

Sunday 31 May – 6 June

Democracy & European Elections

Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honour the king. [1 Peter 2:17]

On Thursday 4th June the Local Government and European Parliament Elections take place. Historically the turn out for these elections is very low, allowing people to get into positions of real authority with very few votes. So why should Christians vote?

God has granted us authority. All authority in heaven and on earth belongs to God, but he has chosen to share this with us, making us stewards of his creation. We need to ensure that we put people in power who will make Godly decisions.

We need to stand against evil. Only through a return to Godly values revealed to humankind through Jesus Christ, can mankind find redemption from the tyranny of evil. We need to vote for people with Godly values.

Christian values contribute positively to society. When we see the good results in people's lives when God's principles are applied to society, and the horror that results when they are abandoned, it seems irresponsible to keep Jesus' teaching about truth, love and compassion to ourselves. At the very least we should vote to keep out of office those who attempt to oppose God's authority and values. We say Hope not Hate.

We should be good citizens. Paul made it clear in Romans 13 that Christians should be good citizens. This should include taking part in the democratic process of electing government.

1. Pray for the European Parliament elections for 785 MEPs being held in the UK today and over the next few days in other member states.
2. Pray that the electorate will vote for candidates who will serve the EU with integrity and wisdom.
3. Pray that voter apathy will not allow extremist parties to gain a foothold
4. Pray for Christian candidates and MEPs to have wisdom, grace and boldness in their dealings with each other and with the important issues of our day

Other Scriptures for meditation and prayer: 2 Samuel 23:2–4; Proverbs 29:2, 4, 7, 12, 14, 18; Romans 13

Use these verses to give you more ideas for praying this week

Sunday 7 – 13 June

The Church in St Helens

*“And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock **I will build my church**, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and **whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.**” [Matthew 16:18–19]*

The Church is called to a great task and an awesome responsibility.

Praise God that:

- the Church belongs to Jesus Christ – not to us
- He has promised to build it despite our weaknesses
- all that Satan and hell would try to do to destroy the Church will fail *because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.* [1 John 4:4]

Pray for:

- Church leaders (especially your own) that they would not be discouraged in their responsibilities for the local church
- real unity amongst Church leaders and members
- a deeper appreciation of and desire for maintaining *the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace* [Ephesians 4:3]

Pray that:

- as Church members we will do all we can to build up other Christians in their faith *Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church.* [1 Corinthians 14:12]

The following Churches have asked that we pray for them:

St. Luke's, Eccleston (Knowsley Road) – Rev Paul Day Anniversary Events 2009:

- Saturday 27th June – Community Fun Day
- Sunday 5th July – Walk of Witness/Worship on the Move

Please pray for good contacts to be made and for opportunities to share the good news as we provide a fun activity and as we take worship to some of the streets of our parish.

St Paul's C of E, Blackbrook – Rev Janet Roberts

- St Paul's Summer Fair on 13th June...contact with the local community
- The monthly growing All Age Service at St Paul's on June 21st & July 12th
- St Peter's Gift Day on June 28th
- Lay Readers being re-licensed by the Bishop at Liverpool Cathedral on June 30th
- Those being confirmed at St Philip's on July 5th

Christian Life Centre – Pastor Adam James

- Please could we pray for the outreach team and event on **Saturday afternoon June**

20th

- Pray for **The Kingdom of God** to come in power and the presence of God to be evident in the Church Square and peoples lives
- Also please pray for protection and ready hearts for those involved in drama, music, prayer, testimony, witnessing,
- Also pray about the **Practicalities** – security, weather, sound and equipment.

Other Scriptures for meditation and prayer: 1 Corinthians 12, 13 & 14;
Use these verses to give you more ideas for praying this week

Sunday 14 – 21 June

PRAYER FEST – A United Pan-Merseyside Week of Prayer

Material this week has been supplied by John Cavanagh Prayer Co-ordinator for Together For The Harvest (TFH) on Merseyside

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 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**.* [Revelation 5:8]

The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel's hand. [Revelation 8:4]

Sunday 14 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."*

Monday 15 June

BUSINESSES & EMPLOYMENT

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

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

In St Helens particularly pray for the glass industry

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

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

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

Tuesday 16 June

POLICE FORCE

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

- That senior officers may have wisdom to direct their forces well.
- That local forces would be effective in their efforts
- That officers will be kept safe & will enforce the law with integrity and wisdom
- That officers and their families would be protected from the effects of stress and know God's peace in their lives
- That Christian Officers and Support Staff will be strong and effective in their witness within the Police Service
- That the church would respond to local issues and help bring communities together with the police to tackle local problems effectively.

