

Unblocking the Wells of Salvation in St Helens

Next meetings:

Monday 18th April at 7.30pm
St Helens Christian Life Centre

Monday 16th May at 7.30pm
Wesley Methodist Church, St Helens



For more details contact either: Dave & Sue Hanratty 01744 732910
Mike & Rebecca Balmford 01744 757275

St Helens Praise

**Saturday 11th June 2011 at 7.30pm
St Helens Town Hall**

Let's celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit together!

A choir comprised of singers from several local churches will lead us in songs of praise as the St Helens Sinfonietta accompanies us. Tickets will go on sale soon. Please contact the SHINE office for more information, or have a look on www.shine.org.uk, as this will be updated regularly.

To raise funds for the praise evening, there will be a

Hot Pot Supper and Quiz Night
at St Helens United Reformed Church
Ormskirk Street
Friday 6th May 2011 at 7.30pm.

**Good Friday Walk of Witness
Friday 22nd April 2011
Noon
Church Square**

Many Christians from across the denominations walk together in unity

The St Helens Parish Church invites you to join them for a Good Friday Walk of Witness. We will meet at noon for a short act of worship just outside the Parish Church in Church Square, St. Helens, before walking.



You are invited...

‘The life of Christians Today in the Holy Land’

A talk by Father Imad Twal

Tuesday 10th May 2011 at 7.30pm

At Our Lady’s Portico

Portico Lane, Prescot, L34 2QT

Father Imad Twal, a Jordanian priest, will be talking at Our Lady’s Portico on Tuesday 10th May at 7.30pm, at the invitation of the J&P groups at Our Lady’s and St. Luke’s. The title of the talk will be, ‘The life of Christians today in the Holy Land’.

All welcome.

Helen Davies writes...

God is great! There is no denying it!

In Psalm 96:3-4 (NCV) it says “Tell the nations of His Glory; tell all peoples the miracles He does, because the Lord is great.”

I recently witnessed an incredible miracle of healing and have seen many answers to prayers of late, some of which were on a personal level. PRAISE GOD! And yes – I can’t stop telling people!

But just as that scripture tells us to tell “all peoples” of His Glory and miracles, as you know we are called to “Pray for one another” as well. (James 5:16)

In the midst of all the changes in this country and increasing hardship and sickness, never has there been a time when we need to “step-up” our prayers for one another, as the battle rages.

One question though – have you got your armour on? In Ephesians 6:10-20 it says “And finally – be strong in the Lord and in His great power,” and it goes on to tell us about wearing the full armour of God. This is something I do everyday without fail. It’s a given fact that I will not leave the house without it. If this is something that you don’t do, can I please encourage you to speak this over yourself? To “stand strong!”

This is particularly important because, a God given opportunity has been revealed to “re-dig” and dig new wells of salvation in St Helens. This is such an exciting mission, BUT it will need prayer warriors in abundance. Hence, we will require our armour more and more, we will need to “step-up” our prayers for one another and to be “strong in the Lord and in His great power.”

There is more information in this diary regarding the prayer meetings to re-dig the wells, but should you require more information, please contact either Angela in the SHINE office or the visionaries – Sue and Dave Hanratty on 01744 732910. Information can also be found on the SHINE website and Facebook page.

It’s exciting! It’s God given!! I don’t want to miss it!

God bless

Helen Davies
Member of the SHINE Trust Board

Sunday 27 March – Saturday 2 April

The Glory of God

“But a time is coming, and has come, when you will be scattered ... I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” After Jesus said this, he looked towards heaven and prayed: ‘Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.’”

(John 16:33 – John 17:5)

“Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.” (John 17:24)

In these weeks leading up to Easter, we focus on John 17 – the prayer of Jesus just prior to his arrest. You may wish to read the passage in its entirety each week. The Good Shepherd longs to be ever-present in the fields, to guard his sheep, protect them, and lead them to safe pastures. Jesus knew that soon he would have to lay down his life for his sheep. What was on his heart? In this prayer, we discover Jesus’ priorities: The Glory of God, the Unity of Believers, the Sanctity (or holiness or ‘set apart’-ness) of the Church, and the Spreading of the Good News throughout the World. This week, we pray about the glory of God. What does that mean? Do we live to glorify God? Does everything we do as a Church begin with that sole aim? Do we seek God’s glory in our personal walk with Jesus?

