

SHINE Prayer Diary

Thanksgiving – thanking God for both our earthly and spiritual homes

Friday 1 February

I have asked the LORD for one thing; one thing only do I want: to live in the LORD's house all my life, to marvel there at his goodness, and to ask for his guidance. In times of trouble he will shelter me; he will keep me safe in his Temple and make me secure on a high rock.

Psalm 27:4 – 5 CEV

God want us to make our home in him. Thank you for this spiritual home that cares for my soul. Thank you for all the goodness that is available in this home. Today I thank you Lord, for guiding me through life. Thank you for being a strong, reliable shelter in hard times. Thank you for protecting my heart. Amen.

We remember in prayer the Servant Group's initiative to meet and pray on a monthly basis the first Friday of each month in The Lady Chapel in Liverpool Cathedral, thanking God for the unity and faithful prayer that has been offered up as incense in the Lord's house.

Saturday 2 February

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of Jehovah forever. Psalm 23:6 NKJV

God is our home for all the days of our life on earth, and for all of eternity. Become aware of the Spirit's presence with you bringing God's goodness and love into your life. I thank you God, for your great goodness and love, specifically _____. Appreciate this as you go about your life today.

Sunday 3 February – Sing: Jesus you are welcome in this place

City of Zion, sing and celebrate! The LORD has promised to come and live with you.

Zechariah 2:10

As God's people today, in our hearts we sing and rejoice. I lift up your praise in this home. Truly you are a great and caring God. You have promised to come and live with me. Sometimes I might doubt that you could want to live with me, but the truth is you do want to live with me! Thank you that you are faithful to your promise, and you live with me. Amen

Monday 4 February

From one human being he created all races of people and made them live throughout the whole earth. He himself fixed beforehand the exact times and the limits of the places where they would live. Acts 17:26 CEV

Thank you that you made me part of the human race. Thank you for my brothers and sisters on this planet. Thank you that you have created us all equal regardless of our gender, race or belief systems. Thank you that you fixed a physical place for me to live. I thank you for all the homes that I have had throughout my life. Today, I especially thank you for my current physical home, and for all the people who are part of that place, my family, friends and neighbours. I pray for all who are about to move home thanking you for your provision of a new home. Amen.

Tuesday 5 February

Jesus answered him, "Those who love me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and my Father and I will come to them and live with them." John 14:23 GNB

Thank you Father, for loving me. Thank you Father, for coming with the Son to live with me. Thank you Jesus, for your teachings. Help me to be obedient even when it is costly and challenging to live according to your instructions, rather than according to my way of doing

things. Help me during this time of Lent to see more clearly how you want me to live and help me to live more closely to you. Amen

Wednesday 6 February

They did not keep thinking about the country they had left; if they had, they would have had the chance to return. Instead, it was a better country they longed for, the heavenly country. And so God is not ashamed for them to call him their God, because he has prepared a city for them.

Hebrews 11:15 – 16 CEV

What God promises is eternal and what this world offers is short term. Thank you that just like Abraham and Sarah, I too am a pilgrim longing for a heavenly home. Let me receive your forgiveness for past errors and failures. Receiving forgiveness, help me not to dwell on the past. Today, help me to live fully in the present and help me to allow my heart and mind to think Kingdom thoughts. Amen.

Thursday 7 February

I heard a loud voice shout from the throne: God's home is now with his people. He will live with them, and they will be his own. Yes, God will make his home among his people. Rev 21:3

Thank you, that as Saint John lived in exile, alone and far from his previous home, you chose to speak to him of great mysteries that encourage our hearts. Help me to find time to be alone with you, to listen to your words of encouragement and truth. Thank you that an important part of sharing your home is talking to you and listening to you. Thank you that you have messages that you desire to speak to my heart for my benefit and for the benefit of others. Amen.

Prayer for the Church – from the Apostle Paul's letter to the Ephesians

A Fight to the Finish – from Ephesians 6:10 – 24 (The Message)

Friday 8 February

And that about wraps it up. God is strong, and he wants you strong. So take everything the Master has set out for you, well made weapons of the best materials. And put them to use so you will be able to stand up to everything the Devil throws your way. This is no afternoon athletic contest that we'll walk away from and forget about in a couple of hours. This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish against the Devil and his angels. Ephesians 6:10 – 12

Lord, we pray for Christians in St Helens, that we would better understand the nature of the spiritual battle that we each fight. You, Lord, are strong, help us to be strong. Teach us to use the spiritual resources that you have given us so that we will win the battle that the Enemy wages against us. Amen.