Pray for the police in St Helens:

Chief Superintendent Chris Armitt

Inspectors:

- Dianne Pownell *St Helens Town Centre*
- Mark Lawes *Parr, Sutton & Bold*
- Tim Kelly *Rainhill, Thatto Heath, Eccleston & West Park*
- Ian Cooper *Windle, Rainford, Moss Bank, Billinge & Seneley Green*
- Steve Lowe *Newton, Haydock, Blackbrook & Earlestown*

And all the other ranks

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

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. [1 Timothy 2:1–2]

Wednesday 17 June

SCHOOLS

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

Pray for Christian

- **Teachers**, that they would live and speak about when appropriate a vibrant Christianity. Give them great wisdom in these times. There are 603 primary and secondary schools in Merseyside (not counting Halton, Warrington & Skelmersdale).
- **Pupils** in schools, that they would be encouraged and protected from bullying.
- **Organisations working in schools**, such as Youth For Christ, Scripture Union and others.
- **School governors** and for more Christians to take up the challenge to become governors.
- **Groups** across the region working with excluded children, that they might be powerfully effective in ministering to many broken and damaged young people.
- **The Christian Teachers Association** in supporting the great work done by their members in the region.

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

Pray for Schools in St Helens:

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

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

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

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

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

Thursday 18 June

GOVERNMENT

1 Timothy 2:1–4 says, *"I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."*

Prayer for those in power is closely linked by Paul to bringing men and women to salvation. So we should pray for them, so that the sort of peaceful society exists that aids the spread of the gospel.

Today people across the region will be praying for councillors and MP's and others in the five Boroughs of Merseyside, Halton and Warrington Unitary Authorities, and Skelmersdale.

As you pray for St Helens remember the other areas in your prayers.

St Helens Council

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

Councillors:

- **Billinge & Seneley Green:** Susan Murphy; Joe Pearson
- **Blackbrook:** Linda Maloney; Paul McQuade
- **Bold:** Matthew Dunn; Tom Hargreaves; Stephen Topping
- **Earlestown:** Charles Banks; Keith Deakin; Leon McGuire
- **Eccleston:** Shirley Evans; Geoffrey Pearl; Teresa Sims
- **Haydock:** James Counce; Eric Sheldon; Janet Sheldon
- **Moss Bank:** Cllr. Richard Ferry; Anne Heyes; Carole Kavanagh
- **Newton:** Cllr. Peter Astbury; Suzanne Knight; Neil Taylor
- **Parr:** Cllr. Andy Bowden; Keith Roberts; Terence Shields
- **Rainford:** David Grice; Betty Lowe; John Parr
- **Rainhill:** Joe De'Asha; Stephen Glover; Barrie Grunewald
- **Sutton:** Kenneth Knowles; Brian Spencer; Stephanie Topping
- **Thatto Heath:** Patricia Martinez-Williams; Richard McCauley; Shelia Seddon
- **Town Centre:** John Beirne; David Crowther; Janet Hennessy
- **West Park:** Marlene Quinn; Marie Rimmer
- **Windle:** Nancy Ashcroft; Wally Ashcroft; Ken Roughley

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

Members of Parliament:

North Mr Dave Watts; **South** Rt. Hon. Shaun Woodward

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

Friday 19 June

THE CHURCH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pray for the church in St Helens, giving thanks for the favour of god and praying for an increasing sense of the town being Christ centred.

A prayer to use

*Heavenly Father, Thank you for your goodness, your everlasting mercy and compassion
Thank You for the many blessings You have allowed in our lives that draw us to you.
May Your Church so let their light shine in our town and region that men will turn to you in
praise and wonder and find faith. Amen.*

Saturday 20 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.

[Ephesians 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 en route. Dave is the visionary behind the Citylight Trust and also leads the Salford Prayer Network. The prayer walk will take two days.

