

SHINE Prayer Diary

Thanksgiving for God's faithfulness

Sunday 1 June – Praise God for his mercies and faithfulness

I will sing of the mercies of Jehovah forever; with my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness to all generations. Psalm 89:1

Father God, today in my heart I sing to you and I praise you because you are merciful, kind and loving. You care for each and every generation, the generations that came before my generation, my own generation and all the generations that are following and will follow. What a tremendous God you are! What an amazing outpouring of love and faithfulness!

Today we remember in prayer Youth Aflame taking place at St Helens Parish Church this evening at 7:00 pm with live music, challenges and a skate park.

Monday 2 June

He will spread his wings over you and keep you secure.

His faithfulness is like a shield or a city wall. Psalm 91:4

Thank you God, for you are my strong protector, my shield and defence. Thank you for spreading your wings over me and for keeping me secure. Thank you for being a strong city wall around St Helens and for bringing protection to her people. Amen.

Tuesday 3 June

Your constant love is my guide; your faithfulness always leads me. Psalm 26:3

Thank you God, for your love guides me and directs my paths. Thank you for your faithfulness which leads me forward into the future that you have planned for me. Thank you that you are always guiding me as you are 24/7 leader! How I value and need your leadership in my life. Amen.

Wednesday 4 June

I have not kept the news of salvation to myself; I have always spoken of your faithfulness and help. In the assembly of all your people I have not been silent about your loyalty and constant love. Psalm 40:10

Thank you, God, that you are faithful and that as people, made in your image, we are called to faithful prayer. Thank you for today's opening of the Liverpool Big Hope. Thank you for all faithful Christians who are praying round the clock (from today until the pageant on June 14th) in the 24/7 prayer room at the chaplaincy at Hope University. We join our prayers with many other pray-ers across the Mersey Region. As we pray together we thank God for his loyalty and constant love towards the people of Liverpool and Merseyside.

Thursday 5 June

Your faithfulness is to all generations; You have founded the earth, and it remains. Psalm 119:90

Thank you Creator God, that you are faithful towards all your creation. Today we remember the world in which we live. Thank you that the world remains under your control. Thank you for the beauty of creation, thank you for awesome displays of your greatness and splendour which we see in the creation around us. Thank you for all living beings from the smallest insect to the largest mammal. Thank you for the world's natural resources, for energy and matter. Help us to be better stewards of the resources that you have given us. Amen.

Friday 6 June

He is the Rock; His work is perfect. For all His ways are just, a God of faithfulness, and without evil; just and upright is He. Deuteronomy 32:4

Thank you, God, for your perfect work in my life. Thank you that you don't make mistakes in my life. Thank you for being just and upright in all your decisions and actions towards me. Thank you for being my rock, the safe place on which I can depend. Amen.

Saturday 7 June

You will show your faithfulness and constant love to your people, the descendants of Abraham and of Jacob, as you promised our ancestors long ago. Micah 7:20

God of our forefathers Abraham and Jacob, we thank you that we are spiritual descendants of Abraham to whom you made such great promises. Thank you that you promise to show faithfulness and constant love towards me. As I take a few moments to remember the ways in which you are showing me your constant love my heart is filled with gratitude. Amen.

Sunday 8 June – Praise the God of our forefather Abraham

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of everlasting days, and God of Love;
Jehovah, great I AM! by earth and Heav'n confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred Name forever blessed.

The God of Abraham praise, at Whose supreme command
From earth I rise—and seek the joys at His right hand;
I all on earth forsake, its wisdom, fame, and power;
And Him my only Portion make, my Shield and Tower.

Prayer for St Helens

Monday 9 June

First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, requests, and thanksgivings be offered to God for all people; for kings and all others who are in authority, that we may live a quiet and peaceful life with all reverence toward God and with proper conduct. 1 Timothy 2:1 – 2

Please give thanks to God for St Helens Council and their positive response to 'Hope where you live in St Helens'. They have put £10,000 of funding on the table to enable the Church to get 'Hours of Kindness' delivered to our community and they are also making labour available to assist.