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, the 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)

Further scriptures: 1 Kings 8:10-11, Ezekiel 43:2, Revelation 15:8, Revelation 21:23

Please pray:

Father God, we praise You for Your glory in our lives. We repent for the times we have taken Your glory for granted or failed to see You. We humbly request that in accordance with Jesus’ request that You fill us with Your glory through Jesus, so that we may live lives that glorify You. “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done.”

We pray for Your Church in the Borough of St Helens, Father. We pray for wisdom to discern Your will together - all Your denominations - so that we may be Your hands, feet and voice within the Borough. We pray that Your Church will stand secure in Your promises, shining like a light, dispelling the darkness that threatens this town. May everything Your Church does glorify You and Your son Jesus. "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done."

Father, we declare with Jesus that "this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." (John 17:3). We rejoice in Jesus, knowing that joy in You is our strength (Nehemiah 8:10). We want every person in this Borough to encounter the Christian Gospel. We want to hear praises for You, people speaking of the good things that You are doing to transform their lives and this Borough. "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done."

Father, transform us, so that we may be used to shine forth Your glory and transform this Borough. "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done."

In Jesus' name. Amen

Please pray for the town centre churches

27th March – Christian Life Centre and the Salvation Army Hostel

28th March – Barton Street Mission and Bethel Mission

29th March – St Helens Baptist Church and Wesley Methodist Church

30th March – Holy Cross and St Mary's Lowe House

31st March – St Helens United Reformed Church (Ormskirk Street)

1st April – St Helens Parish Church, St Mark's North Road and
St Thomas' Eccleston

2nd April – Redeemed Church of God

Church Prayer Requests

One of the goals of SHINE is to get churches to meet and pray for one another. As you will have noticed – we do put individual church prayer requests into this diary so that we can pray for each other.

In particular – if there are any specific events which your church is organising and you'd like pray for that event – then please e-mail us at office@shine.org.uk. The next prayer diary is our June/July edition – please e-mail us your prayer requests by **Friday 6th May**.

Sunday 3 – Saturday 9 April

The Unity of Believers

“I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.” (John 17:22-23)

As Jesus prayed before his arrest, he petitioned God that those who believe in his name – that includes you and me – may be united (or “made one” or “being in agreement”). We may have different traditions, but belief in Christ Jesus is our underlying, unifying factor in everything we are as His Church.

Please pray:

Father God, we thank you for the fellowship we experience with other believers in this Borough. We thank You for those who are “making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” (Ephesians 4:3) We thank You for the role of organisations like SHINE, MiTE, Churches Together, Youth Aflame, The UNiT, Seedlings Trust, Christian Motorcyclists’ Association, and Street Pastors, as well as all the local ecumenical gatherings that are happening in Your name for local outreach, prayer and praise across the Borough. Where two are gathered in Your name, You are there. God, we thank You for that.

Father God, we lift the following prayer requests up to You:

- ❖ We pray for the Away Day for Wesley Street Independent Methodist church that will be on Saturday 9th April. We pray that it will be well supported. We pray for the leader, David Hill, as he prepares for the day, and for all who attend that they will find spiritual refreshment and encouragement.
- ❖ We pray for the St Helens Parish Church as they prepare to lead Christians throughout the Borough of St Helens in a Walk of Witness on Good Friday. We pray you will stir peoples’ hearts and free peoples’ diaries, so that they may come and show unity as believers across denominations.
- ❖ We also pray for “Parish Praise”, the family service of the St Helens Parish Church that will be held on Sunday 10th April. May this be a time of joyous celebration, pleasing to You!
- ❖ We pray for an evangelistic event that will take place at Earlestown Baptist Church on Saturday 9th of April. We pray that more people will give their hearts to Jesus and that Your Church in Earlestown and Garswood will grow.
- ❖ We pray for the Alpha Course being run at Holy Trinity Church in Parr Mount. We pray that you will send those who wish to know You better, that there will be good interaction between everyone, and that the Christian faith is shared.

A prayer for Mothering Sunday on April 3rd

Father, we take time to pray this Sunday for Mothers. We thank you for our birth Mothers, but also for our spiritual ones. We thank you for the women in our lives who have cared for us, looked after us, loved us, and especially for those women who shared the Good News of Jesus with us and prayed for us – Sunday school teachers, youth pastors, choir directors, Brigade and Scout leaders, the ladies who smiled at us at church and prayed for us every day, ministers, the mothers who walked us to church for clubs and special fun days, and more. We thank you for those who Mother our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren! May you raise up Christian women today who will nurture the children of tomorrow. Amen.