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

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

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

Pray For SHINE

- For the SHINE Board as they seek to serve the church in the town, *“that their work will be a joy, not a burden”*
- For the Prayer Diary, that many more would sign up to receive it and pray regularly for the church and town.
- For continued favour with the council

A prayer to use

*O God of burning cleansing flame, Send the fire!
Your blood-bought gift today we claim: Send the fire today!
Look down and see this waiting host,
And send the promised Holy Ghost;
We need another Pentecost! Send the fire today!
Amen*

Sunday 21 June

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

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

But, there are many things that are desperately sad that we need to pray about, such as: **Drink and drugs; promiscuity; lawlessness and violence, unforgiveness, worshipping of money and "things", aggressive atheism, and the challenge of other faiths.**

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

Pray for protection on all who work on the edge of society, with the marginalised and needy, and that as they share the 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*

Monday 22 – 27 June

St Helens Borough Council

PROSPERITAS IN EXCELSIS (Flourishing Well)

Walk in all the way that the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess. [Deuteronomy 5: 33]

Pray for:

- the new Mayor, Councillor Terry Shields, and his Mayoress Mrs Julie Shields, that their mayoral year will be fulfilling for them and beneficial for the Borough
- the Chief Officers of the Council in their responsibilities
 - Chief Executive – Carole Hudson
 - Asset Management and Corporate Procurement – Mike Foy
 - Corporate and Community Safety and Risk Management – Andy Dempsey
 - Children and Young People's Services – Susan Richardson
 - Environmental Protection – Paul Sanderson
 - Finance – Ian Roberts
 - Human Resources – Brendan Farrell
 - Legal & Admin Services – Peter Blackburn
 - Policy Unit – Peter Hughes
 - Public Affairs – David Parry
 - Public Health – Fiona Johnstone
 - Adult Social Care and Health – Sue Lightup
 - Urban Regeneration & Housing – Bob Hepworth
- Pray that the town will fulfil its motto (PROSPERITAS IN EXCELSIS – Flourishing Well) materially, socially and spiritually.
- Pray for the success of the “shop local” campaign
- Pray for your local community and its needs
- Pray for those who work for Helena Partnerships (Housing Association)

Other Scriptures for meditation and prayer: 2 Chronicles 7: 11–18

Use these verses to give you more ideas for praying this week

Sunday 28 June – 4 July

Youth Aflame at St Helens Festival 4 & 5 July

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous deeds among all peoples. For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Splendour and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary. Ascribe to the LORD, O families of nations, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts. Worship the LORD in the splendour of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth. [Psalm 96: 3–9]

Join us in praising God for His continued favour and the opportunity to again have a stage at St Helens Festival for both the Saturday & Sunday.

Please pray for:

- Wisdom for the leaders during event planning.
- The right bands, artists, and speakers for the event.
- The presence of God to be with us throughout the duration of the Festival.
- The Word of God to be clearly proclaimed.
- For Salvation, pray for people to respond to the Word of God and for God to be preparing people's hearts to hear His word.
- All of our young people who will be involved in set up, sound, testimonies, worship, drama.
- The weather.
- Funding.
- The Holy Spirit to minister to people during the Festival.

Future

Please also pray for continued favour with St Helens Council & more opportunities for Youth Aflame to impact the young people of St Helens. Pray for direction & God's leading for Youth Aflame as we continue to develop.



Youth Aflame at St Helens Festival in 2008

Other Scriptures for meditation and prayer: Psalm 19; Psalm 96; Psalm 119:9 – 16
Use these verses to give you more ideas for praying this week

Sunday 5 – 11 July

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. [Psalm 8: 1–2]

Seedlings Trust

Update on St Aidan's Family Services

We have now held two family services for 'Sta's4all' in conjunction with St Aidan's C of E Church in Billinge. Numbers have been 38 children and 40 adults, not including team members. The atmosphere has been great and all are enthusiastic. The normal morning service at the Church still goes on while we meet in the Primary School. Pray for the team who work so hard each month.

Date for next one is Sunday 26th July

1. Pray for Trustees of Seedlings Sue Kirkham, our Chair; Richard Denno, our Treasurer; Sylvia Gleave; Janice Smith; Carol Burrows; Tracey Reeve; Rev Martin Thorpe and Mike Balmford.
2. Pray for progress in getting Paul's novel printed. It is going to cost approx £1,000. Anyone who is interested in finding out more about the novel can contact us on 01744 604936 or pjcaine@blueyonder.co.uk
3. Pray for children who are due to move from Primary to Secondary School. They are beginning to get nervous now. Paul has been asked to help at two Leavers Services in mid July, no dates finalised yet.
4. Pray also for College and High School leavers who will be moving on to other educational opportunities or looking for employment.

