopment of Westgate, the former Co-op site, that it will be a blessing to the people who will live, work and visit there.
- For wisdom for Jeremy Kite and the Council in their dealings with the developers and contractors, that everything will be done with the best interests of the town in mind.
- For the Window Wonderland Treasure Trail on Saturday 11 and 18 December hosted by the YMCA around the town centre as part of the Council's Winter Wonderland.



- For the annual Carol Concert in Central Park on December 8. <https://www.dartford.gov.uk/by-category/leisure-and-culture2/events/carol-concert>

Christmas looks likely to be far less disrupted than last year, when Kent went into in Tier 4, people were not allowed to socialise outside their household and the country was facing a third lockdown in the New Year.

Pray

- Giving thanks that this year there look likely to be far fewer restrictions and many will be able to celebrate Christmas with family and friends.
- Give thanks that many churches are now open and that people can gather together to worship.
- For church leaders, especially in the busy run-up to December 25 and for all the events and services taking place over Christmas and into the New Year.
- That the difficulties experienced by so many over the past 21 months will bring an openness to hearing the gospel message in a local church or via online services over Christmas.
- For those whose mental or physical health has been impacted by Covid and who might find Christmas an especially difficult time.
- For safety and vigilance everywhere: in schools, workplaces, shops, pubs, eating places and on the streets; that we will see the infection rate go down over the festive period.
- For renewed hope in 2022: not just for a return to 'normality' in our everyday lives, but in the source of all hope- Jesus.

A declaration over our nation

As news is released concerning the new Covid variant, we declare a spirit of peace (prosperity, safety and well-being) will rest upon the cities, towns and streets of this nation. We speak health instead of sickness, life instead of death, hope instead of despair, that in these days of shaking, many will turn to Jesus.

As the season turns, we declare the sound of the celebration of the life of Jesus will be released across our families, communities and our land, that the truths of the sacrifice of Jesus and the love of the Father, will be reaffirmed and rediscovered in this day. We declare the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ will be spoken in homes and across media, and we declare this will be a season of salvations, recommitments, healings and miracles as people turn to their God and another step in the season of revival which is coming to our land.

Lord, we thank You for the power of the message of life through Your Son, and we agree your message of hope, love and salvation will go forth with clarity and creativity at this time, touching and communicating with all those who are spiritually open and hungry from every age group and community. In the Name of Jesus, we call out the inheritance of Your gospel, sown into the lives of individuals in previous years and we agree it will bring forth fruit. We agree that as Your Spirit moves many who received Your truth even as children will turn back to You.

...we declare, "You are gracious and compassionate... abounding in love" (Psalm 103:8.) We agree for a fresh revelation of the depth of God's love to come upon His people, restoring first love and healing every wound. In the Name of Jesus, we speak resurrection life into every God given dream, vision and ministry called for this day, that this message of Your love will go forth to our nation

We decree in this day of change the "Name of Jesus will be lifted up, that all people will be drawn to Him." And we call forth salvations, we call forth Jesus centred conversations and we call forth prophetic encounters.

We continue to declare in this nation, leaders from all political parties, all Government ministers, civil servants, scientists, researchers, economists and all advisors will work as a team with humility and mutual respect and we specifically speak strength to Boris Johnson. We declare the voice of God's wisdom will be heard over every other voice concerning all the current decisions, that His strategies and solutions will be recognised and implemented, rightly dividing between the health and safety of individuals and the economy of the nation.

A shortened version of a declaration written by Suzanne Ferrett of Passion for the Nation Nov 29, 2021 <https://passionforthenation.uk>