God, today we pray in accordance with your will for all who are in authority in St Helens, especially praying for our Councillors. Thank you God, for the recent election in which the following councillors were elected: Richard Ward (Billinge and Seneley Green), Eric Smith (Blackbrook), Tom Hargreaves (Bold), Leon McGuire (Earlestown), Teresa Sims (Eccleston), James Counce (Haydock), Carole Kavanagh (Moss Bank), Suzanne Knight (Newton), Ken Pinder (Parr), Betty Lowe (Rainford), Michael Doyle (Rainhill), Brian Spencer (Sutton), Sheila Seddon (Thatto Heath), John Beirne (Town Centre), Robbie Ayres (West Park) and Wally Ashcroft (Windle). We pray that you will make this an effective council and grant them and the other previously elected councillors wisdom in their decisions, along with the necessary abilities and skills needed to lead our Town. Amen.

Tuesday 10 June

We pray for St Helens' faith representatives on Council and Ward Committees that they will be able to contribute effectively and meaningfully to the local government of our Town. Please strengthen these women and men in their faith and in their personal testimony as they serve you in this unique way. Amen.

Wednesday 11 June

We humans make plans, but the LORD has the final word. Proverbs 16:1

We pray for the recently approved Community Plan that it will contribute positively to regeneration and prosperity. We pray for the necessary financing to carry these plans forward, for the wise implementing of these plans and that they will make an increasingly positive contribution to the life of St Helens. Amen.

Thursday 12 June

We pray for our communities that:

- key issues such as crime and disorder may be appropriately addressed by all agencies
- churches will play their part in supporting community harmony

Friday 13 June

God, you created humans in your image. We pray that within the culture of St Helens we would value those who are different to ourselves. We pray for minority groups in St Helens such as immigrants to St Helens, migrant workers, seasonal workers and travellers. We pray that the barriers that cause division on account of race, gender, socio-economic class and creed would be broken down and that as a community we would value diversity and increasingly extend acceptance and understanding to all who live and work in St Helens. Amen.

Saturday 14 June – Liverpool Festival of Hope '08 Gospel Arts Street Party

Lord we thank you for:

- the 150 artists from across the world who taking part and the 10 stages between the two cathedrals
- the walk of Witness taking place today which will start and finish at the Anglican Cathedral
- the St Helens churches who are joining today with churches from all over the region
- the opportunity for a great day out and the opportunity to display Christian unity

Lord we pray:

- for good weather
- that many will see Church unity displayed and will think seriously about the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- for safety for all who attend and perform
- for good media coverage
- that the Gospel street party and concerts following the walk will be a good witness for the Christian faith

Sunday 15 June – Praise and Worship for his goodness and kindness

How powerful you are! How great is your strength! Your kingdom is founded on righteousness and justice; love and faithfulness are shown in all you do. How happy are the people who worship you with songs, who live in the light of your kindness! Because of you they rejoice all day long, and they praise you for your goodness. You give us great victories; in your love you make us triumphant. Psalm 89:13 – 17

How great is God and how happy we are when we remember his love and goodness. Before worshipping God, who lays the foundations of justice and righteousness, take a few moments to remember all the good things that God has done for you during the last week and then worship him with joy in your heart.

Prayer for the Church – St Paul’s advice on Spiritual gifts

1 Corinthians 12:12 – 31 (from The Message)

Monday 16 June

Your body has many parts – limbs, organs, cells – but no matter how many parts you can name, you’re still one body. It’s exactly the same with Christ. By means of his one Spirit, we all said goodbye to our partial and piecemeal lives. We used to independently call our own shots, but then we entered into a large and integrated life in which he has the final say in everything. (This is what we proclaimed in word and action when we were baptised). 1 Corinthians 12:12 + 13

Jesus, Head of the body, I thank you that you have made me part of the Church. Today I pray for myself and all Christians in St Helens. Thank you that you are helping us to say good bye to our former way of life. We admit that we were used to calling the shots and to being independent. Thank you that you are integrating us together into a way of life in which you have the final say. We pray for all who are baptised in St Helens that they would grow in faithfulness to their baptismal vows. Amen.

Tuesday 17 June

The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as church; every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don’t, the parts we see and the parts we don’t. 1 Corinthians 12:24

Jesus, you never did or said anything without listening to your Father. Help us as Christians in St Helens to be more dependent on you and to give up independent attitudes which create divisions. We thank you for all the parts of your church, both visible and invisible. Amen.

