

Praying the Way

July 2020

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints"
Ephensians 6:18

"May God in his mercy lead us through these times, but above all may he lead us to himself" Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Please pray for Bishops James and Simon and Archdeacons Paul, Julie and Andy in all their ministry and the decisions they have to make daily. We give thanks for being able to open our churches for private prayer and for the volunteers who enable this to happen and pray for everyone involved in planning for the restarting of public worship in our churches, hopefully this month. Give thanks, too, for the diocesan Covid 19 webinar conference last month.

July

1st Beckenham Deanery Please pray for our Area Dean, all clergy and lay ministers in the deanery and for churches without an incumbent at present.

2nd Please pray for all schools in the Diocese, pre-school, primary and secondary, that staff may all work together sharing experiences of best practice in maintaining sanitisation, safe distancing and cleaning along with normalising being at school again for pupils, especially for those too young to fully understand why it is different.

3rd Give thanks that many pupils and students have been able to study

remotely during the lockdown and pray for those still working from home. Pray for those due to take GCSE and A Levels next year, some having just returned to school. Remember those leaving for higher education or similar. Pray too that younger children whose families have difficulty in helping them work at home, will not miss out, and that provision may be made for them to catch up.

4th For all youth workers helping young people transfer to the next stage of education in life in the absence of the usual rites of passage.

Sunday 5th We give thanks for the work of frontline NHS workers and for those working in care homes and pray for continued strength, energy and commitment when they feel exhausted. We give thanks for the sacrifice of those who have died while working to save others and pray for their families who mourn their loss.

6th For those who have been working almost non-stop in intensive care and, now that the extreme pressure has eased, have opportunity to process all that has happened and are traumatised. We pray that they may receive the help they need and time to heal. Also for all working in care and nursing homes, many of whom have seen unprecedented numbers of residents die from Covid19, that they too may get the help they need.

7th We pray for all shopkeepers and staff who have recently gone back to work, help them to keep on top of all the safety guidelines and give them patience when they have to redirect and curb shoppers in their enthusiasm at being back shopping.

8th Give thanks that, through technology the church has been able to stream services so that the Word of God is proclaimed in people's homes and pray for wisdom as to how and when to incorporate these new ways of worship in our regular services in the church building again; that we may all benefit from what we have discovered during lockdown. Help us to know how to respond to the new normal.

9th Pray for protection for those in abusive relationships and pray that they will know where to turn for help; resource those agencies and charities seeking to help them.

10th-12th *Sevenoaks, St. Nicholas* - please pray for our Centrepont Houseparty for 11-14 year olds, which will be held virtually this year.

10th Bromley Deanery Please pray for our Area Dean, the Rev. Alan Keeler, all clergy and lay ministers for God's blessings on them all.

St. George, Bickley: please pray for the ten candidates as they begin formation for Confirmation by Bishop Norman on 22nd November.

11th Please pray for those still suffering from Covid 19, for those in hospital and care homes, for those at home anxious for their loved ones, for God's healing touch and for those at home self-isolating. We give thanks for those who are recovering and pray for patience during the long haul to good health.

Sunday 12th We pray for those who have lost loved ones to Covid or other illnesses during the lockdown, who may not have been able to say goodbye and are struggling in their grief; for those who have to be isolated for two weeks after their loved one has died. We pray that they will remember that, during the darkest days, the Lord is with them and, where needed, will carry them.

13th Please pray for all self-employed people who go into clients' homes, such as many hairdressers, who now find it too difficult and expensive to observe all the safety rules and are having to go out of business, and for others no longer having a job. May they all find there is support for them.

14th Black Lives Matter; pray that the Lord will reveal to each of us any hidden and/or unconscious bias that we have in any area. We ask him to heal and forgive us; that we may live together harmoniously, respecting and appreciating one another.

15th Erith Deanery Pray for the Area Dean, all clergy and lay ministers for God's blessing on each one's ministry.

For the Rev. Gordon MacBean, moving to St. John, Welling, this month.

16th For *Evergreen Care, Bexley*, as they continue the wonderful work they do to support the elderly and vulnerable at this time; for all in *St. Peter, Bexleyheath*, involved in keeping the church open for private prayer that it will be a blessing for the community; for the new *Pilgrim Group* starting up at *St. Paulinus, Crayford*, for those exploring their faith.

17th Give thanks for the discovery that a long-known steroid can help in the treatment of Covid 19 and pray for scientists as they seek to find a vaccine to prevent the virus; pray that God will direct and bless their research.

18th Pray for all in the arts world: musicians, actors, artists and many more; for all involved in putting on plays, concerts etc. where space is restricted. All face huge challenges and, in the meantime, loss of income.

Sunday 19th Orpington Deanery For our Area Dean, all clergy and lay ministers, that they may know God's peace and blessing on their ministry.

20th Christ Church Orpington give thanks for starting to build up relationships with the local community through 'Out in the Community' (door to door) and 'Open Kitchen' (giving out Fare Share donations). Please pray that these relationships will continue and we thank God for all the pastoral care that

has happened during lockdown. We pray that God's love and care for individuals will open their minds and hearts to all that God has for them.

We pray for continued generous giving to Orpington Food Bank.

21st Please pray for areas such as East Africa and South Asia which, after facing devastating plagues of locusts, are now dealing with Covid19. We pray too for countries suffering floods and droughts and, where there are warring parties, that people will join together against Covid19. For all in refugee camps, where regular washing of hands and social distancing are not possible. Please pray for a resolution to the conflict in Hong Kong.

22nd Please pray for dementia-friendly care homes, that residents may not be anxious about changes. We pray for the ministry of Anna Chaplains and Friends.

23rd Pray for families struggling to make ends meet and trying to make the holiday month different from the extreme lockdown.

24th Pray for charities which are struggling with their finances, especially those which rely on summer events and door-to-door collections; that people will be able to give so that their vital work can continue. We remember Christian Aid and TearFund and others.

25th Pray for companies who face going out of business or have already done so. We pray for employees coming out of

furlough that they will receive support as furlough ends.

the future are the intercessors"
Walter Wink

Sunday 26th Pray for God's blessing on all worship today, whether online or in the church building, for all who preach and those who minister in any way.

27th Sidcup Deanery Please pray for our Area Dean, all clergy and lay ministers that they may know peace, fullness of life and God's rich blessings.

28th We pray for our link Dioceses in Tanzania and Zimbabwe, the latter beginning to recover from severe drought and both now coping with Covid 19, may God provide for all their needs.

29th We give thanks again for all the Foodbanks in our Diocese and for all who contribute food for those in need.

30th We continue to give thanks for all key workers who have helped keep the country supplied with food, medicine, water, energy and means of transport; for teaching staff keeping schools open for children of key workers and vulnerable children; for the police and emergency workers; for doctors' and vets' surgeries; that all may have opportunities for refreshment over the summer.

31st Please Lord help us all to be faithful in prayer: *"History belongs to the intercessors, who believe the future into being. Even a small number of people can decisively effect the shape the future takes. These shapers of*