

**Year of Continuous Prayer
2009**

Prayer Guide

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

Wirral

www.tfh.org.uk/weekofprayer

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Sunday 21st June

On this final day look beyond the borough 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."*

1 Chronicles 29:10-13

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 in the Mersey Region 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 Prophetic Role of the Church on Wirral. Churches across the borough are involved at different levels, some more actively than others, with the borough council, statutory bodies, voluntary organisations and, most importantly, the local communities. Praise God for all the good that has come out of that. Pray that the Church can humbly serve, mightily bless and, when necessary, robustly challenge decisions and attitudes, whether official or public, so that people can live and work in safety, freedom and justice. Please pray specifically for a good working relationship between Wirral Council and the Church, which bears fruit for God's Kingdom.

Serving people: Praise God for all the projects that demonstrate the love of God to the people of Wirral in social action. Pray for the newly forming Compassion Ministry Network, which aims to link all those involved in these works. Pray for every activity that shows God's love by proclaiming the Good News about Jesus.

Pray for the church on Wirral, giving thanks for the favour of God and praying for increasing success in proclaiming the message of the Gospel

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 DrugsNET, 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 Wirral

Chief Superintendent Jon Ward

Inspectors:

Julie Fletcher *East Wallasey*
Pete Kolokotroni *Moreton & West Wallasey*
Paul Vickers *Hoylelake*
Brian Griffiths *Upton, Prenton & Greasby*

Paul Harrison *Laird Street*
Mick Blease *Birkenhead*
Andy Wise *Bromborough*
Kate Cunningham *Heswall*

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 are 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; Creative Technology Industry; Ports of Liverpool and Birkenhead and associated industries; Public sector, in particular the NHS; Financial services and Tourism

In Wirral pray for those in the motor trade

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 there to Liverpool, passing through St Helens and Knowsley 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 Churches on Wirral to work together.

Give thanks for groups in Bebington, Pensby, Birkenhead, West Kirby & Hoylake and elsewhere where this is already happening, for joint events of worship, outreach and social action.

Pray for an increased sense of supporting one another for the sake of God's Kingdom on Wirral.

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

Christian Pupils, that they would be encouraged and protected from bullying.

Christian Organisations working in schools, such as Youth For Christ and Scripture Union and others.

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

Christian 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 on Wirral

Pray for Howard Cooper, Wirral's Director of Children's

Pray for Christians working in education in Knowsley, that their influence would be used to extend God's Kingdom.

Pray for the 137 schools (including 101 primary schools, 22 secondary schools, preschool and special schools) serving the 50,000 children 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.

Praise God for the extensive schools work being carried out by Youth For Christ. Pray for good relationships with churches and for them 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 authority 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 Wirral remember the other areas in your prayers.

Wirral Council Leader: Steve Foulkes Chief Executive Steve Maddox

Councillors:

Bebington: Sheila Clarke, Walter Smith, Jerry Williams

Bidston and St James: Jim Crabtree, Ann McLachlan, Harry Smith

Birkenhead and Tranmere: Phil Davies, Brian Kenny, Jean Stapleton

Bromborough: Bob Moon, Steve Niblock, Alan Taylor

Clatterbridge: Alan Jennings, Cherry Povall, Chris Teggan

Claughton: George Davies, Steve Foulkes, Denise Roberts

Eastham: Phil Gilchrist, Tom Harney, Dave Mitchell

Greasby, Frankby and Irby: Gill Gardiner, Jean Quinn, Peter Reisdorf

Heswall: Andrew Hodson, Peter Johnson, Les Rowlands

Hoylake and Meols: Gerry Ellis, John Hale, David Kirwan

Leasowe and Moreton East: Ron Abbey, Iris Coates, Ian Lewis

Liscard: Leah Fraser, Karen Hayes, James Keeley

Moreton W & Saughall Massie: Chris Blakeley, Suzanne Moseley, Simon Mountney

More Brighton: Bill Duffey, Tony Pritchard, Sue Taylor

Oxton: Stuart Kelly, Paula Southwood, Pat Williams

Pensby and Thingwall: Sarah Quinn, Mike Redfern, Bob Wilkins

Prenton: Ann Bridson, Frank Doyle, Simon Holbrook

Rock Ferry: Bill Davies, Moira McLaughlin, Chris Meadin

Seacombe: Adrian Jones, Denis Knowles, John Salter

Upton: Tom Anderson, John George, Tony Smith

Wallasey: Paul Hayes, Lesley Rennie, Kate Wood

West Kirby and Thurstaston: David M Elderton, Jeff Green, Geoffrey Watt

MPs: Wallasey: Angela Eagle, Wirral South: Ben Chapman, Wirral West: Stephen Hesford, Birkenhead: Frank Field

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 borough, region and nation.