

Things to be praying for...

CBC Week of Prayer 5th - 12th September 2021

This week of prayer comes at a time of flux in the life of CBC. We are actively seeking a new Senior Pastor as our existing Senior Pastor Eddie spends his last few weeks in-role with us. Additionally, we are still working out the implications of a new Autumn term as we come out of COVID restrictions.

The temptation to be anxious in the face of so much uncertainty can be significant, and yet, we have a great God who is eager to hear from us, and more than willing to answer our prayers according to his good and perfect will and in his perfect timing.

So, whilst it is good for us to talk about these challenges with one another, let's do more than that. Let's hand them, and every part of the work of CBC over to God in prayer. Let's knock on his door and ask him to work for His glory. Let's submit every opportunity and every decision to Him, and at the same time let's submit ourselves to His will. And then let's pray that we would have open hearts and minds to accept his leading for this church.

Below you will find a list of pointers to help you pray. (A big thank you to everyone who's contributed prayer points!) You'll see that there's plenty to be praying for... please don't feel restricted to these points, but we hope they will help you get started.

Ultimately, the one we are praying to - our Almighty, and loving God - knows what we need already. But he loves to hear us ask. And he encourages us to recognise our utter dependence on Him. So, though we may not be in the same room as we pray, let's call on Him together.

More than that - before you read any further, why not take the time to work out WHEN you will pray this week, and commit to doing just that, so that our week of prayer is filled with prayer, and not simply good intentions that fall by the wayside.

"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (ESV)

Search for a new Senior Pastor

A job advert has been placed in Evangelical News and "The Hub" publication by the Good Book Company, with a closing date at the end of September.

Please pray for:

- those who might apply, that God would prompt the right candidate to apply.
- the SPOT (Search for a Pastor Oversight Team) as we consider the applicants, that God would strengthen the team to do our work with diligence and according to His will.

Coming out of lockdown

Please pray for:

- the STRIPE (Strategic team for the Return to In-Person Events) team as they continue to guide us on how to go about church life whilst protecting one another from the COVID virus.
- Wisdom to know whether the Priory Street congregations ought to continue to meet as one service, or whether two services will better serve those attending and those considering attending.
- God to grant us the resources to continue being gentle and patient with one another as we find our way through these times.

Ministries...

Cleaning

- Physical protection

Communications (notices, website, emails, social media)

- Clear communications
- Attractive and winsome information about the church going out online
- For Cathy, Jasmine, Sue, Tim and others who are working together to communicate

Craft Group

- Possible start back in October; confidence to return and the name of Jesus to crop up in fellowship together. Expanding into community as outreach; blessing others and the church with our giftings.

Finance (Gift Aid, Offertory)

- Smooth handover as Michael P expects to retire from this role soon

- Thanks to God for his provision to the church and its stewards in meeting financial needs.
- Guidance as we work to make the accounting process more efficient and less time consuming.
- A successor for Roger H to be raised up.

Flowers

- Sharing God's beautiful creation and enabling the distribution of them to be used to show love and kindness.

Health and Safety

- Physical protection
- Wisdom for Tim M as he oversees the church's Health and Safety
- For the buildings and grounds to be a blessing and used for God's glory

Junior Church

- Give thanks for Rhiannon P and pray for constant renewal of her energy, enthusiasm and creativity
- For children to feel confident to join in and come to know Jesus personally
- Wisdom and God's guidance on how to re-establish Junior Church as we come out of COVID
- For willing helpers and strong team to form following COVID

Leadership teams

- Pray for our congregational leaders, as they serve us week by week.
- Pray for the facilitation team as they provide support for the church with fabric, finance, safeguarding, legislation, and many other areas.
- Pray for the oversight team as they seek to guide the church spiritually.
- Pray for the staff team as they seek to serve the children, young people, and adults in the church.

