

**Year of Continuous Prayer  
2009**

# **Prayer Guide**

**WEEK OF PRAYER  
Sunday 14th to Sunday 21st June 2009**

**St Helens**

**[www.tfh.org.uk/weekofprayer](http://www.tfh.org.uk/weekofprayer)**

**For more information contact TFH, PO Box 155, L15 0JH Email  
[prayer@tfh.org.uk](mailto:prayer@tfh.org.uk) 07711 556 369**

# Sunday 21st June

On this final day look beyond the town and region to the nation. The Bible society report that In 2008 12.8 million people attended church at least once, not counting weddings, christenings and funerals. That is over a quarter of the population and is an increase from 21% in 2007. In the Church of England of the people who came on Back To Church Sunday 5,000 are still attending. As an indication, in our region several churches are looking for new premises to cater for their growth in numbers.

Let's give thanks to God for what He is doing, and cry out to Him for such a move of His Spirit that will dramatically change the nation, and the Church!

But, there are many things that are desperately sad that we need to pray about, such as:

**Drink and drugs; promiscuity; lawlessness and violence, unforgiveness, worshipping of money and "things", aggressive atheism, and the challenge of other faiths.**

Pray for the Church to *"Get ready (or "gird up you loins" as the KJV graphically puts it.) Stand up and tell them everything I command you to say."* Jeremiah 1:17

Pray for protection on all who work on the edge of society, with the marginalised and needy, and that as they share to love of God they will see it touch and transform lives..

Pray finally for an increase in grass-roots prayer from the saints. That is, that more people would see the importance of prayer in their lives and for the society that we live in. Praise God for this week of prayer, and for the year of continuous prayer in our region. Amen

## A PRAYER TO USE

*Heavenly Father  
May Your Light surround us;  
May Your Love enfold us;  
May Your Power protect us;  
May Your Presence watch over us;  
And all who love and follow you,  
Wherever we are.*

**Amen**

# Sunday 14th June

## PREPARATION

Everyone is called to pray. It is the fuel for the growth of our relationship with our heavenly Father and is the breath of the Christian life. The bible says, *"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."* (Romans 12:12) and *"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful."* (Colossians 4:2)

To those that humbly come to Him in faith He says, *"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."* (Jeremiah 33:3)

For those with the desire, it is easy to pray. Come, draw near to your Father in heaven, through Jesus the Son, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Let all, without exception, come. For all are called to pray.

As you come before the Lord in preparation for the coming period of prayer, meditate on David's song of praise. Pray it out to the Lord. Acknowledge His greatness and thank Him for what He has done for us.

*"Praise be to you, O LORD,  
God of our father Israel,  
from everlasting to everlasting.  
Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power  
and the glory and the majesty and the splendour,  
for everything in heaven and earth is yours.  
Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom;  
you are exalted as head over all.  
Wealth and honour come from you;  
you are the ruler of all things.  
In your hands are strength and power  
to exalt and give strength to all.  
Now, our God, we give you thanks,  
and praise your glorious name."*

# Friday 19th June

## THE CHURCH

*"To (God) be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."* Ephesians 3:21

*"His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,"* Ephesians 3:10

The twin purpose of the church lies in glorifying God and making Him known.

**Pray** today that the Church in the region is strengthened to do both of these things, not only when it gathers, but also as we live our individual lives in the society and neighbourhoods in which we live.

**Praise God** for the growing unity between churches, as seen in:

**The Year of Continuous Prayer 2009**, where over 60 churches are praying in a year long linkage, passing the baton from one to the next and praying for the nation, region and communities. Pray for each church taking part that they might see a surge of prayer in their congregation.

**The Network of Networks.** For the last year representatives from a dozen different church networks such as SHINE have been meeting to encourage and support and learn from one another in working together as churches. Pray for Philip Fell (Chairman of SHINE) as he takes part in these termly gatherings, that he might both be a positive influence across the region and in turn benefit from them.