Wednesday 18 June

If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance. Corinthians 12:26

Jesus, the Healer, thank you that you desire wholeness in your Church. As I take a few moments to reflect, I choose to forgive those who may have hurt me, and I ask you to heal any hurts which there may be in me. Thank you that you long for your Church to be a vehicle for healing in the lives of many. Help us, your people, to be instruments of healing. Help us to learn to hurt with those who are hurting and to celebrate with those who are flourishing. We ask these things so that you may be glorified, Jesus. Amen.

Thursday 19 June

You are Christ’s body - that’s who you are! You must never forget this. Only as you accept your part of that body does your ‘part’ mean anything. You’re familiar with some of the parts that God had formed in his church, which is his ‘body’: apostles, prophets, teachers, miracle workers, healers, helpers, organisers and those who pray in tongues. 1 Corinthians 12:27 + 28

Jesus, thank you that you have made me to be a unique part of your body. Thank you that no body else is quite like me! I pray for those who are apostles, teachers, miracle workers, healers, helpers, organisers and those who pray in tongues. Thank you for each one of these ministries which are displayed in the Church in St Helens. Thank you for the ministry that you have given me as part of this Church. Help us all to be faithful in the exercising of these ministries in the Church. Amen.

Friday 20 June

But it’s obvious by now, isn’t it, that Christ’s church is a complete Body and not a gigantic, unidimensional Part? It’s not all Apostle, not all Prophet, not all Miracle Worker, not all Healer, not all Prayer in Tongues, not all Interpreter of Tongues. And yet some of you keep competing for so – called ‘important’ parts. But now I want to lay out a far better way for you... (the way of love) 1 Corinthians 12: 29 – 31

Thank you that each member of the body is needed for healthy functioning of the body and that includes me and all my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ in the Church in St Helens. Thank you that you call us all to a very special way of being Church, the way of love. Thank you that you want to teach us all more and more about this way so that your Church will more truly reflect the love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Help us to be willing learners. Amen.

Saturday 21 June – Trumpet Call VII - 2008

I told the people and their officials and leaders, 'Our work is so spread out, that we are a long way from one another. If you hear the sound of the trumpet, come quickly and gather around me. Our God will help us fight.' Nehemiah 4:19 – 20

Today we pray for the 7th Trumpet Call to Prayer being held today at Birmingham NEC. Christians, young and old and from many different backgrounds are joining to continue in prayer for our nations. We stand along side our sisters and brothers in Christ praying that through the power of the Holy Spirit, the Church will be the agent of change across our nations. It is God who wins the victory. Praise his mighty and glorious name! Amen.

Sunday 22 June – Praise God for his forgiveness, healing and faithfulness

All night I cried out with pain, as if a lion were breaking my bones. I thought that God was ending my life. My voice was thin and weak, and I moaned like a dove. My eyes grew tired from looking to heaven. LORD, rescue me from all this trouble. What can I say? The LORD has done this. My heart is bitter, and I cannot sleep. Lord, I will live for you, for you alone; Heal me and let me live. My bitterness will turn into peace. You save my life from all danger; You forgive all my sins. No one in the world of the dead can praise you; the dead cannot trust in your faithfulness. It is the living who praise you, as I praise you now. Parents tell their children how faithful you are. Isaiah 38:13 – 19

Father God, I praise you now, today, just where I am with all the challenges and struggles before me. I praise you because you can turn bitterness into peace, the barrier between us into forgiveness, because you can turn pain into joy and disquiet into rest. How faithful you are! Help me to tell the generations that follow me of your faithfulness. Amen.

Prayer for Parenting and Families – Barbara and Margery ask us to pray

Parents, don't be hard on your children. Raise them properly. Teach them and instruct them about the Lord. Ephesians 6:4

Monday 23 June – Internet Safety

We pray:

- for wisdom for the parents of teenagers about the amount of time, and content of the sites, their children are visiting on the web
- against the influence that men are having on vulnerable young girls as they build false relationships that entice girls out of the safety of their homes

Tuesday 24 June

Please pray that families build good communication to enable them to talk through their fears and anxieties.

