

Prayer sheet 6

17 April 2020

As you pray, please look back at [our previous briefings](#) too. You may wish also to pass this prayer briefing on to members of your parish so they can use these requests in their prayers:

A vicar in our diocese has asked to share their thankfulness to God for the following:

We are thanking God for feeling together as a church family, even though we're scattered. Lovely to hear how people are praying at the same time each day using our, "praying at home" booklets, how people are ringing and checking up on each other, and that our elderly and vulnerable folk all have family and friends nearby who care for them.

We'd also love to thank God for how well people are engaging with our online reflections/prayer meetings, including people who don't normally come to church. A significant number more (into the 100's!) than we usually see on a Sunday morning.

We also want to thank God for me, the Vicar, mastering the technology and being able to put together an Easter Sunday "service" having different people, young and old, involved. It felt very special and celebratory on Easter Day. Pray I get better so I can help people better connect with the church, each other and the Lord.

We thank God that a couple of sisters, C & J, who attend church (younger women with children) and have now got over Covid-19 and are recovering.

The Vicar has also asked us to share for prayer:

- People in our community who are isolated;
- Those for whom church, worship or otherwise, is a social lifeline;
- Those who are suffering financially - there is a lot of strain locally, but many members of the community and groups are pulling together to help distribute food and meet need; generosity like I've never seen before;
- For all who are poorly and recovering from illness, and for those who are bereaved;

- Our local foodbank has reported how wonderfully generous people are being, but they are struggling due to the lack of volunteers.

A member of another church has shared that simple services that the Vicar has recorded have been posted on the church webpage. It is such a wonder that more than a hundred people have participated in these services from their own homes, and that the Mothering Sunday reflection had more than 280 hits, a real sense of church in a new way and an encouragement in these difficult times.

Please continue to pray for our clergy, readers and pastoral workers as they reach out to those in their care and for all who are reaching out in love and compassion to their neighbours. Also, for those who are supporting the families of the bereaved.

Please continue to pray for our partner dioceses:

Melanesia:

- Around 5,000 people were made homeless on the island of Espiritu Santo – where the Anglican Church is based in the country.
- The cyclone damaged up to 90 per cent of homes in Luganville.
- Local disaster teams in Vanuatu are trying to reach some of the worst-affected areas.
- Pray for the Anglican Church of Melanesia, the Mothers' Union and the religious orders as they help communities rebuild after Cyclone Harold.
- Pray that emergency supplies do not get delayed due to precautions in place to stop the spread of Covid-19.

Democratic Republic of Congo

- We give thanks for the safe return to the UK of the Church Mission Society missionary workers, Peter and Patricia Wyard from Aru, who are now in precautionary self-isolation.
- We would appreciate your prayers for the D.R.C. having to deal with five deadly diseases: malaria, measles, cholera, ebola and now coronavirus. Cases of coronavirus are small at the moment and are in the capital Kinsasa. If it spreads it will be devastating.

Prisons

Please continue to pray for our Prisons.

- We thank God that they were calm over the Easter period.
- For the increased interest in the gospel.
- For the Chaplains who have to share bad news with the residents, who cannot be released to attend funerals.
- Pray that they will be able to support both residents and staff well at this difficult time.

NHS

- We pray for those who work in all areas of the NHS and care sectors, for safety, energy and wisdom.
- For those who are manufacturing much needed equipment for the health sector.
- For those working in testing and the development of a vaccine.

From one of our Hospital Chaplains:

- We are thankful that, at present, we are coping.
- Please pray that our presence on the wards, and with those at end of life will bring comfort to the living and the dying, and encouragement to the tired staff.
- Pray that, although PPE hides our faces, our smiles and encouragement might be detected behind the masks.
- And that we will be able to bring comfort to relatives who are unable to be with their seriously ill loved ones.

One of our Hospice Chaplains has asked us to pray for:

- Financial support for our income support team;
- Strength to comfort and support each other;
- Skill and sympathy and resilience to all who care for the sick and their families;
- Our Bereavement Unit as they contact people by phone;
- Housekeeping and catering teams;
- The Living Well Centre keeping in touch with people by phone; and
- Managers for wisdom as they make key choices.

From Transforming Lives Together:

- Please pray, that our Place of Welcome and Filling the Gap churches who are continuing to provide support during the coronavirus will be able to access all the resources they need to do so.
- The foodbanks are receiving more and more requests for help but we give thanks that one food bank recently made a request to the community for help and received more than 800 tins as well as pasta, rice and toiletries in 24 hours. Someone even delivered half a sheep to a foodbank for distribution.

Pray for those who are living in isolation from all age groups who are struggling with limited contact with others.

We can give thanks that the county crime rate has reduced by 21% thus relieving our police of additional duties.

Pray for the resilience of businesses in our region and for those who lead them.

Thank you for joining us in prayer,

Jonathon and the Foxhill Team.