

Prayer sheet 2

01 April 2020

Please pray for Transforming Lives Together who are submitting bids for emergency funds to allow them to continue supporting initiatives in local communities. We pray that the bids will be successful and that they will get the funds to the right people at the right time. Please also pray for collaborative efforts between faith, statutory and voluntary sectors in local areas to ensure any support is effective and that everyone who needs help receives it and for enough food to reach foodbanks which are struggling to obtain sufficient supplies.

Our Cathedral has asked for prayer that they can be graceful and faithful in the current crisis, offering ministry and being a spiritual resource to the diocese, City of Chester and wider county. Also, that we can maintain the centuries old sense of discipleship as a praying and serving fellowship.

Please pray for our partner dioceses of Melanesia and of Aru and Boga in the Democratic Republic of the Congo as they face the potentially devastating threat of Coronavirus with much weaker health services than ours. For Melanesia we have been specifically asked to pray that social distancing will be adhered to and that all will have access to fresh food and clean water. Also, for the safe passage of all those evacuating Honiara by boat to return to their home islands.

Pray for our Clergy, Readers and Pastoral Workers as they reach out to those in their care and for those in our churches who are reaching out in love and compassion to their neighbours. Pray for opportunities to share the gospel with our families, friends and neighbours.

These uncertain times can be extremely difficult for children and young people whose families need to use food banks frequently. Pray that these families will have enough food for everyone. As schools closed suddenly, children and young people at the end of their school lives felt a sudden loss. Pray for healthy closure and transition for children and young people. Churches are discovering new ways of building healthy relationships with children and young people in the digital world. Pray that this continues to be done creatively and wisely. The openness of many on-line platforms means that more children and young people can engage in times of collective worship than ever before. Pray that these opportunities are found by children and young people.

For those who were battling with physical and mental health issues before Covid 19 and will find these times especially challenging. Also, for peace and safety in our County with a specific focus on the mental health and wellbeing of the most vulnerable and isolated.

Please pray for Pauline Rhoades and family. Pauline works in the office at St Peter Prestbury and her husband Les has died of Coronavirus. Please pray also for the folk in the Church at Prestbury mourning his passing.

Mark Mitchell (High Sheriff of Cheshire) has asked us to pray for all those involved across the county in the administration of law and order, including the police and fire services, the judiciary and the prisons. Pray that God will give those in authority the vital gifts of leadership, strategic thinking and planning.

Please continue to pray for Church Treasurers and Church Wardens as they deal with the financial impacts of the current crisis. Many will be worried about how their Churches will cope financially and will be facing major problems paying bills and their Parish Share. Pray that they might have strength, faith and hope to bring these problems to the Lord and that He will give them wisdom to address challenges as they arise. May others in the Church show love and care to them and not leave them to shoulder problems alone.

Some prayers from Children and Young people in our Diocese:

- Pray for leaders within the Government, NHS, education sector, retail and industry and key workers you may know personally.
- For a collective spirit to heed wisdom, listen well and care for one another in our communities.
- Pray for our churches. that we would continue to be a faithful church family, remembering to pray for one another and for our wider communities. Pray for a specific situation or person that comes to mind.
- Pray that Christ would be glorified and recognised within this crisis. Pray that we would see ourselves more clearly as Christ sees us. Both in our sinfulness and moments of greed as well as Godliness and understanding that we are made in His image.

Our local hospices provide a vital service to our communities. In the current crisis their income has collapsed as they have had to close their shops and cancel fundraising events. Many services have had to be curtailed or reduced but where possible telephone and on-line contact is being maintained with patients and their relatives and In Care patients are still being cared for. Please pray that our Hospices can continue their essential work and especially pray for the staff and volunteers.

Our diocesan senior staff, Bishop Keith, Mike Gilbertson, Ian Bishop, Tim Stratford, George Colville, Liz Geddes and, Christine Broad. Pray that the decisions made are sound and timely. For our Chaplains in hospitals, hospices, prisons, schools and agriculture as they co-ordinate and support. For our diocesan staff from Church House and Foxhill, those who are working and those who are not. Those who are working from home for the basics such as equipment, internet and telephone connections to work. May all who

work in our diocese be able to say to the Lord “My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.” (Psalm 91 v2)

We give thanks for those who are finding creative ways to do and be church.

For those who are working at all levels of the NHS and carers and those undertaking research for a vaccine for Covid 19.

For workers in the retail sector as they co-ordinate and deliver much needed supplies.

Northumbria Blessing:

*May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,
wherever He may send you.*

*May He guide you through the wilderness,
protect you through the storm.*

*May He bring you home rejoicing
at the wonders He has shown you.*

*May He bring you home rejoicing
once again into our doors.*

Thank you,

Jonathon and the Foxhill Team.

Are you in need of prayer?

Text or WhatsApp your prayer to 07513170210 and it will be shared with people in the diocese to pray. Or email your prayer to foxhill@chester.anglican.org.

Prayers received will be distributed across the diocese to volunteers to pray in their own time as part of a daily rhythm of prayer.

