

## Sunday 2 – 8 August

### For Personal Meditation and Prayer – The River of God

*The man brought me back to the entrance of the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was coming down from under the south side of the temple, south of the altar. He then brought me out through the north gate and led me around the outside to the outer gate facing east, and the water was flowing from the south side. As the man went eastward with a measuring line in his hand, he measured off a thousand cubits and then led me through water that was ankle-deep. He measured off another thousand cubits and led me through water that was knee-deep. He measured off another thousand and led me through water that was up to the waist. He measured off another thousand, but now it was a river that I could not cross, because the water had risen and was deep enough to swim in – a river that no one could cross. He asked me, "Son of man, do you see this?" [Ezekiel 47:1–6]*

The river that flows from the temple of God is His Holy Spirit. It starts off shallow and gets progressively deeper and wider until eventually the only thing to do is to swim in it.

Consider this week the following and speak to God about them:

1. What is my experience of God's Holy Spirit in my life?
2. Do I have a deeper appreciation of God working in my life now than I did a few years ago?

Read verses 7 – 12 in Ezekiel chapter 47

- What are the effects of this river?
- As you meditate and think about these verses, allow God to lead you to understand the fruitfulness that comes from allowing His Holy Spirit to flow through your life.

Pray for:

1. Any you know this week who need a touch of healing from God in some part of their lives
2. God to become increasingly real to you this week
3. God's Holy Spirit to fill your life with his presence and power
4. God to make your life even more fruitful
5. Your Church to be a place of healing for the broken, the sick and the hurting
6. A deeper appreciation and openness to the Holy Spirit in our Churches
7. Christians to be "fishers of men" as Jesus invited us to be

*Other Scriptures for meditation and prayer: Joel 2:21–32*

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

## Sunday 9 – 15 August

*Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.*  
[1 Corinthians 15 58]

*My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.*  
[Proverbs 2: 1– 6]

### West Street Independent Methodist have asked us to pray for:

- **August 9–16** – Our week in the Year of Continuous Prayer; pray that many of our church members will be involved, that we might feel more at one with churches throughout our area, and that there will be an effect upon our community.

### Seedlings Trust – working with Children, Schools & Churches

1. We thank God for the great work that is going on in our Sta's4all, in conjunction with St Aidan's Billinge. On average, we get 35-40 children and 40+adults coming along on the fourth Sunday of the month. An exciting project to be involved in.
2. Pray for the team involved in Sta's4all, who work so hard in preparation and on the day. Pray especially for Joyce, Marion and Kath who organise refreshments each month and who go into school each day preparing toast for the children of St Aidan's school.
3. Please pray for preparations for Paul as he gets ready for the next term. His School diary is now booked up until December (scary thought). We thank God for the opportunities to take the Gospel into 16 Primary Schools.
4. Paul has been bothered a lot recently with throat problems, please pray for healing in this. Obviously he uses his voice every day in school to lead worship and tell gospel stories.

### Youth Aflame

Thank you so much for your prayers for Youth Aflame at St Helens Festival. We had two great days and many people heard the Gospel. Join us in giving God all the glory and praise for:

- *The lives that were touched.*
- *The young people who had the opportunity to minister, and grow in their relationship with Jesus.*
- *For the unity between churches and joint working that is taking place*
- *The favour with the council and freedom to share our faith.*

We are now looking to plan our next events. Please pray for:

- *Wisdom for the leaders during event planning.*
- *Particularly for the community of young people who gather around the car park opposite Tesco in the town centre to be transformed by Jesus and brought from darkness to His light.*
- *The Word of God to be clearly proclaimed at all of our events.*
- *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.*
- *For continued involvement from the wide range of churches who support Youth Aflame.*
- *All of our young people who will be involved in set up, sound, testimonies, worship, drama.*
- *Funding.*
- *Pray for protection for the leaders and everyone involved to be protected, and pray against any attack of the enemy.*
- *Please also pray for continued favour with St Helens Council and more opportunities for Youth Aflame to impact the young people of St Helens.*
- *Pray that this window of opportunity to declare the good news of Jesus Christ will remain open to us.*
- *Pray for direction and God's leading for Youth Aflame as we continue to develop.*

Craig, Joe, and Graham.

*Other Scriptures for meditation and prayer: Proverbs 22 6; Luke 18:1–8*

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

## Sunday 16 – 22 August

### Holidays!

*"Six days do your work, but on the seventh day do not work, so that your ox and your donkey may rest and the slave born in your household, and the alien as well, may be refreshed. [Exodus 23:12]*

*He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." [Psalm 91:1,2]*

*Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints. [Philemon 7]*

We all need rest and refreshment at times, and over this holiday period let's pray for one another to be refreshed.