Phil & Diane Pawley

At the end of this month Phil & Diane Pawley leave St Helens to return to New Zealand after 20 years of ministry amongst us.

Phil writes:

From the very start of SHINE I have believed it was something birthed in God and has been incredibly important for the wellbeing of the town. I feel deeply privileged to have played a small part in that process.

Love and blessings,

Phil & Diane Pawley

Thank God for all he has accomplished through Phil and Diane's ministry in St Helens and beyond especially their key role in establishing and developing SHINE.

Pray for them:

- for God's presence as they pack up their home here
- for safety in travel
- for God's leading as they recommence life in New Zealand
- for God's guidance as they seek his will for their ministry together

Other Scriptures for meditation and prayer: Ephesians 6:10–18; Philippians 3:10–16
Use these verses to give you more ideas for praying this week

Sunday 12 – 18 July

The Churches of St Helens

*But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning **God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.** He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. **So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.** May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, **encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.** [2 Thessalonians 2: 13–17]*

Pray for those in your own church and those you know from other churches that they will be:

- built up and sanctified (made holy) through the work of the Holy Spirit and the truth of God's Word
- encouraged in the work and witness of their church
- strengthened to keep pressing on in following Jesus Christ
- willing to stand firm when others are leaving church and turning their backs on Christ

Pray for churches who have been without a minister for some time:

- St Helens Parish Church
- St Peters Parr
- St John's Ravenhead
- St Thomas Eccleston
 - Pray that the members of these churches will not become discouraged
 - Pray for those who have the responsibility for the decision about appointing new ministers

The following Churches have asked that we pray for them:

Haydock URC – Rev Vernon Payne

Please pray for our new Youth Pastor Mrs Sandra Morrison who starts her new ministry with us. Pray for guidance, wisdom and leadership in this important ministry.

St Paul's C of E, Blackbrook – Rev Janet Roberts

- The possibility of appointing a Youth Worker for the Parr Team
- Those doing a "Start" course
- Growing links with local schools
- Rev. Canon Jim & Lois Hamilton as they celebrate their diamond anniversary on 23rd July
- The Ashurst School Leavers' Service at St Paul's on 23rd July

Other Scriptures for meditation and prayer: Hebrews 13:15–17; 1 Thessalonians 1:2–10
Use these verses to give you more ideas for praying this week

Sunday 19 – 25 July

Mission In The Economy (Marjorie Conroy – Town Centre Chaplain)

1. In May we had Labour Day, and we give thanks to the Lord for those that can labour, even in light of the present climate.
We LAMENT for those who have suffered LOSS of jobs, homes, families, self worth, etc.
As we endeavour to LISTEN to the cry of those in debt and in despair, may we LEARN from the past, and see where our Faithful God is in all this and take comfort He is in the midst of the hurt and pain and continue to seek His face and guidance.
(Matthew 6:33)
LIVE – Pray we can bring a realistic hope to all, and share the TRUE HOPE IN JESUS, remembering “life can only be understood backwards, but must be LIVED forwards” (Soren Kierkegaard).
2. In the midst of our work, our business, may we find a day each week to spend time with family, friends, to rest and be refreshed (Genesis 2:2 KJV – *On the seventh day God ended his work which he made. verse 3 God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made*). God didn't rest because he was tired but to teach us to enjoy all he created. (Genesis 1:31 KJV – *And God saw everything that he had made and behold it was very good*).
3. May we be kind to and pray for those people who “live” on the streets. Pray for those in the grip of any addictions, people in debt or mentally ill.
 - Lord, bless all those who come alongside your hurting people, especially Sarah and the team at 103 Centre. All those working in the C.A.B., especially Yvonne Fovergue.
 - Pray that the ‘Be Local Shop Local’ will be really effective.
 - Pray for the Mission in the Economy team: for Lynda and Marjorie as they continue to be a listening ear, to support, encourage all those in the workplace, and for the Lord to guide them, strengthen them and to send others to join our Town Centre Team as we endeavour to take the heart and love of Jesus both in words and deeds (Philippians 2:15 KJV).
4. May we always give thanks and praise, even in the present climate, and be grateful our town isn't hit as hard as some other areas. Pray for people who live in places of decline, both in the UK and abroad, asking the Lord to pour His favour on them (*Ephesians 3:20 – Now onto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly all we ask or think according to the power that worketh in us...*).