Saturday 9 February

Be prepared. You are up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it's all over but the shouting you'll still be on your feet. Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them. You'll need them throughout your life. Ephesians 6:13 – 17a

God, make us teachable Christians. Please fill your church with teachable Christians. Teach us how to apply truth, peace, faith and salvation in every situation. Thank you for your help. Amen.

Sunday 10 February – Praise the Holy One in Whom we can trust

But you are enthroned as the Holy One, the one whom Israel praises. Our ancestors put their trust in you; they trusted you, and you saved them. They called to you and escaped from danger; they trusted you and were not disappointed. Psalm 22:3 – 5

Holy God, today humbly I praise because I have put my trust in you and you have never failed me. When I face trials and tests I call to you and you hear my cry, and I am not disappointed.

With heartfelt praise I ask you to be enthroned in my life as King and Saviour. Come, Holy One and take your rightful place. Amen.

Monday 11 February

*God's word is an **indispensable** weapon. In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out.* Ephesians 6:17b – 18

God, author of the Word, may the church in St Helens love your Word more deeply, study your Word more frequently and live your Word more fully. Pour out a new anointing of mutual and uplifting prayer for all believers here in St Helens. Anoint your church with the Spirit of wisdom and understanding. Amen.

Tuesday 12 February

And don't forget to pray for me. Pray that I'll know what to say and have the courage to say it at the right time, telling the mystery to one and all, the Message that I, jailbird preacher that I am, am responsible for getting out. Ephesians 6:19 – 20

Jesus, our guide and teacher, we pray for all in St Helens who teach and preach your Word. May they themselves be teachable. May they be diligent in their personal study of your Word. May they be gracious in their teaching, may they be humble in their walk with you, and may they be faithful to your Word. Amen.

Wednesday 13 February

Tychicus, my good friend here, will tell you what I'm doing and how things are with me. He is certainly a dependable servant of the Master! I've sent him not only to tell you about us but to cheer you on in your faith. Ephesians 6:21 – 22

We pray for every believer in St Helens that they will be servants of Christ on whom he can depend. Grant that serving you will become a more urgent priority in our lives. As you pray take this opportunity to pray for yourself and 5 other Christians who you know, that they will be encouraged to become more Christ like.

Thursday 14 February

Goodbye, friends. Love mixed with faith be yours from God the Father and from the Master, Jesus Christ. Pure grace and nothing but grace be with all who love our Master Jesus Christ. Ephesians 6:23 – 24

We pray for our churches, that increasingly we would be communities set apart by our graciousness and loving attitudes towards others. May we become centres of worship where outsiders receive grace and acceptance. Amen.

Prayer for Parenting and Families – Barbara and Margery thank you for praying

Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in His ways. You will eat the fruit of your labour, blessings and prosperity will be yours. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your sons will be like olive shoots around your table. Thus is the man blessed who fears the Lord. Psalm 128:1 – 4

Friday 15 February

Please pray:

- for a culture of 'doing things together as a family' in our town
- that employers will show they value family time and leisure providers will keep the needs of the family at the forefront of their planning

Saturday 16 February

We pray that government and policy makers will work together to strengthen the family unit and encourage its desirability as God's perfect model for love and commitment. Amen.

Sunday 17 February – Made in His image we rejoice!

The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, and he will rejoice over you with singing. Zephaniah 3:17

As you sing over me with love, today in my heart, I sing to you Lord. Thank you for taking delight in me. I praise you because you are loving and joyful. I praise you because you are with me at all times and in all situations. And I praise you because you are a strong and powerful Saviour. Amen.

Monday 18 February

Lord, we pray for families fractured by broken relationships, misunderstandings and shattered hopes and dreams. We pray that there may be forgiveness, healing and hope. Amen. Take a few moments to remember in prayer any families that you know who are facing any of these difficulties.