### Pray for:

1. Your church leaders to be refreshed in body, mind and spirit this summer time
2. Safety for those travelling on roads, rail or by air
3. Political leaders, council officers and staff to gain proper rest
4. Churches and missions who are involved in holiday clubs, summer missions and camps
5. Missionaries working overseas who will not be able to leave their field of service for holiday; may God give them encouragement and hope, rest and a revival of spirit
6. God's blessing on the cities, towns, villages and their churches where you go on holiday
7. Those who, perhaps because of illness, financial or other difficulty are unable to get away on holiday

### Pray that:

8. in the midst of holidaying people would not forget to spend time with the Lord, so that their spirits can be refreshed as well as their bodies

*Other Scriptures for meditation and prayer: Psalm 33:20–22; Psalm 62:1 & 2, 5–8;*

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

## Sunday 23 – 29 August

### Churches & the Christian Community

*Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. [Isaiah 60:1–3]*

#### Pray for:

- Churches still awaiting the appointment of a minister
- Churches facing up to the challenge of recession
- All churches who are actively working with those who are disadvantaged, socially excluded or unemployed
- Pray that the Churches of St Helens will find new, creative and effective ways of working together
  
- St Paul's Church Blackbrook has a Holiday Club this week from Wednesday to Saturday. Please pray that many children will come and have a great time and discover more about the love of Jesus for them.
  
- Pray for SHINE as we seek to appoint a new Administrator this month
- Pray that SHINE's work on behalf of the Churches of St Helens will be increasingly effective

#### YMCA

Justin Hill the YMCA Chief Executive asks us to pray:

- For the welfare and empowerment of those whom we house, that they might never lose hope but find strength for their journey to independent living and fulfillment of their potential
- That St Helens YMCA is a place where relationships are characterized by love and understanding, as well as honesty, depth and creativity
- That participants in all our activities may advance in mind, body and spirit
- For guidance and insight for all those making decisions
- To break the power of all addictions over peoples lives and futures
- That St Helens YMCA continues to be a part of God's plan for St Helens

*Other Scriptures for meditation and prayer: 1 Thessalonians 5:12–24;  
2 Thessalonians 2:13–17*

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

# Sunday 30 August – 5 September

## Our Local Region

*Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May those who love you be secure. May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels." For the sake of my brothers and friends, I will say, "Peace be within you." For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your prosperity. [Psalm 122: 6–9]*

*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 - one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. [Ephesians 4:2–7]*

It is biblical to pray for the place where we live; for its peace, security and prosperity. There is a new policy which is being worked out across the region of Merseyside which all the boroughs including our own here in St Helens will be working together on. This is known as the Multi-Area-Agreement which establishes Liverpool City Region. This agreement will deal with four key areas:

1. Economic Development
2. Employment and Skills
3. Housing
4. Transport

This is a key strategy which is based on partnership. As Christians we might use the word unity and it is a vital ingredient in releasing the blessing of God on our region

### Pray for:

1. the various local councils (Liverpool City, Knowsley, St Helens, Wirral, Sefton, Halton) and the Officers charged with delivering this strategy
2. a spirit of true partnership (unity) across the region
3. a release of God's blessing in the four areas of the strategy
4. spiritual renewal and revival of many people on Merseyside
5. the Church of the region to be enthusiastic partners in seeking the regeneration of the region
6. the breakdown of hostility, suspicion and competition amongst the people of our boroughs
7. wisdom, integrity and truth to be the hallmarks of this new strategy

*Other Scriptures for meditation and prayer: Psalm 133; John 17:20–26*

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

## Sunday 6 – 12 September

### Back to school & college!

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise. [Psalm 111:10]*

*The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel: for attaining wisdom and discipline; for understanding words of insight; for acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young - let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance - for understanding proverbs and parables, the sayings and riddles of the wise. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, [Proverbs1:1–7]*

### Pray:

1. for pupils and students as they return to schools and colleges
2. for those who are moving on to new schools and colleges this term
3. for all Christian teachers, working in schools, colleges, universities, hospitals, homes and special units and other settings. Ask God to fill them with wisdom and faith and help them to be an inspiring influence on their students.
4. Ask God to give insight, wisdom and perseverance to teachers dealing with disruptive behaviour in the classroom. Pray about provision to help children with serious mental health issues and behavioural problems. [CARE Prayer guide]
5. for our graduates and young people leaving school to help them find work
6. for businesses, for careers officers and other agencies to assist them in finding their way into work.