- ❖ For Youth Aflame, we ask for wisdom as they plan events. We pray for the ticket sales of Philippa Hanna on Sunday 17th of April and LZ7 in September. We pray young people will attend these events and encounter You, God. We pray for salvation this year for the young people of St Helens. Father, over the young people of St Helens, we declare, “*You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*” (1 Peter 2:9) Father, may this be the year we see a revolution amongst the young people from the kingdom of darkness to the Kingdom of light. We pray for a year of harvest as Youth Aflame step out in evangelistic events. God, we pray for protection, for future direction and wisdom as you lead them into new areas this year.

Father, we thank You that over 2,000 years ago, Jesus had so much love for us that as he waited to be arrested, knowing how cruel his death on the cross would be, he prayed for us. For us! Even then the people of 2011 were on Jesus’ heart. Father, we want the world to believe that You sent Jesus. We ask Father for You to glorify us in Jesus, unify us for Your purpose, so that You may be glorified in all the earth. So everyone will know You and will walk into Your Kingdom as Your son or daughter. In Jesus’ name. Amen

Please pray for the churches in Billinge, Blackbrook, Haresfinch and Carr Mill

3rd April – Billinge Family Church

4th April – St Aidan’s Billinge and St Mary’s RC Church

5th April – St David’s Carr Mill

6th April – St Patrick, Clinkham Wood and St Peter and St Paul RC Church

7th April – Haresfinch United Reformed Church

8th April – St Mary’s Blackbrook

9th April – St Paul’s Blackbrook

Sunday 10 – Saturday 16 April

The Sanctity of the Church

“My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.”

(John 17:15-19)

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, to sanctify means “to set apart to a sacred purpose” or “to free from sin.” How are we set apart? What does being “set apart” mean? How is this reflected in our lives? In the lives of our churches? As the body of Christ in St Helens?

Please pray:

Father God, we thank you that you have called us to be Yours, and we ask that You set us apart, sanctify us, for Your divine purposes. Whatever barriers we have put in place that prevent us from seeking You, God, we ask that you tear those barriers down now. We seek Your will. We seek Your purpose. Use us, Father God, we pray.

We lift up the churches of St Helens to You. May they continue to grow in numbers as You draw people to them, people who are thirsty to know You. When the people come, may Your churches be a place of refreshing and renewal for all who come near. May Your churches be places where the Kingdom of God comes upon people. May people of this Borough be joyously overwhelmed with Your glory! May people gather together to worship You *because they love You!*

God, we lift the following prayer requests up to You:

- ◆ The new parent and toddler group starting soon at the St Helens Parish Church. May it be a time of blessing for all.
- ◆ For the young people who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at St Teresa’s, Newtown on the Wednesday 11th May. As they make this commitment to you, Father, we ask you continue to hold them firmly in Your hand and guide them throughout their lives.
- ◆ We give thanks for the success of Luke Lunch at St Luke’s Eccleston. Most who attend are people from the community with a good mix of ages. We thank you for the customers who have stepped forward to volunteer as helpers. Please continue to bless this time.

- ◆ We pray for the leadership of the Seedlings Trust. We thank you for the dedication and service of the Chair who has just stepped down. We pray that a new Chair is appointed to continue Your work through the Seedlings Trust.
- ◆ We pray for the churches without a minister at the moment. We pray that you will strengthen the leadership teams of each church that is in vacancy. We pray that each congregation will be unified and encouraged. *“For the Lord is bringing you into a good land...”* (Deuteronomy 8:7)
- ◆ We pray for the work being done in the schools. Particularly we pray that the relationship St Philip’s Church has with Broad Oak Community Primary School will flourish. Please bless their youth student Rebecca Stratton and her role within the School.
- ◆ We join the St Helens Christian Life Centre in praying for a culture of honour, that we honour each other fully and encourage each other to become everything that Jesus Christ wants us to be.

God, we give thanks for all the Fresh Expressions of Church that are operating across the Borough. For all the different ways churches are stepping out of the church buildings and reaching people within the community with Your message. We lift up to you particularly the following:

- ◆ The Messy Church run by St Philip’s Derbyshire Hill Road on the last Wednesday of each month. We pray that a core group will develop.
- ◆ The Messy Church run by the St Helens Christian Life Centre at the Thatto Heath Crusaders Rugby Club on Sunday 17th April at 10:30am

May you continue, Father, to inspire Your Church with creative ways to reach all the lost. Keep us set apart for your purposes. In Jesus’ Name, we pray. Amen.