Tuesday 19 February

We pray for:

- parents with stressful work situations that they will find the time and the energy to enjoy their families
- tonight's Hope lifestyle Seminar 'Building and Sustaining Meaningful Relationships' at the Park Inn (formerly Hilton Hotel), Linkway West, 7.30pm. (£5 entrance fee payable at the door)

Wednesday 20 February

Please pray for:

- families living with long-term illness, mental health problems or disability
- families recovering from the financial burden of Christmas

Thursday 21 February

Merciful Father, we pray for parents worried about children who have left home without saying where they are going, and young people who want to be reconciled to their parents but don't know how to take the first step.

We thank God for all the parents who are attending parenting courses up to Easter that they will find support and friendship from each other. We pray, that as they discover respectful ways of communicating with their children, they will experience less stress and more fun within their families. Amen.

Prayer for the Town

Friday 22 February – Policing

Without guidance from God law and order disappear, but God blesses everyone who obeys his Law. Proverbs 29:18 CEV

Let us pray for the policing of our town:

- for St Helens Area Commander Chief Superintendent Peter Brinkley
- all Merseyside police officers who have been injured in the course of their duties, for physical, emotional and spiritual healing and comfort for their families
- for our local Police Community Support Officers who are surveying local communities on a 3-monthly basis to identify the issues important to them

- top priorities to be tackled with police, partners and the public working together to build safer neighbourhoods.

Saturday 23 February

Pray for:

- Merseyside Police Officers as they work together with St Helens Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) in a total war on drugs, aiming to reduce the availability and harm that drugs cause in local communities. Thanking God that since they have worked together in this partnership over 850 arrests have been made.
- for the success of STAND – St Helens Against Night-time Disorder. This was launched by St Helens Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership in consultation with Merseyside Police and the Pub watch Schemes in the Town Centre, Newton & Earlestown and Thatto Heath areas
- the partnership between Merseyside Police and the Community Foundation helping young people at risk, educating school pupils to be safe and to make right choices.

Sunday 24 February – Justice and love He brings to the world

Let all the earth hear His voice, let the people rejoice at the sound of His name; let all the valleys and hills burst with joy, and the trees in the field clap their hands. Justice and love He will bring to the world, His kingdom will never fail; held like a two-edged sword in our hand, his word and truth shall prevail, shall prevail! Graham Kendrick.

Hearing your name, we rejoice! Knowing you are just and loving, we rejoice! God who never fails us, we rejoice! Hearing your true and mighty Word, we rejoice!

Monday 25 February – Council

Showing respect to the LORD will make you wise, and being humble will bring honour to you.
Proverbs 15:33 CEV

Thank you God for St Helens council. We pray for the Council Executive Members:

Council Leader Brian Spencer – Corporate Services & External Affairs

Councillor Neil Taylor – Urban Regeneration

Councillor Suzanne Knight – Adult Social Care and Health

Councillor Shirley Evans – Children and Young People's Services

Councillor Wally Ashcroft – Culture, Sport and Heritage

Councillor Carole Kavanagh – Environmental Protection

Councillor Teresa Sims – Safer Communities

Councillor Richard Ferry – Chair of Planning

Councillor Nancy Ashcroft – Chair of Licensing and Environmental Protection.

Please grant these women and men hearts that are humble and respectful of the godly principles as they serve our community. Amen.

Tuesday 26 February – St Helens College

Please pray for:

- Pat Bacon (Principal) and all the staff, thanking God for their hard work and vision for the work of providing educational opportunities in St Helens
- Learning mentors: Catherine Benbow, Michelle Fairclough and Paul Johnson, thanking God for opportunities to mentor, encourage and offer advice on time management, coursework, drug and alcohol awareness, motivation, self-esteem, goal setting, sexual health, bereavement, revision and homelessness
- all who will attend the College open day in March that many will wish to enrol in full time higher education, help them to select courses which are suited to their potential and needs
- College initiatives aimed at improving the environment

Wednesday 27 February – St Helens Chamber

A city is happy when honest people have good fortune, and there are joyful shouts when the wicked die. A city becomes great when the righteous give it their blessing; but a city is brought to ruin by the words of the wicked. Proverbs 11:10 + 11 GNB

As we continue to pray for the Chamber we thank God for:

- St Helens Chamber being officially recognised as the top performing Chamber in the UK
- Chief executive Kath Boullen, and her committed and dedicated team, for continued strength, inspiration and good management
- continued support of the board and loyal members
- booming business in St Helens, over 30 companies have relocated to St Helens and 20 local firms have moved to new premises in St Helens
- all the new small businesses that have been started and that are about to commence

Shine Prayer Event tonight at 7.30pm at St Peter's, Parr. Please pray, do come.