Wednesday 25 June

Please pray that more parents will attend the parenting courses and that these will break down barriers and build up communities.

Thursday 26 June

- please pray for forgiveness because we have let our children down as we have not followed God's leading in protecting them at all costs
- please pray that the wind of change will come upon our nation and heal our land
- please pray for the new Disney and Walden Media Production, The Chronicles of Narnia Prince Caspian, which opens in cinemas today, thanking God that the powerful medium of film is bringing God's message of hope to a new generation.

Friday 27 June

Please pray for single parents, that God will strengthen them in their difficult task.

Saturday 28 June

- please pray for the Holy Spirit to fall and turn around the trend for teenagers to be sexually active before they have reached adulthood
- please pray against the influence of the drug culture that is destroying so many young lives

Sunday 29 June – Praise the glorious name of our generous God

All riches and wealth come from you; you rule everything by your strength and power; and you are able to make anyone great and strong. Now, our God, we give you thanks, and we praise your glorious name. Yet my people and I cannot really give you anything, because everything is a gift from you, and we have only given back what is yours already. You know, O LORD, that we pass through life like exiles and strangers, as our ancestors did. Our days are like a passing shadow, and we cannot escape death. O LORD, our God, we have brought together all this wealth to build a temple to honour your holy name, but it all came from you and all belongs to you. 1 Chronicles 29: 12 – 16

Lord, I am passing through this world as a pilgrim and all I have has come from you. I thank you and praise you for your generosity towards me. Today I choose to honour your name with my thoughts, my words and my actions, with the example of Jesus and the help of the Holy Spirit. Your name is glorious and today through my being I want to see your name honoured here on earth. Amen.

Prayer for the community of Sutton

Monday 30 June

With the closure of the mines (at Sherdley, Lea Green, Clock Face and Sutton Manor) as well as many of the other traditional industries, came drastic changes in the landscape and economy of this area. In their places wildlife parks and areas of outstanding beauty have flourished in what is a heavily residential district of St Helens. (Wikipedia)

Father God, thank you for Sutton and all the women, men and children who live there. We pray for new opportunities for development, housing and employment for Sutton. We thank you for all the generations who have lived in Sutton and pray especially for the children and young people of Sutton that they will be enabled to live healthy and productive lives. Thank you, Lord, for green spaces in Sutton: Sherdley Park, Sutton Mill Dam and Sutton Manor Woodlands. May these places be places of peace and rest where those who visit encounter God's presence. Amen.

Tuesday 1 July

Please pray:

- for Eaves Primary School, Sherdley Primary School, St Anne's Catholic Primary School, St Cuthbert's Catholic Community School, St Theresa's Catholic Primary School, Sutton High Sport's College, Sutton Manor Primary School, Sutton Oak C of E Primary School, Robin's Lane Primary School and Willow Tree Primary School that these schools will

- give outstanding provision, offer security, fun and safety, have high quality staff, provide excellent learning environments and foster good home school relationships
- that children and young people may find acceptance, boundaries, healing, peace, confidence and increased self esteem

Shine Prayer Event tonight at 7.30pm at St Marks, Haydock. Please pray, do come.

Wednesday 2 July

When a prince walks among blind men, they do not see him so they do not honour him. When told about him, they acknowledge him, but soon forget him, because they do not see him. Unfortunately, we do not see God, so we often forget he is there, or hold back on the honour due him. We are like that with God. We know the theology that God is here, right now. What we have to do is put our whole heart into acknowledging that he really is with us, now. Lord God, we pray for all the residents of Sutton that they may grow to honour God more and more. We pray for the places of Christian worship in Sutton remembering: All Saints, Sutton Village Church (Herbert Street), St Anne and Blessed Dominic, St Michael and All Angels, St Nicholas and St Theresa. May these churches be places where the doors are wide open to receive newcomers and visitors with acceptance and respect. Amen.