*Lord, we pray for teachers taking up new posts this term to have the support and resources they need to do their job well. Please especially help those starting out as probationers as they get to grips with their workloads and build relationships with pupils and colleagues. Amen. [CARE Prayer guide]*

**Please also pray for the SHINE Prayer event at 7.30pm on Wednesday this week hosted by St Paul's Blackbrook**

*Other Scriptures for meditation and prayer: Psalm 68:19; Colossians 1:9–11;*

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

## **Sunday 13 – 19 September**

### **For Personal Meditation and Prayer – The Life I Live**

*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!" [Galatians 2:20–21]*

*Jesus said: "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters - yes, even his own life - he cannot be my disciple. [Luke 14:26]*

### **The Life I Live**

Think about the life you live. Where does Jesus feature in your:

- home and family life?
- work life
- relationships with friends, neighbours, colleagues
- ups and downs of life
- temptation situations
- inner life (mind)

As you feel appropriate this week, pray over each of these areas.

1. Ask God for forgiveness for areas where you feel you have failed
2. Invite the Holy Spirit to fill you with fresh hope, determination and desire for God
3. Pray about relationships which are not as good as you would like them to be
4. Pray that you will get opportunity to be the hands, feet and voice of Jesus to someone this week
5. Aim to deliberately put Jesus first in the choices and decisions you make
6. If you have important decisions to make or challenges facing you at present, bring them to God and ask Him to help you see them as He sees them

*Other Scriptures for meditation and prayer: Colossians 3:1–4*

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

**Sunday 20 – 26 September**



# **BacktoChurchSunday**

**(27 September)**

**Come as you are!**

*"Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." [Luke 19:9–10]*

1. Pray that on this day many will come back to church in St Helens
2. Pray for members of churches who are involved in Back to Church Sunday this year; that they will be welcoming and inclusive to all who come
3. Pray for someone that you could invite this week to go with you to your church
4. Pray that people who return to church will hear a clear message of the God of love who welcomes us just as we are
5. Pray that as people struggle with recession and many other challenges in their lives, the Christian gospel will be seen to be the good news it truly is

## **The Back To Church Sunday Prayer**

Welcoming God, thank you for today.  
Thank you for making us and loving us.  
Thank you for inviting us to know you.

Help us to invite (Your friend's name here) to come to church so they can know you too.

Please bless Back to Church Sunday and bless everyone in our church.

Help us all to know you better.

We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen

## **West Street Independent Methodist have asked us to pray for:**

1. **September 27th**, Back to Church Sunday and our Harvest Festival; pray that the local leaflet drop and contacts might bring people into the church and that the Harvest Service might be a means of making new links between the people and their God.

*Other Scriptures for meditation and prayer: Luke 19:1–10; John 1:40–42*

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

## Sunday 27 September – 3 October

### Town Centre Economy (from Marjorie Conroy, Town Centre Chaplain)

*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men*  
[Colossians 3:23]

*I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.* [3 John 2]

*For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.* [1 Timothy 6:10]

*Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain." And God granted his request.* [1 Chronicles 4:10]

#### **Please pray for:**

- all those working in the Tourism & Leisure industry, especially for Ron Helsby and the team working at the World of Glass
- all employed in the transport museum, Cafés, restaurants and pubs, and in Cineworld.
- Pray they will reflect a heart of hospitality to all their visitors

Pray for the Millennium Centre, hospitals, GP's surgeries, and Ambulance Service – especially for the pressure they experience during the effects of the swine flu outbreak and other issues. Pray for the strength to cope if things get worse in the coming months

Pray for those working in bank and financial services, Government, public and civil servants. Pray for strong moral and ethical leadership and integrity in business practices

Pray for those working in the voluntary and care sectors without whose contribution social care would fragment. Pray for those who struggle balancing jobs and being a main carer.

Pray for all in employment who are fearful of difficult times; especially for those with mortgages and with family to provide for. Pray for strength and encouragement for those who are single and on low income or who are unemployed.

Praise God for his favour on St Helens. Give thanks that the Borough has not been as badly hit by the recession as some areas.

Pray for others to join the Town Centre Chaplaincy team to offer support, a listening ear and relationship to those working there. [Contact Marjorie on 0789 044 5784]

*Other Scriptures for meditation and prayer: Psalm 34:4–7; Psalm 56:10, 11; 1 John 4:13–18*

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 August and September 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](http://www.tfh.org.uk) or contact the SHINE Office.

2 - 9 August	Life Changing Ministries, Liverpool
9 - 16 August	West St Independent Methodist, St Helens
16 – 23 August	St Paul's Penketh and Penketh Churches
23 – 30 August	Holy Cross, St Helens
20 August – 6 September	Liverpool & Wirral YFC
6 – 13 September	Formby Christian Fellowship
13 – 20 September	Toxteth Evangelical Association
20 – 27 September	Liverpool Anglican Cathedral
27 Sept – 4 October	Old Roan Baptist Church

### ***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.

***Together For The Harvest: [www.tfh.org.uk](http://www.tfh.org.uk)***