Thursday 28 February – Media

A witness saves lives when he tells the truth; when he tells lies, he betrays people.

Proverbs 14:25

Today we pray for our local newspapers the St Helens Star and the St Helens Reporter. Thank you God, for all the staff who work for these two newspapers. We pray especially for Editors Steve Leary and Andy Moffatt, please help them in their responsibility to provide the public with honest reporting of news events and situations that occur in St Helens and which may affect the lives of residents.

Prayer for SHINE

Friday 29 February

Today we remember Rev Canon Chris Woods' life and his ministry among us here in St Helens. We remember Moses' prayer '*LORD God, source of all life, appoint, I pray, a man who can lead the people.*' (Numbers 27:15 + 16) and we thank you for raising up and appointing Chris as a man who led God's people.

- we ask God to comfort Kathy and the children and all who grieve the loss of Chris, please provide for all their needs and be their tower of strength as they adapt to the changes that Chris' death has brought
- we thank God for Chris' vision and commitment to God's purposes for this town
- we thank you for all the words of prayer and blessing that Chris pronounced over the Town and its residents, thanking you that you are the Lord who loves to bless his people

Saturday 1 March

Marjorie Mardsen, SHINE administrator asks us to pray that:

- churches will respond to the information sent out about Hope 2008 events and get involved
- more people will attend the SHINE Praise & Prayer Events.

Sunday 2 March – Offer the Lord a sacrifice of thanksgiving

What can I offer the LORD for all his goodness to me? I will bring a wine offering to the LORD, to thank him for saving me. In the assembly of all his people I will give him what I have promised. How painful it is to the LORD when one of his people dies! I am your servant, LORD; I serve you just as my mother did. You have saved me from death. I will give you a sacrifice of

thanksgiving and offer my prayer to you. In the assembly of all your people, in the sanctuary of your Temple in Jerusalem, I will give you what I have promised. Praise the LORD!

Psalm 116:12 – 18

Take a few moments to think of all the ways that God has shown his goodness to you during this last week. As you quietly name these good gifts thank God and offer your prayers to him.

Monday 3 March

The LORD has promised that he himself will be a wall of fire around the city to protect it and that he will live there in all his glory. Zechariah 2:5 GNB

Thank you, Lord, for St Helens and all its residents. Thank you Lord for promising to protect the town with a wall of fire. Thank you that you wish to manifest your glory in this town. May my life and witness be part of your protection plan and glory showing plan in this place. Amen.

Tuesday 4 March

Jerusalem, on your walls I have stationed guards, whose duty it is to speak out day and night, without resting. They must remind the LORD and not let him rest till he makes Jerusalem strong and famous everywhere. Isaiah 62:6 – 7

Today, we pray for all who pray for St Helens. Thank you for stationing many intercessors who speak out day and night in favour of this town. Help them to remain alert, to hear your voice and to see and read the signs of the times. Help them to remain faithful to this calling. Amen.

Wednesday 5 March SAINTS – Chaplain Phil Pawley asks us to pray:

- as the new season kicks off please pray for the players, staff and families as they deal with the enormous pressure this brings
- for players' safety from life threatening injury on the field, and for all their travels – particularly those crossing the Pennines each day

Thursday 6 March

We pray together for:

- family stability in the midst of a demanding season
- the physical, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing of coaching and backroom staff and volunteers and all associated with the club
- Phil, Club Chaplain that he will have wisdom and sensitivity to help people at the club to reflect on life's meaning and to learn to seek God and his Kingdom first

Prayer for the churches of St Helens

Friday 7 March – Christian Life Centre

Rev Philip Fell asks us to pray for:

- Spectrum Youth Rock Event taking place today – for many young people to attend and hear the good news of Jesus in a relevant way
- New "Foundations in Following Jesus" course commences Tuesday 15th – for new Christians to become established in the faith

Saturday 8 March

We continue to pray for Christian Life Centre asking God for:

- Hope Centre – for wisdom regarding future funding and developments in the homelessness service which this centre provides
- his care and encouragement in the lives of all the couples who attended the recent Marriage Course and that this course will have a continued and long lasting impact on these relationships

Sunday 9 March – The Joy of the Redeemed

The wilderness and the desert shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the crocus. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing; the glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the honour of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of Jehovah and the majesty of our God. Isaiah 35:1 – 2

Today, Majestic and Glorious God, I ask you to fill my heart with joy. You are worthy to receive my honour and praise. Open my eyes to see more of your majesty and glory. I am joyful because you love me Father, I am joyful, Jesus, because you are my friend and I am joyful, Holy Spirit, because you guide me and counsel me. Amen.