Thursday 3 July

O Lord, I pray for all those who minister your love and grace to the residents of Sutton, especially: Rev. Geoffrey Farthing (local Methodist minister), Father Peter Hannah, John McLoughlin (ordained as a Catholic deacon), Rev Mark Taylor and the Rev Chris Spittle. Lord God, we pray for these ministers and all lay leadership. Please grant them the grace and the strength to remain faithful to your teachings and to the sacramental life of the Church. Help them to persevere in the commitments and promises they have made to you. Give them the fortitude to live up to the vocation they received in baptism, to the duties derived from their filling with the Holy Spirit, and to the graces received in the other sacraments. Help them to place love of God and service to Him before all else and help them to bring selfless love to their brothers and sisters in Christ. Amen.

Friday 4 July

Over recent years some of the Sutton area has succumbed to social problems linked to poverty. Please pray for:

- the alleviation of poverty
- improvements in the housing provision in Sutton
- good policing and law enforcement
- safe streets in the community

Prayer for God's Kingdom to come in St Helens

Everything on earth has its own time and its own season. Ecclesiastes 3:1

Saturday 5 July

There is a time for ... for crying and laughing, weeping and dancing. Ecclesiastes 3:4
Jesus friend of sinners (Matthew 11:19), when you walked on earth, you loved to meet with friends and strangers, both from the family of faith and with others who had not yet joined the family of faith. We thank you for times to celebrate and enjoy life. We pray for St Helens Festival taking place today and tomorrow. We give you thanks that the Council has invited churches to take part and is providing staging and resources for the church's participation. We pray that many people will access the spiritual opportunities offered by the church to explore

faith and to take a step forward in their spiritual journey. We ask you to open many spiritual ears and eyes this weekend. Amen.

Sunday 6 July – We worship the Lord God Almighty as He establishes his kingdom

Sing to the Lord and lift his name up high!

Father in heaven, how we love You,
we lift Your name in all the earth.
may your kingdom be established in our praises
as Your people declare Your mighty works.
Blessed be the Lord God almighty, who was and is and is to come,
blessed be the Lord God almighty, who reigns for evermore.

United Service at 1.00pm this afternoon on the stage at the St. Helens Festival in Sherdley Park. Please come along and get involved.

Monday 7 July

There is a time for birth and death, planting and reaping. Ecclesiastes 3:2

Jesus taught us that you, Father, are the Gardener (John 15:1). So we pray for all parents in St Helens who have lost a child this year through death however it may have happened. We ask for your comfort and strength for these families. Please may they be encouraged to seek you in these difficult times. May we, your church, be sensitive and encouraging to those who are mourning. We pray for open eyes, ears and hearts and that you will reveal yourself to those who are searching for you. We also pray for all parents in St Helens who have experienced the joy of the birth of child this year or the addition of a child to their family whether it be an adopted child or a looked after child. May they look to you with gratitude and for help and guidance as they care for these children. Help us to sow faith inspiring seeds in the lives of others and to trust you the Gardener to water these seeds and bring new life. Amen.

Tuesday 8 July

There is a time for throwing stones and gathering stones, embracing and parting.

Ecclesiastes 3:5

Jesus you are the Beginning and the End (Revelation 22:13), Lord of the past, the present and future. We pray for all who are in a time of transition and change. May this time of change bring openness to the fresh wind of your Holy Spirit. May old ways of being, be let go of, and new ways be embraced. Grant that we may all look for godly ways, as we develop new patterns of living, and adapt to changing circumstances. Amen.

Wednesday 9 July

There is a time for killing and healing, destroying and building. Ecclesiastes 3:3

God the Healer (Exodus 15: 26), we thank you that you determine you the hour of our departing from this world. We thank you that you are the breath that gives new life. May Your healing hands touch many lives and bring healing and restoration.

Thursday 10 July

There is a time for tearing and sewing, listening and speaking. Ecclesiastes 3: 7

St Helens churches are endeavouring to achieve 5000 hours of kindness across our communities and we need more churches to participate to achieve this.