***Unblocking the Wells Prayer Meeting on Monday 18th April, 7:30pm
at St Helens CLC***

Please pray for the churches in Eccleston and Windle

- 10th April – Christ Church Eccleston
- 11th April – St Luke’s Eccleston
- 12th April – St Julie’s
- 13th April – St Andrew’s
- 14th April – St Teresa’s
- 15th April – Newtown United Reformed Church
- 16th April – St Thomas of Canterbury.

Sunday 17 – Saturday 23 April

Spreading The Good News

“Then he said to them all: ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.’” (Luke 9:23)

“Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.” (John 17:25-26)

After this prayer, Judas betrayed Jesus, and Simon Peter drew his sword to cut off the high priest’s servant’s right ear. Jesus responded by commanding Peter to put his sword away. *“Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?”* (John 18:11) As you kneel at the cross this week, in adoration, praise, thanksgiving, and repentance, ask yourself, “Do I deny myself? Do I DAILY pick up my cross and follow Jesus?”

Please pray:

Father God, thank you for the diverse ways that Your Church in St Helens is reaching out with the message of you – one Father God, one Saviour Jesus, and one Holy Spirit. God we honour you in each retelling of your wondrous love. We rejoice for each person who has come to know you for the first time or is getting to know you better.

Alpha/Explorer courses, study groups, cells, outreach in the streets, work in schools, overseas missions, café church, youth clubs, chaplains, etc – all these things we do, not for the sake of doing. We do them in response to Your call to reach a certain group of people or even an individual with Your message. May You continue to use each church’s strengths and weaknesses to reach those who do not yet know You. May we (the Church) continue to listen to You, be guided by You, and allow You to use us as Your hands and feet in the world.

Father, we pray You will be praised and will bless the following:

- ◆ The St Helens Walk of Witness on Good Friday (22nd April), starting in the Church Square at Noon. May Christians from across the denominations walk together in worship and reflection.
- ◆ The St Helens Praise on Sunday 11th June to celebrate Pentecost. May Christians from across the Borough gather together at the Town Hall to sing praises to You.

- ◇ We give thanks for the continuing work of the UNiT and Youth Aflame. Two very different ecumenical ministries, but two vital ones. Encourage their leaders, Father, and continue to guide them.
- ◇ We pray for Animate Youth Ministries and ask that you continue to bless the young people who serve. Continue to bless them with excitement and creativity to share the Gospel in new and refreshing ways within the schools.
- ◇ We give thanks for the Haydock Street Pastors. We pray for more opportunities to engage with young people on the streets on a Friday night in Haydock. We pray that more volunteers will step forward to become Street Pastors, so that more of Haydock can be reached. We pray that other churches within Haydock will come on board and join the Haydock Street Pastors' team. We also pray for more help with the administration.

Father, give us the courage to speak the words You would have us say, when You want us to say them. Gives us the discernment to act when and how You want us to act. May we never tire of telling people how wonderful you are.

Hallelujah!

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Please pray for the churches in Haydock and Earlestown

- 17th April – Earlestown Baptist Church
- 18th April – Blessed English Martyrs RC Church
- 19th April – St James the Great, Haydock
- 20th April – St Mark's Haydock
- 21st April – Christ Church United Reformed Church
- 22nd April – Haydock Independent Methodist Church
- 23rd April – Haydock Methodist Church

Good Friday Walk of Witness
Friday 22nd April 2011
Noon
Church Square

*Many Christians from across the
denominations walk together in unity*

Sunday 24 – Saturday 30 April

Easter

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” (1 Corinthians 1:18)

“In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.” (Hebrews 1:1-3)

“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.” (Romans 5:1-5)

Please pray:

Father God, our words cannot express the unspeakable joy we have at the mere thought of the love Jesus showed us, of the mercy and grace You have bestowed upon us. Such grace that we could never earn, such mercy that we do not deserve. We are blessed beyond words by You. Although we try to sing this joy in praise and worship, we know that in our hearts there is more joy yet to be sung, more praises yet to shout out to You, more ways to glorify You. By dying on the cross and rising again from death, Jesus conquered sin and the grave. The Good Shepherd has broken through for His sheep, so that we may follow Him into safe pastures. Father, we know this is foolishness to some, but we know that the message of the cross is Your power, God. Only You could defeat sin and death, and You did, for us. Thank You Lord.

Father, we thank You for all You’ve done for the Borough of St Helens. We thank You for sending Christian men and women over the years to this place to spread your message to the people here, so that we might believe and have life in You. We thank You for the witness of the churches You placed here, and we ask that they continue to be a powerful witness in this community for You. We thank You for past revivals and times of renewal within the Holy Spirit. We pray that You will pour out Your Spirit again over St Helens, bringing more people to know You

through Jesus. Protect the work you have done here, Lord.