**Past activities** such as Merseyfest and Festival of Hope 08. Pray for community projects that were started through them that still continue in churches round the region. Pray for vision for the Merseyfest leadership to see what God wants next, as the Church seeks to show compassion to its neighbours.

**The growing Compassion Ministries Forum** that is just starting up through which people working with the homeless, asylum seekers and disadvantaged might share resources and find mutual support in the acts of kindness they are involved in.

**PRAY FOR THE CHURCH IN ST HELENS, GIVING THANKS FOR THE FAVOUR OF GOD AND PRAYING FOR AN INCREASING SENSE OF THE TOWN BEING CHRIST CENTRED.**

## A PRAYER TO USE

Heavenly Father,

*Thank you for your goodness, your everlasting mercy and compassion  
Thank You for the many blessings You have allowed in our lives  
that draw us to you.*

*May Your Church so let their light shine in our town and region that men will turn  
to you in praise and wonder and find faith. Amen*

# Tuesday 16th June

## POLICE FORCE

Prayer for Merseyside Police as they seek to enforce the law in our region. Since Merseyfest the Church has had a good relationship with them, particularly through prayer by groups like Drugswatch, Impact and the Christian Police Association, Riverforce and others. Pray:

That senior officers may have wisdom to direct their forces well.

That local forces would be effective in their efforts

That officers will be kept safe & will enforce the law with integrity and wisdom  
That officers and their families would be protected from the effects of stress and know God's peace in their lives

That Christian Officers and Support Staff will be strong and effective in their witness within the Police Service

That the church would respond to local issues and help bring communities together with the police to tackle local problems effectively.

### Pray for the police in St Helens:

**Chief Superintendent** Chris Armitt

**Inspectors:**

Dianne Pownell *St Helens Town Centre*

Mark Lawes *Parr, Sutton & Bold*

Tim Kelly *Rainhill, Thatto Heath, Ecclestone & West Park*

Ian Cooper *Windle, Rainford, Moss Bank, Billinge & Seneley Green*

Steve Lowe *Newton, Haydock, Blackbrook & Earlestown*

And all the other ranks

**Pray for the planned Redeeming Our Communities event with the Police in the Echo Arena tonight. Pray for it to be well supported by Christians from across the region and for the outcome to be a strengthening of effective policing and for peace, safety and order in our communities to be enhanced, as well as a vibrant witness of what Christians are already doing to change society.**

*"I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."*

*1 Timothy 2:1-2*

# What is it all about?

Churches throughout the Mersey Region are co-operating together in a year of continuous prayer in 2009. Starting in January, and going on almost to Christmas, individual churches have been or will be praying for a week before passing on the baton to the next church. It is a tremendous demonstration of how the church can unite in prayer.

The goals for prayer would be to pray:

- for a fundamental change in our society and nation,
- for the Mersey Region, for transformation of society and growth in the churches and,
- for local issues and churches and people, for the spheres of life in the community.

So for the whole year, churches will be joining in prayer, *“united in spirit, intent on one purpose”*. **Phil 2:2**

Now one week has been designated when we can all pray for these things together: 14th to 21st June 2009.

This prayer guide is designed to help churches and individual Christians to be part of that. It doesn't ask for attendance at huge gatherings (with one exception - see “Redeeming Our Communities”). The guide can be used by you personally in your home to pray each day, being conscious that many others will be doing the same. It can be used as the basis for a week of prayer in your place of work or education. It can inform and stimulate church prayer meetings. Please use it to help you pray, knowing that your prayer counts

**The Week of Prayer is about the Prayers of the Saints:** when grass-roots Christians tell their heavenly Father what is on their hearts. The bible tells us that He loves to hear our prayers - it is like incense to Him:

*“The four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are **the prayers of the saints**.”* Rev 5:8