Christ Jesus our hope (1 Timothy 1:1), we pray for churches to come up with creative projects to bless their communities, and for such projects to be opportunities for listening and speaking and sharing the faith. Please pray for the projects that are already being planned:

- Luncheon Club – (St Peter's, Parr)
- Acts of Random Kindness – Christian Life Centre
- MAD and hours of kindness (St Mark's, Haydock)
- Big Brew (5th July at St Mark's Haydock)
- Church Grounds and Garden Projects (various)
- Harlow Allotments Projects
- Tea afternoon (St Paul's, Blackbrook)
- Tots and Parents Drop in Coffee (Parr, Salvation Army)

Friday 11 July

God makes everything happen at the right time. Yet none of us can ever fully understand all he has done, and he puts questions in our minds about the past and the future. Ecclesiastes 3:11

We pray to Jesus the Author of Salvation (Hebrews 2:10) asking that:

- many churches will undertake courses for their communities which will help people ask questions and explore the Christian Faith
- Alpha Courses, Journeys, Emmaus, START, Christianity Explored and many others will clearly explain the faith in ways that those who have not yet given their lives to Christ will understand and engage with
- the teams running the courses will be enthusiastic and committed

Saturday 12 July

What do we gain by all of our hard work? Ecclesiastes 3:9

Jesus Christ, who is the power of God and the wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 1: 24) we pray for ourselves and for all who are searching for answers to life's challenges and problems. We pray that as you provide answers, eyes and ears will be open to see and hear answers even when they come in unexpected ways. We pray for open hearts and minds to respond to your power and wisdom. We pray for the establishing of healthy patterns of rest and work in St Helens. Grant those who have been trapped into generations of non working and non economic - contribution to society, fresh opportunities to experience the dignity and enjoyment of gainful employment. We pray for employers that they will respect their employees and that many residents of St Helens would be enabled to achieve a healthy and balanced lifestyle. Teach us in this generation to take time for rest and to find new ways and patterns of respecting Sabbath rest, so that in doing this we may glorify your name and be blessed with well being. Amen.

Sunday 13 July – Let's Praise the God of marvellous promises

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

Lord, who comes with fire, we praise you for promising to be a wall of fire and a hedge of protection around St Helens. What tremendous promises you have made, which never fail! We praise your mighty and wonderful name, which is above all names. You alone are worthy to receive praise and honour and worship. Amen.

Prayer for SAINTS – Chaplain Phil Pawley asks us to pray

Monday 14 July

Mid season is always a time to stop and take stock. It has not been an easy start to the season, particularly with the many injuries to key players. Please pray for the team, staff and their families as they live with the pressure of a long and often stressful season.

Tuesday 15 July

Pray also for the incoming new head coach, Mick Potter, (starting from November) and for the club as it moves ahead into a new era at the end of the season. Pray the chaplaincy service will continue to be welcomed favourably within the new coaching structure.

Wednesday 16 July

Please pray for head coach Daniel Anderson and his family as they plan for their return to Australia at the end of the season. Pray for work, for housing, for schooling for the children and that they will quickly settle in to their new location back home.

Thursday 17 July

Please pray for the plans for a new stadium for Saints asking for wisdom for all who are involved in the decision making process. Also pray that this project will come to fruition and will bring prosperity and favour to St Helens.

Prayer for SHINE

Friday 18 July

The Spirit told Philip to catch up with the chariot. Philip ran up close and heard the man reading aloud from the book of Isaiah. Philip asked him, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The official answered, "How can I understand unless someone helps me?" He then invited Philip to come up and sit beside him. Acts 8:29 – 31

Give thanks to God for the Journeys course that will run in the Town Hall this autumn

Please pray:

- that many Council staff will attend and find faith in Christ
- for the SHINE team who will run the course

Saturday 19 July

Please pray for:

- the board of Trustees of SHINE as they listen to the Spirit and seek to discern the future
- financing for the various projects that are planned
- joyful enthusiasm and a desire to 'catch up with seekers' on the part of all who are part of SHINE's reaching out to St Helens whether it be through prayer or specific projects and events

Sunday 20 July – Let the Redeemer's name be sung in my heart today

Today, along with Christians all over the world, let praise arise in your heart to God your Creator and Redeemer

From all that dwells beneath the skies let the Creator's praise arise

From every land and every tongue let the Redeemer's name be sung

Hallelujah (give him the glory and the praise) Hallelujah (all of the honour to His name)