Monday 10 March

Make the weak hands strong and make the feeble knees sure. Say to those of a hasty heart, “Be strong, fear not; behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the full dealing of God. He will come and save you.” Isaiah 35:3 – 4

Strong Lord, thank you that you hear the cries of your people and come with salvation in the right way at precisely the right time. We humbly ask you to grant strength and courage to all your followers, especially in our weaknesses and in our fearfulness. May your church be a community that welcomes those who are weak, weary and afraid, so that they may experience your salvation and justice. Amen.

Tuesday 11 March

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing; for in the wilderness waters shall break out, and streams in the desert. Isaiah 35:5 – 6

Miracle making Lord, thank you for opening our spiritual eyes and ears. Truly that is a miracle! Open the mouths of your people so that we can shout forth your praise. We pray for your church that it would be the source living water for many who are spiritually thirsty. We pray that many miracles of salvation, healing and restoration will spring forth in situations that have been desert like. Amen.

Wednesday 12 March

And a highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called, The Way of Holiness. Isaiah 35:8
Holy God, we thank you that you are holy and unchanging. Thank you for calling us, your people, to walk a road called the Way of Holiness. Forgive us that so often we wander off, loving to sin, not even being aware of how we have strayed off your paths. Call your church back to holiness, holiness of thought, speech and action, and call me first. Thank you that the Holy Spirit guides us on this road and gives us the power to follow this pathway. Amen.

Thursday 13 March

Bless, Lord, the worship and work of my local church. May it be a house of prayer, a centre for Christian teaching, a community of service and a witness to your redeeming love, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Merseyside

They say they are wise, but they are fools; instead of worshipping the immortal God, they worship images made to look like mortals or birds or animals or reptiles. And so God has given those people over to do the filthy things their hearts desire, and they do shameful things with each other. They exchange the truth about God for a lie; they worship and serve what God has created instead of the Creator himself, who is to be praised forever! Amen.

Romans 1:22 – 25

Friday 14 March

Liverpool's first sex club for swingers opened in the city centre at the end of 2007. Here in St Helens the opening of a lap dancing club has provoked much comment in the local press. It has been said that all it takes for evil to succeed is for good men to do nothing, so let us pray:

- on behalf of the residents of Merseyside asking for mercy and forgiveness for those who dedicate themselves to the pursuit of worldly pleasure because they do not worship you God
- God, please reveal yourself to many women, men, young people and children in a way that impacts their lives and use us as witnesses to your goodness and mercy

Saturday 15 March – Liverpool Capital of Culture 2008

John Cavanagh of Together for the Harvest asks us to pray

God can bless you with everything you need, and you will always have more than enough to do all kinds of good things for others. 2 Corinthians 9:8 CEV

- We praise God that the Culture Company approached the Christian Community for collaboration for the New Year's Eve Service in the Cathedral, many non church goers attended this service and were impressed.
- We pray that many more churches will get involved with the Festival of Hope on 14th June in Hope Street & the cathedrals, particularly that they will take part in the pageant that is planned.
- We pray for the budget for Festival of Hope. There is need to raise another £20,000 to cover what is planned, which is not a lot for a region-wide project.
- We give thanks that HOPE 08 aimed at 500 cities, towns and villages to get involved. In fact about double that number are registered. Think of the national impact that will have!

Sunday 16 March – Praise the Lord!

Praise the LORD and pray in his name! Tell everyone what he has done. Sing praises to the LORD! Tell about his miracles. Celebrate and worship his holy name with all your heart. Trust the LORD and his mighty power. Worship him always. Remember his miracles and all his wonders and his fair decisions. 1Chronicles 16:8 – 12

With all my heart, today I choose to praise you. With all my strength, I choose to celebrate and to worship you. With all my will, I choose to trust you. You are the God of miracles, you are the God of wonders and you are the God of justice! What an awesome God!