*“The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel's hand.”* Rev 8:4

# Prayers for you to use

**Lord God,**

*Look with love and mercy on this region and its people.*

*Once the gateway of an earthly empire,  
Through which flowed the wealth of many nations;  
We ask now that the River of Life, your divine grace,  
May flow crystal clear through our streets,  
And out to the whole world,  
For the healing and well being of all nations*

**Amen**

*Peace to the brothers,  
and love with faith  
from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.*

**Amen**

**God of all times and places,**

*we ask you to  
attend to this prayer and the voices, heard  
and silent, who pray it:  
For families who struggle to speak to one  
another in love,  
For families who delight in being together,  
For families who read your word together,  
For families who find it hard to spend any  
time together,  
For the families in our communities,  
For the families visiting this place  
Those who know you  
And those to whom you are a stranger  
We pray that your love will shine in them  
And that they turn to you  
And follow you.*

**Amen.**

# Monday 15th June

## BUSINESSES & EMPLOYMENT

Everyone is feeling the effects of the world-wide financial crisis and it is a particular time to pray for people in employment and the businesses that employ them. Major employers and businesses in the region include:

*Chemical & Petroleum Industry in Runcorn, Stanlow and elsewhere; Car Industry including Jaguar in Speke and Vauxhall in Ellesmere Port as well as the many car salesrooms; Retail Industry across the region and in major centres such; Creative Technology Industry; Ports of Liverpool and Birkenhead and associated industries; Public sector, in particular the NHS; Financial services and Tourism*

### In St Helens particularly pray for the glass industry

Please pray in all of these areas that affect so many lives, for

- ✿ God's mercy in the preservation of jobs in the region.
- ✿ For a recognition amongst business leaders that a change in business values is needed.
- ✿ For Christians who are running businesses. The key issue for them is the recognition that they are in a battle over values. Pray that they will be equipped to run their businesses with Christian "kingdom" principles.
- ✿ That Christian employers & employees will live lives in their working environments that will be examples in the troubled times, that those around them will see and take notice of. List some Christians you know who have jobs or run businesses & pray for them by name:

---



---



---

**Pray for the recently formed North West Christian Business Forum. It includes people from the Mersey Region, Chester, Manchester, Lancashire & Cumbria. Their goal is to declare biblically based values as the standard needed to operate and successfully develop their business in the marketplace. Pray protection on them as they work to support the Church in carrying the Kingdom message into the workplace.**

# Saturday 20th June

*"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called" Ephesian 4:2-4*

A team of people led by Dave King will be setting out from Salford today to walk and pray from their to Liverpool, passing through St Helens en route. Dave is the visionary behind the Citylight Trust and also leads the Salford Prayer Network. The prayer walk will take two days.

It is an expression of their commitment to promoting good relationships between the regions at opposite ends of the East Lancashire Road, in contrast to the belligerence shown by many, particularly in the sporting field. Pray for them, that they have good weather and good times of prayer.

Pray for the spirit of Ephesians 4:2-4 to be manifested in the church in the region: that we have hearts that are not infected by the world's attitudes, but by the love of God for each other.

From our week of prayer in the Mersey Region Dave King will also pick up the baton from us for the week of prayer in Salford that follows ours. Pray for the impact of prayer in our region and Salford, that they will break up the ground for harvest and transformation.

### Pray For SHINE

For the SHINE Board as they seek to serve the church in the town, *"that their work will be a joy, not a burden"*

For the Prayer Diary, that many more would sign up to receive it and pray regularly for the church and town.

For continued favour with the council

### A PRAYER TO USE

*O God of burning cleansing flame, Send the fire!  
Your blood-bought gift today we claim: Send the fire today!*

*Look down and see this waiting host,*

*And send the promised Holy Ghost;*

*We need another Pentecost! Send the fire today!*

**Amen**

# Wednesday 17th June

## SCHOOLS

No one needs to be told how important it is to pray for children, teachers and others involved in schools today. With one school teaching union wanting to remove all religious education from schools and Christian teachers being suspended for their views in some areas, this is a battleground. So we need to pray.