Let us labour for the Lord with Joy in our hearts. Amen

Other Scriptures for meditation and prayer: Acts 11:27–30; 2 Corinthians 8:1–9:5
Use these verses to give you more ideas for praying this week

Sunday 26 July – 1 August

Community Issues

*How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes. Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for **the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem**. The LORD will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and **all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God**. [Isaiah 52:7–10]*

Easter saw less anti-social behaviour than last year

Easter saw a reduction in incidences of anti-social behaviour in St Helens as opposed to previous years thanks to the efforts of Merseyside Police, St Helens Council and other partners.

This year's results show a 19% reduction of reported anti-social behaviour and 2,604 less incidents including a 66% reduction in reported vehicle nuisance.

(St Helens Council Website)

- Continue to pray that our communities will become places where residents can live in peace and safety.
- Pray especially for local Police officers as they build relationships with local people and aim to curb anti-social behaviour
- If there is a particular area near you where anti-social behaviour or crime is an issue, pray specifically for that area and its people this week
- Pray for all involved in our Criminal Justice System, and for those who come along to help rehabilitate those who have strayed on the wrong path. (Mark 6:34 – *because they were as sheep not having a shepherd*).
- Pray for all the folks involved in Tenant's Groups and Ward Committee as they work together to make their Areas a brighter and better place to live.
- Pray for all the emergency services and those working in the Town Hall and across the Borough, the Councillors, all who endeavour to make St Helens and the surrounding areas a safer, brighter place to live, work, shop and relax in.
- May we be kind to our Traffic Wardens as they labour in the job they are paid to do.
- Pray for Churches as they seek to impact their local communities
- Pray specifically for any community outreach activity you or your church is involved with
- Pray also for any community groups who use church premises for their meetings or activities. Pray they will encounter the impact of faith in Christ as they meet Christian people from the Church

Other Scriptures for meditation and prayer: Isaiah 55: 1–13; Matthew 25: 31–46

Use these verses to give you more ideas for praying this week

2009: Year of Continuous Prayer – PRAYERFEST

As you look down through the history of the Church there is no doubt that prayer changes nations, transforms society, delivers people from hardship and changes lives forever. What an incentive to pray, especially in these days of shaking in our society!

Praying TOGETHER carries a special power, particularly when it is people from different expressions of church that are working together in it.

That's why for 2009 we are planning to involve as many as possible in a chain of continuous prayer in churches around the Mersey Region. Wouldn't it be great if fifty churches could be involved in an on-going chain of prayer, for a fundamental change in the nation, and for the region and communities in which we live? Can you imagine a time when the tangible presence of God is being frequently experienced; where peace and harmony reigns on the streets; where crime of all kinds is declining; where social problems are diminishing; where the media is taking notice of what God is doing both in the church and in society. That's what we are praying for.

During June and July the following Churches are part of this initiative across Merseyside. Your church could be part of it too in the rest of 2009. Find out more at www.tfh.org.uk or contact the SHINE Office.

May 31 to Jun 7	Frontline Church, Wavertree
Jun 7 to 14	Haydock United Reform Church
Jun 14 to 21	WEEK OF PRAYER and Redeeming Our Communities Event at the Echo Arena – Tuesday 16th at 7.30pm. Details of Coaches from SHINE Office
Jun 21 to 28	St Mary's Lowe House, St Helens
Jun 28 to Jul 5	Toxteth Tabernacle Church South Liverpool Vineyard Christian Fellowship
Jul 5 to 12	St Andrews, Clubmoor
Jul 12 to 19	Elim Kensington Church
Jul 19 to 26	Brook Chapel
Jul 26 to Aug 2	Kings Church, Wirral

The goals for prayer are:

1. To pray a fundamental change in our society and nation, covering current issues appropriate to the time when the church is praying
2. To pray for the Mersey Region, both for transformation of society and for growth in the churches
3. To pray for local issues and churches and people, for the spheres of life in the community.
4. To pray in a way that touches the hearts of our communities in a year that is widely expected to be a great challenge to everyone. Just as Merseyfest met people through works of kindness, so this "Prayerfest" is aiming to meet people through prayer.