Father, during this holy week of Easter rejoicing may we also lift the following up to you in prayer:

- ◆ West Street Independent Methodist is holding its Annual Meeting on Tuesday 3rd May. We give thanks for the devoted work of those who held church office over the past year. We pray that willing workers will commit themselves for the following year. We pray for spiritual progress for the West Street Independent Methodist church in the year ahead.
- ◆ The marriage of Prince William and Kate Middleton at Westminster Abbey on the Friday 29th April. Father we know that marriage is a gift from You. We pray You will bless their marriage.
- ◆ We pray for Your guiding hand over next week's elections and voting reform referendum. We ask that Your will be done.

Father, the world may call us foolish, but we are a people of great hope. Your love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. After all You have done for us, how could we not have hope in You? You are our refuge and strength. (Psalm 46:1) In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Hot Pot Supper and Quiz Night to raise funds for St Helens Praise will be held at St Helens United Reformed Church on Friday 6th May at 7:30pm.

Please pray for the churches in Newton-Le-Willows

- 24th April – All Saints C of E Church and Emmanuel, Wargrave
- 25th April – Newton Christian Fellowship
- 26th April – St David's RC Church and St Patrick's RC Church.
- 27th April – St Johns' C of E Church
- 28th April – St Peter's C of E Church
- 29th April – St Mary and St John RC Church
- 30th April – Newton Methodist Church

Prayer Focus Groups

If you would like to join a Prayer Focus Group, and support in prayer your part of the town, please contact the SHINE Office for more information about the groups.

Contact details are on page 24.



Sunday 1 – Saturday 7 May

The Chaplains of St Helens

“Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold.” (2 Corinthians 3:12)

This week we pray for those who serve as chaplains within the Borough of St Helens. We give thanks for those who serve in hospitals, at the St Helens College, in the Town Centre with Mission in the Economy (MiTE), the Saints Chaplains, the Police – wherever God’s chaplains are serving – we give thanks and offer encouragement.

Saints’ Chaplaincy team have asked us to pray:

- ◆ Gaz and Paul give thanks for the building of good relationships and a genuine appreciation of the role of the Chaplains
- ◆ Paul asks for prayer for the management team as they work from temporary premises
- ◆ please pray that the work on the new stadium goes to plan and to time
- ◆ pray for those fans who are struggling with the use of the Stobart Stadium in Widnes this season (and the loss of Knowsley Road)

Introducing Jean Flood, new Co-ordinator of MiTE

Please allow me to introduce myself. I’m Jean Flood the new Co-ordinator of Mission in the Economy. Having been chaplain to St John’s Market in Liverpool for the past 5 years I was delighted – but terrified – to be appointed to this post! During the selection procedure I was asked to explain to the interview panel how I could see myself fulfilling this role. For me the role is about being a Chaplain to the Chaplains and about the facilitation of relationships – between individuals and organisations, between Faith Communities and the Economy, between Church and Workplace – and between us all and God.

I told the panel in order to fulfil the role I would need to draw deeply on my life-time experience, all the wonderful experiences in ministry, in business, in family life that God has provided which have brought me to that which now I am. In fact, the Co-ordinator role would use all those diverse strands like no other job could. Mostly I would draw on my faith because I wouldn’t get very far without it!

All the usual doubts were flooding in... haven’t got the personality, haven’t got the strength, haven’t got the right experience. None of that’s changed, I’m still ‘doubt-full’, but now I’m a Co-ordinator too! That’s God for you! If he didn’t

let Moses' anxiety about public speaking stop him, he is hardly going to let my hesitations get in his way.

In answering God's call his answer to me is 'in quietness and trust will be your strength' (Isaiah30:15). It's a call not just on my life but on the life and work of Mission in the Economy and on all who minister in his name. He calls us to 'go in the strength you have' (Judges 6:14) because it's his strength not ours – and who knows where it might lead. Exciting but scary!

Prayer Points from Mission in the Economy:

- ◆ Please pray for the lonely...
So many people travel to the market or the shops, not to shop, but for human contact – a few words, a smile, a moment of undivided attention, a minute's relief from isolation.
- ◆ Please pray for the insecure...
Will it be my job or business that goes? Will I be able to pay the rent or the mortgage? Will he or she stand by me when I've got no money? Is anybody listening?
- ◆ Please pray for the injured...
So many personal tragedies...sickness, grief, addiction
- ◆ Please pray for our Chaplains...
Who share the pain and point the way to hope.