Meal train

- Give thanks for all organisers, chefs and volunteers
- Ask God to sustain them in their generosity to those in need

Men's Ministry

- Pray for those teaching and organising events
- Ask God to deepen friendships and for Jesus to be a natural part of the men's conversations
- Pray that God would stir the men to encourage each other to be in the Word and follow Jesus closely

Midweek Service

- Pray for all those leading and preaching at the Midweek Service
- Pray for those providing pastoral care to the congregation

- Ask God to deepen fellowship and relationship with Him and amongst the congregation as they meet.

Mission Support :

For our church family serving on the mission field:

- Steve and Gill B (WEC)
- Stuart and Lynne L (Mercy Ships)
- Josh H, preparing to serve in a church in Canada with PAIS in January

And for the organisations we partner with:

- BMS World Mission <https://www.bmsworldmission.org/>
- Home Mission Fund <https://www.webassoc.org.uk/>
- Steve and Gill Bryant - WEC International <https://www.wecinternational.org/>
- Africa Inland Mission (AIM) - <https://eu.aim-int.org/>
- Open Doors <https://www.opendoors.org/>
- International Teams Austria – The Oasis Centre <https://www.oasis-iteams.at/english/>
- Tearfund <https://www.tearfund.org/>
- Compassion <https://www.compassion.com/>
- The Bible Society <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/>

Money and Debt Advice

- Give thanks for the contacts Alan S and the team have with the community
- Pray that they will be able to give practical advice and have opportunities to reach out with prayer and the Gospel, too

Outreach

- Pray for our evangelism and our witness as a church family.
- Pray that we would grasp the opportunities given to us by God both as individuals and as church family.

Prayer Ministry and Prayer Chain by Email

- Pray that the prayer ministry and prayer chain emails would serve the church family well, allowing us to support one another in prayer.
- Ask God to grant wisdom to all those who participate in these ministries by praying for others.

Safeguarding

- Give thanks for our Safeguarding Team, especially Debbie R and Kate H who are our designated persons for safeguarding, Bev helping to coordinate DBS checks, and Mark our safeguarding trustee.
- Pray that God will give them wisdom in helping the church to create a safe environment for everyone

- Pray for continued safety for the young and the vulnerable, for godly friendships to form and for them to feel able to know God's love and care when they are at church

Small groups and Life Groups

- Pray for these groups to grow closer in fellowship and be selfless in love for each other
- Pray for small group and life group leaders to keep fresh in faith and stay close to Jesus, as they are leading others
- Pray that these will have opportunities for outreach as other family members and friends are drawn in

Sound Desk and Live Stream

- Pray for Ben R and Tim S and their team as they manage the technology for the Sunday services. Give thanks for their skills and pray that they will still be able to worship God and hear God's message even though they are juggling so many things

Souper Friday

- Give thanks for how the ministry has continued through COVID
- Pray for families Souper Friday has contact with, for growth in prayer opportunities and Gospel ministry
- Pray for God's guidance going forward and how to develop the ministry as we come out of Lockdown

The Ark

- Pray for increasing connection with Toddler Group families
- Ask for God's wisdom on how to develop and further the Ark post-Covid
- Pray for the team of volunteers to keep strong in faith and not tire in the work

Toddler Group

- Ask God to show how best to move forward out of Covid
- Ask God to raise up new workers as group is depleted
- Pray that the toddler group would act as a bridge to the Ark and Junior church to point to Christ; build friendships

Women's Ministry

- That God's Word would take root in the women's lives
- For all who are teaching the Word to have good insight and be able to make time for preparations
- For the women to be challenged and grow in faith
- For good fellowship as we meet in person and on zoom
- Women to keep encouraging each other in the Word and in prayer

Youth

- Open hearts:* Please pray that young people will encounter Jesus.

- Open mouths:* Boldness for youth in asking friends to events, youth leaders in making youth welcoming, accessible and Jesus-centred. God to help youth to take responsibility to grow their faith. Wisdom as leaders support youth in this.
- Open Heaven:* God to help youth know they are not alone, that God is with them through their ups and downs, and to have courage and vulnerability to invite God to what the circumstances they face.