The Diocesan Fellowship of Pray-ers

‘Praying the Way’

September 2021: Archdeaconry of Rochester.

‘Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God’ Philippians 4v 6.

As we come before the Lord to intercede on behalf of the Diocese and the Archdeaconry of Rochester pray that the Holy Spirit will direct and guide your prayers. Please use these prayers as an aid and pray as you are led.

Sundays:
The Diocese:
Pray for wisdom for the Vacancy in See committee that the Lord will bring the person He wants to be the next Bishop of Rochester.
Pray for Bishop Simon and his wife Julia in their various ministries and that they will be given strength for their work.
Pray for wisdom in leadership, in replacing key roles of the Archdeacon of Tonbridge and the Community Engagement and Social Action Lead; pray that the right persons will be guided to these roles.
Pray for strength for the two remaining archdeacons as they take on extra duties in the meantime.

Mondays:
Archdeaconry of Rochester:
Please give thanks for the mission and ministry of clergy and their church communities particular in these challenging times.
Give thanks and pray for wise responses to many new opportunities to engage locally particular in partnering with councils, schools and other organisations.
Pray for our responses to new housing particularly in Ebbsfleet and the Hoo Peninsula.

Fridays:
Gillingham Deanery.
Pray for the Caring Concerns Course being offered across the three Medway Deaneries in the Autumn, that there will be many taking it and that it will be fruitful and helpful and give inspirations to all those involved; pray God’s blessing on it.
Please pray for each of our parishes as they negotiate the difficult path of adjusting to post-Covid realities.
Pray especially for those who are anxious about returning to worship and those who have been bereaved through the pandemic.
Pray that we have godly wisdom in knowing what aspects of parish life should return, what has come to the end of its usefulness, and what new things we should be doing in our churches.

Saturdays:
Strood Deanery
Pray for our parishes as they re-open and navigate their way through this time, give wisdom and strength to all the clergy, lay and all those involved in keeping the churches running and thanks for all that they have done over this period of uncertainty.
Pray for all things missional as we reach out to our communities with the love of God.

Cobham Deanery.
We give thanks for God’s provision, strength and leading throughout the last 18 months and give thanks to all who have shared their skills and learnt new skills in order to maintain worship during lockdowns and make God known.
Please pray for the parishes of Istead Rise and Southfleet currently in vacancy. Pray that God’s person hears a call to minister in these two parishes.
Please pray for God’s continuing guidance as we continue to draw people back into worship in our buildings and re-start other church activities and begin new missional opportunities this Autumn.

Dartford Deanery.
Pray God’s blessing on all that He is doing in the parishes and in the communities that they serve.
Give thanks that online worship had brought many new people into contact with local churches.
Pray that as buildings open up, there may be opportunities to meet and welcome new people face to face. Pray in particular for ministries with families, children and young people and for new ways of encouraging faith at home.

**Thursdays:**

**Gravesend Deanery.**

“We hold before God each parish, each place of ministry and each person. God of Love, revealed in Christ and building us as living stones to become a holy temple for your glory into our brokenness speak by your Spirit that ‘still small voice of calm’ to refresh, strengthen, heal and empower us in your worship and service. ‘Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of this hour’. In Jesus’ name. Amen “

Street Pastors are planning to return in September. Please pray for the teams, as they will have new challengers when they go back on the streets of Gravesham. Pray that God will raise up new volunteers, for the School Pastors and for the team who run and organise them.

Pray for all those who are beginning a next phase in their education, for all schools, colleges and universities as they re-open again that they will a safe and secure environment for their staff and students.

Pray for all the activities within our communities as they re-open after the lockdowns, pray that friendships with be renewed and that there will be outreach and mission to those who perhaps have had contact for the first time through the online services. Pray that there will be fruit.

Pray for the Anglican Ebbsfleet Project Board with the building and setting up of the Alkerden Anglican Primary School due to open in September 2022 and the planned dedicated faith space at the Alkerden Community Hub.

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**Tuesdays:**

**Community Engagement and Social Action Team.**

Please pray for Caroline Clarke (former lead) as she seeks a new life and service in the North of England.
Pray for Keith Berry as he holds the work of the Community Engagement and Social Action Team until a successor can be found.
Pray for the search for a new Lead, that the right person is drawn into the position.
Pray that the new Places of Welcome and Community Cafes opening in September- St James the Great, Blendon and St Margaret’s Rainham and those recently opened at St George’s Weald and St John’s Sidcup will flourish and grow.
Pray for all those seeking to offer support and encouragement to the lonely, isolated, anxious and unwell.

**Wednesdays:**

**Rochester Deanery.**

Give thanks for the gradual re-opening of St John’s Chatham and for the new kitchen and toilet facilities, which make such a difference.
Please pray that the worshipping community there would continue to grow and that missional initiatives in Chatham Town Centre would be fruitful.

Give thanks for the way in which mutual support has been such a feature of the deanery during the pandemic.
Pray for all those who will be taking part in the Caring Concerns course running in the autumn, that there will be deeper understanding of the nature and role of pastoral care and an increase on this ministry across our parishes.