Prayer for the Nation

Monday 17 March – Euthanasia

'Living Wills', written in anticipation of a time when you cannot make your own decisions, allow people to refuse medical treatment in advance. This could include the refusal to give food and water. Some patients might die, not of their illness, but of thirst. Some sections of the media have referred to the 2005 Act as 'Back door Euthanasia'. The apathy, fear and ignorance of the public, the liberal bias of the media and the strength of the pro-euthanasia lobby are significant obstacles, but this battle is in essence spiritual. (info@prayerforparliament.com)

Please pray:

- for an awareness of the sanctity of life throughout all denominations and faith leaders
- that the Holy Spirit would come with conviction to legislators
- that Almighty God will write his law on the hearts and minds of those who oppose the sanctity of life, that He would be revealed, and that from the least to the greatest, all would know His mercy and grace

Today, praying for all whose lives are especially vulnerable we stand against the forces of evil and join in St Patrick's prayer:

I summon today all these powers between me and those evils, against every cruel merciless power that may oppose body and soul, against incantations of false prophets, against black laws of pagandom, against false laws of heretics, against craft of idolatry, against spells of witches and smiths and wizards, against every knowledge that corrupts man's body and soul. Amen.

Tuesday 18 March – Gambling

Almighty God, we ask you to have mercy on our country where policies, laws and a change of culture have contributed to a wider acceptance of gambling which has brought poverty, health problems and family hardship to many people. Father, we intercede for adults and children who have become addicted to gambling. Please help them to admit to their problem and find the support they need to stop gaming. Amen.

Please pray:

- that people who need help will have the courage to contact Gamblers Anonymous and other support groups for compulsive gamblers, and decide to overcome their problem
- that many will turn to God for strength, forgiveness and fresh purpose and find Christians who will pray, understand and befriend them
- about the rapid growth of gambling via the internet, by mobile phone and through interactive television which is freely available to anyone
- that ways to regulate and control online gambling will be found, so that operators will be obliged to abide by codes of conduct and exercise social responsibility

Prayer for the Nations – for Christians who are persecuted

Wednesday 19 March – for Christian Arabs

For so the Lord has commanded us: 'I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.' Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

Acts 13:47 – 48

The persecution of Christian Arabs living in Palestinian areas is being met with nearly total silence by the international community, human rights activists, the media and NGOs. Muslim harassment and persecution are the main cause in a continuing exodus, which has led some Christian leaders to warn that the faith could be virtually extinct in its birthplace in a matter of decades. We pray:

- that the persecution would bring forth a great harvest of souls
- for a fresh outpouring of the Spirit on those who are labouring in this field and who are weary and discouraged

Thursday 20 March

Lord, you know the name of every believer who is being persecuted for their faith. Each one is very precious to you and so we know that we ask in accordance with your heart when we pray for comfort and strength for all persecuted believers. Jesus, you understand what it means to suffer for the Father's purposes and for his will.

We pray for:

- justice to prevail in court cases and the release of persecuted believers
- for those who administer justice that you would teach them your principle *'for with whatever judgment you judge, you shall be judged; and with whatever measure you measure out, it shall be measured to you again.'* Matthew 7:2
- for the persecuted not to lose faith
- for the families and friends of those who suffer persecution
- for courage on the part of those who cry out for justice on their behalf
- for the experience of your supernatural presence in dark places

- God, to use persecution to draw others to yourself

Prayer for the residents of St Helens

Jesus told the people another story: What will a woman do if she has ten silver coins and loses one of them? Won't she light a lamp, sweep the floor, and look carefully until she finds it? Then she will call in her friends and neighbours and say, 'Let's celebrate! I've found the coin I lost.' Jesus said, 'In the same way God's angels are happy when even one person turns to him.'

Luke 15: 9 – 10

Friday 21 March

He is despised and rejected of men; a Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as it were a hiding of faces from Him, He being despised, and we esteemed Him not. Surely He has borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was on Him; and with His stripes we ourselves are healed. Isaiah 53:3 – 5 NKJV

This Good Friday pray for your immediate neighbours, for example 5 households around where you live. Pray specifically for any needs which you are aware of. If they are not Christians pray that they may want to find out more about Jesus and have the opportunity to encounter his love, forgiveness and healing.

Saturday 22 March

Pray for your household, that you may continue to be a good witness in the community. Pray that you may be able to have the time and energy to establish and support a Christian community in your area.