### Pray for Christian

**Teachers**, that they would live and speak about when appropriate a vibrant Christianity. Give them great wisdom in these times. There are 603 primary and secondary schools in Merseyside (not counting Halton, Warrington & Skelmersdale).

**Pupils** in schools, that they would be encouraged and protected from bullying.

**Organisations working in schools**, such as youth For Christ and Scripture Union and others.

**School governors** and for more Christians to take up the challenge to become governors.

**Groups** across the region working with excluded children, that they might be powerfully effective in ministering to many broken and damaged young people.

**The Christian Teachers Association** in supporting the great work done by their members in the region.

Pray for all who work in Education, including those who run the show. For integrity and wisdom. Pray for a preservation of the liberty to speak about Jesus.

### Pray for Schools in St Helens:

**Pray for** Director of Children's Services Susan Richardson and the Education Authority. Pray for Christians working in it that their influence would be used to extend God's Kingdom.

**Praise God** for the positive reports received in the past for education in St Helens.

**Pray** for the thirty-one primary schools and seventeen secondary schools in the borough.

**Pray** for the curriculums in the schools, that they are not hijacked by the irreligious and atheistic agendas of some parts of society, and that Christian values prevail.

**Pray** for Churches to positively support local schools in every way they can.

# Thursday 18th June

## GOVERNMENT

1 Tim 2:1-4 says, "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth." Prayer for those in power is closely linked by Paul to bringing men and women to salvation. So we should pray for them, so that the sort of peaceful society exists that aids the spread of the gospel.

Today people across the region will be praying for councillors and MP's and others in the five Boroughs of Merseyside, Halton and Warrington Unitary Authorities, and Skelmersdale. As you pray for St Helens remember the other areas in your prayers.

### St Helens Council

**Leader:** Brian Spencer **Chief Executive** Carole Hudson

### Councillors:

■ **Billinge & Seneley Green:** Susan Murphy; Joe Pearson

■ **Blackbrook:** Linda Maloney; Paul McQuade

■ **Bold:** Matthew Dunn; Tom Hargreaves; Stephen Topping

■ **Earlestown:** Charles Banks; Keith Deakin; Leon McGuire

■ **Eccleston:** Shirley Evans; Geoffrey Pearl; Teresa Sims

■ **Haydock:** James Caunce; Eric Sheldon; Janet Sheldon

■ **Moss Bank:** Cllr. Richard Ferry; Anne Heyes; Carole Kavanagh

■ **Newton:** Cllr. Peter Astbury; Suzanne Knight; Neil Taylor

■ **Parr:** Cllr. Andy Bowden; Keith Roberts; Terence Shields

■ **Rainford:** David Grice; Betty Lowe; John Parr

■ **Rainhill:** Joe De'Asha; Stephen Glover; Barrie Grunewald

■ **Sutton:** Kenneth Knowles; Brian Spencer; Stephanie Topping

■ **Thatto Heath:** Patricia Martinez-Williams; Richard McCauley; Shelia Seddon

■ **Town Centre:** John Beirne; David Crowther; Janet Hennessy

■ **West Park:** Marlene Quinn; Marie Rimmer

■ **Windle:** Nancy Ashcroft; Wally Ashcroft; Ken Roughley

Pray also for the outgoing mayor John Beirne and the incoming mayor.

**MPs:** **North** Mr Dave Watts; **South** Rt Hon Shaun Woodward

Give thanks for the commitment and work of all these servants of society. Pray for their protection and that of their families. Pray for those that you know are Christians that God will use them for His glory in their positions of influence. Pray for those who don't have a living faith that God will speak into their hearts, and that they will respond! Pray for the council to set a righteous example in its actions, and for the MP's to align themselves with actions for the good of the town, region and nation.