From all that dwells Andrew Green / Wendy Green 2004

Prayer for Merseyside

Monday 21 July – Repentance

If my God defined people, respond by humbling themselves, praying, seeking my presence, and turning their backs on their wicked lives, I'll be there ready for you: I'll listen from heaven, forgive their sins, and restore their land to health. From now on I'm on alert day and night to the prayers offered at this place. 2 Chronicles 7:14 + 15

Thank you God of justice and righteousness, for you are waiting to hear from us, your God defined people, here in Merseyside. Help us to come before you in repentance for our own failings and sins and in repentance for the sins of the people and institutions of Merseyside. Forgive us for the times when we have failed to respond to you and have failed to act with humility, mercy and justice. Help us to become more humble, to pray without ceasing, to seek your presence and to do a U turn on the wicked things in our lives. Thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit to help us as we seek to bring about these changes in our lives. Thank you for forgiving us and for restoring us and bringing health and well being to Merseyside. Amen.

Tuesday 22 July – The Work of Scripture Union in Merseyside

Today's generation of Christian young people mix with peers in a multi-faith society who are less likely to have encountered the Christian faith and story than their parents' generation. Scripture Union is at the forefront in helping young people to live boldly for Jesus and to share their faith, and God's Spirit is at work among today's generation building courage and nurturing faith. Please pray for Scripture Union's Merseyside Schools' Worker Richard Witham, asking God to bless Richard with creative ideas, many opportunities to plant seeds of the Gospel and for the necessary prayer and financial support.

Prayer for the Nation

Wednesday 23 July – Being part of the European Union

'If you have ears, then, listen to what the Spirit says to the churches!' Revelation 2:7

To those who win the victory, who continue to the end to do what I want, I will give the same authority that I received from my Father: I will give them authority over the nations, to rule them with an iron rod and to break them to pieces like clay pots. I will also give them the morning star. Revelation 2:26 – 28 Father of all nations, we thank you for Jesus who received authority from you. We thank you that you give your obedient people authority, in the spiritual realms, over the nations. Thank you for our nation and the part it plays in the European Union. We pray for the recently formed 'European Union Of Prayer' which met in March in Slovenia the country of the EU Presidency. We pray for all Christians in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, along with all our brothers and sister in Europe who profess faith in Jesus Christ. Help us all in this time of transition in Europe to be repositioned into the world, demonstrating true power and glory, properly stewarding the creation gifts and laying hold of the future in the power of the resurrection. We also pray for St Helens European Member of Parliament, Mr Brian Simpson and all the other UK members of the parliament that they would operate with integrity, wisdom and justice. Amen.

Thursday 24 July – Making the Bible effectively heard in our culture

"In today's culture, the Bible is often seen as irrelevant and outdated. If Christians are going to be effective in making the Bible heard in our culture we need to have a voice and be working in four key areas: Politics, Arts, Media and Education. In a modern democratic society, these are four of the most significant areas of public life that influence the culture in which we live."

(Bible Society)

Please pray for

- the Church and Christians in the UK to grasp the opportunities that exist to help people to connect with the Bible's message
- talks and communication in UK churches to be true to the Bible, relevant and easily accessible to today's people
- Christians to develop the ability to explain the Bible's message in ways that are easily understood and help people to connect with God
- all forms of media which present the Bible's message
- the work of the Bible Society

Prayer for the Nations

Friday 25 July – World Food Crisis

Pascal Lamy, Director General of the WTO (World Trade Organisation) in his report to the General Council on 7th May 08, said, “The reasons why we must conclude the Round this year are visible to all of us and they are becoming more critical day by day. The WTO can provide part of the solution to the current food crisis, which is why it can and must, play its full part in this vital effort.”