Sunday 23 March – With joy in my heart I go to the place where His body lay

Lead me to the place where Your body lay, where the stone lies rolled away.
 Clothed in majesty and victory You rose again and death is slain forever.
 O Jesus I could never be the same, I'm changed forever more.
 Your sacrifice, the key to life for all mankind You did it once for all.
 'Turn my face' by Martyn Layzell

I praise you because you sacrificed your life for me. I praise you, Jesus, because you lead me to the place where you lay. I praise you because you are risen from the dead, robed in majesty and crowned with victory. I praise you because you slew death. I praise you because you did this once and for all, and that all includes me. I praise you because you are changing me. This Easter day I praise you, Jesus, my Saviour. Amen.

Monday 24 March

Pray for those in St Helens who have additional needs as they search for dignified employment and worthwhile activities. Pray that as a society we will value the inclusion of all and the contribution of those who are vulnerable. Pray that new jobs in mainstream employment will be opened up for those with special needs.

Tuesday 25 March

The total number of St Helens residents who have moved to a new country in the last five years is estimated at 2,200. Pray for these people who have left the town to set up new homes overseas, many in search of a better quality of life. Pray that they may adjust to their new way of life and build new and worthwhile relationships. Pray that they will continue to value what is good in St Helens culture.

Over the last 5 years the Town has seen 1,600 immigrants arrive. This influx of migrant workers is set to increase and recent calculations suggest that there are more than 700 Eastern European workers living here. Please pray for these people that they will be received with acceptance and kindness and be enabled to be productive and law abiding members of our society.

Wednesday 26 March

Pray for the children of our town that they may find out their worth as individuals and their uniqueness to God. Pray for Paul Caine and the Seedlings Trust as Paul regularly leads assemblies for children in 12 primary schools. In a typical week Paul teaches the Christian Gospel message to 1,500 children. Thank God for this great opportunity and pray for strength and resources for Paul. Pray for Paul and Jeanette during Paul's current sabbatical project researching Family Worship and writing new material and working on a book of stories.
Seedlings Trust – The Kingdom of God belongs to children

Thursday 27 March

Pray for all St Helens residents, both young and old who are struggling with addictive behaviours such as alcohol and drugs abuse, unhealthy sexual practices, self harming and eating disorders that they will take steps towards recovery and wholeness. As they reach rock bottom may they call out to you and find your help.

*You, LORD, are the one I praise. So heal me and rescue me!
Then I will be completely well and perfectly safe. Jeremiah 17:14*

Created for His Purposes

Friday 28 March

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to good works, which God has before ordained that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10

Lord, you are good, loving and faithful, and you created me in your image. Thank you for the good works, which you have planned with care and thoughtfulness so that your name will be honoured and my fellow women and men will be honoured and your eternal purposes fulfilled. I know that my perspective is human and limited. So I still my soul and listen for your heartbeat. What really makes you tick and makes your heart leap with joy? What are you doing in the lives of those around me? And what are you doing in my life? Help me to be part of your great plans. Fill me afresh with the Holy Spirit so I may become more sensitive and willing to walk in all that you have ordained for my life. Amen.

Saturday 29 March

So let us not become tired of doing good; for if we do not give up, the time will come when we will reap the harvest. So then, as often as we have the chance, we should do good to everyone, and especially to those who belong to our family in the faith. Galatians 6:9 + 10

Ask God to give you creative ideas for being good to others. Lord, open my eyes to see the needs of others around me and help me to grasp the opportunities that come my way each day. Amen.

Sunday 30 March – We worship the Holy One

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,
bow down before Him, His glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore Him, the Lord is His name.

Humbly, I kneel me down before your holiness, before your glory. I kneel and adore You Lord, may I grow ever more humble and may my heart be ever more obedient. Amen.

Monday 31 March

Lord, we long for revival in our hearts, families and Town. Please start the work with me, cleansing me from sin, filling me with the fire of the Holy Spirit and love divine, so that I may magnify your name. Amen.

O Holy Ghost, revival comes from Thee; send a revival – start the work in me: Thy Word declares Thou wilt supply our need; for blessing now, O Lord, I humbly plead. J Edwin Orr
(Search me, O God and know my heart today)

Thank you for praying,

Sally Bartlett on behalf of SHINE