Please pray:

- for solutions to be found to the developing world food crisis as billions around our planet regularly experience hunger
- for all governments, institutions and agencies which are seeking to alleviate this crisis that they will have the necessary resolve and creativity to become part of a solution to this problem

Please take few moments to:

- thank God for the food which is on your table day by day
- ask him God to help you to be a good steward of the foods which you buy and use

Saturday 26 July – Myanmar (Burma)

In the wake of Cyclone Nargis please pray for:

- the people of Myanmar in their hour of darkness
- God's comfort for those who are mourning
- shelter for those who are homeless and food for those who are hungry
- the church and that it can provide a healing touch and Christian witness at this time

Please pray for the Christian Church in Myanmar for:

- the newly appointed Anglican Archbishop of Myanmar, Stephen Than Myint, who is a Karen Christian, Karens are not the most popular ethnic group in Myanmar
- the family of Pastor Padoh Mahn Sha, the General Secretary of the Karen National Union who was assassinated on 14 February, asking God to give them and others the strength to continue his work for the Karen people of Burma

Please pray for as many as 40,000 Burmese in Thailand and other Asian countries for:

- security and protection, access to food, health care and education
- mercy on the part of host countries
- freedom from danger of forced deportation back to Myanmar

Sunday 27 July – Worship God who in his great mercy is teaching us his ways

As Ezra stood there on the platform high above the people, they all kept their eyes fixed on him. As soon as he opened the book, they all stood up. Ezra said, 'Praise the LORD, the great God!' All the people raised their arms in the air and answered, 'Amen! Amen!' They knelt in worship, with their faces to the ground. Then they rose and stood in their places, and the following Levites explained the Law to them: Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, and Pelaiah. Nehemiah 8:5 – 7

Before worshipping God take a few moments to think about all those people who have helped you to learn God's ways and thank God for the help they have given you.

Lord, we praise you because you are the great God! Lord, we worship you because you have chosen to communicate with us through the Bible! Blessed be your Holy Name! Amen.

Praying for Personal Discipleship – Becoming more like Jesus

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instruction for right living, so that the person who serves God may be fully qualified and equipped to do every kind of good deed. 2 Timothy 3:16 + 17

Monday 28 July

God has many ways of teaching us principally through scripture and life experiences. Without teaching we simply don't understand how God wants us to be and how he wants us to live. Perhaps you can decide to learn more about God's word. Ask God to show you ways in which you can learn.
Father God, I want to learn more about who you want me to be. Please help me. Amen.

Tuesday 29 July

“True discretion is impossible without humility. Self-deception is unlikely when a person is humble enough to submit to the judgement of another.” John Cassian
We all have incorrect ways of thinking based on our culture and upbringing and choices. Although it's not easy it is wise to listen to correction, and to realise that our ways of thinking are often not God's ways. Thank you, God, for the ways in which you are correcting me. Help me not to be vain and not to listen only to praise. Amen.

Wednesday 30 July

“Lord, daily order my steps that I might be transformed into your likeness; imperfect as I am, make me a mirror that reflects your uncompromising love. Covenant-keeper, make me like You.” by David Cape (who travelled across South Africa with a towel, a basin and a cross, washing the feet of the people he met and witnessing to the love of God.) Often the journey seemed pointless, and only obedience kept him there.)

As we learn and are corrected then we can take stock, assess and make adjustments and become more godly. God loves us to walk the path of transformation. Look around you at the others on the road with you, take note of those who seem to carry around the presence of Jesus and learn the secret of their relationship with Him.

As you pray today and seek to be in the presence of Jesus trust God that he is changing you into his image.

Thursday 31 July

The Scriptures train God's servants to do all kinds of good deeds. 2 Timothy 3:17

Training is different from teaching. Training implies not just instruction, but modelling / copying and application. Jesus taught His disciples to go, and do as He had done. As you train yourself to do all sorts of deeds that show God's kindness you will find yourself doing these very deeds and bringing glory to God's name.

Thank you, God, that you have many deeds prepared that you want me to do in love and service to you. I willingly ask you to train me. Amen.

Friday 30 May

After Solomon had finished praying to the LORD, he stood up in front of the altar, where he had been kneeling with uplifted hands. In a loud voice he asked God's blessings on all the people assembled there. He said, 'Praise the LORD who has given his people peace, as he promised he would. He has kept all the generous promises he made through his servant Moses.'

1Kings 8:54 – 56

God has made so many wonderful promises, and he has blessed us in so many ways. Today after you have made your prayers to God why not pray a blessing on the lives of those you love, those you meet and those with whom you have experienced or are currently experiencing difficulties. Allow God to make you a blessing to these people. God loves to bless both you and all these people.

Thank you for praying,

Sally Bartlett on behalf of SHINE