The Christ in us speaks to the Christ in all those we encounter in the course of a working day. What a privilege!

Revd Jean Flood

***Talk by Father Imad Twal at Our Lady's Portico
on Tuesday 10th May at 7:30pm.***

Please pray for the churches of Parr and Rainford

- 1st May – Holy Trinity, Parr Mount
- 2nd May – Parr Methodist Church and the Salvation Army, Tickle Avenue
- 3rd May – St Vincent's de Paul RC Church
- 4th May – St Peters Parr and St Philips Derbyshire Hill
- 5th May – Corpus Christi RC Church, Rainford
- 6th May – All Saints Rainford
- 7th May – Rainford United Reformed Church and Rainford Methodist Church

Sunday 8 – Saturday 14 May

The Town

“I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.”

(Psalm 27:13-14)

This week we give thanks for those who work at the St Helens Council and within the Police. People who daily work to serve the people in this community. We also lift up our concerns for the Borough.

Please pray:

- ❖ God will guide those making the tough decisions that affect so many people in this Borough.
- ❖ God’s blessings over the new Mayor of St Helens, Elected Members and the Officers of the Council when they begin a new term on 18th May
- ❖ For the 6000 children living in poverty in St Helens. Ask God how He wants you to respond to that fact.
- ❖ Give thanks for the work done to provide a quality education in local schools. In particular thank God for the work done at St Teresa’s Catholic Primary School in Clock Face and St Mary’s and St Thomas’ Church of England Primary School in Town Centre. Both who have recently made incredible improvements in their Ofsted reports.

Carole Hudson, Chief Executive of St Helens Council, has asked us to pray...

Please pray for everyone in the Borough who has financial worries, in particular please pray for those who are unemployed or facing employment uncertainty. Please also pray for all the young people in the Borough.

Superintendent Rowley Moore, Operations Support of St Helens Police, has asked us to pray for...

- ❖ Success in achieving monthly performance targets. At present we are experiencing challenges in the amount of violent offences, woundings, robbery and assaults. In addition we are experiencing difficulty achieving detection targets across a range of crime types.

- ◆ As the severe financial situation continues to cause considerable uncertainty and anxiety across the force, please pray for all our staff but in particular our police support staff some of whom are facing redundancy.
- ◆ Please pray for wisdom as we make a number of significant structural changes in response to diminishing resources and centralisation of a number of key departments.
- ◆ Please pray for sustained improvement against our Citizen Focus targets particularly in the area of ‘Follow up’ to victims of violent crime and ‘Actions Taken’ at the scenes of violent crime.
- ◆ For reduction in burglary particularly Thatto Heath/Eccleston/Moss Bank/Billinge areas.
- ◆ For ‘Ben’ a young lad who is fighting leukaemia. Ben’s dad is a serving officer.
- ◆ Above all please offer thanks for the year end projected performance across all crime types which is looking very successful

***Unblocking the Wells Prayer Meeting on Monday 16th May, 7:30pm
at Wesley Methodist Church***

Please pray for the churches of Prescot and Thatto Heath

- 8th May – Our Lady Help of Christians RC Church and St James, Eccleston Park
- 9th May – Prescot Methodist Church and Whiston Methodist Church
- 10th May – Prescot Salvation Army and Prescot Community Church
- 11th May – Balmer Street Methodist Church, Nutgrove Methodist Church
and West Street Independent Methodist Church
- 12th May – St John’s Ravenhead and St Matthew’s Thatto Heath
- 13th May – St Austin’s
- 14th May – Toll Bar with Prescot United Reformed Church

Funding SHINE

The SHINE Prayer Focus is free to a good home! But people sometimes ask if they can help cover the costs, or contribute to running the Office. If you want to help fund SHINE, gifts are always appreciated. Please send a cheque made out to SHINE to the address on page 24.

[Please note: If you are a taxpayer, SHINE can benefit as a charity. Please call the office for details.]

Notices from SHINE:

We would like to say thank you to Rev Vincent Whitworth for his dedication to the Prayer Diary over the past couple of years. He felt it was time to pass the Prayer Diary on, as he will be moving into a new role within the Church of England, possibly by summer. We wish him and his family God's blessings wherever they go.

There are no SHINE Prayer and Praise events planned for the moment, to allow people opportunity to attend the "Unblocking the Wells" prayer meetings. We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to gather together – from all denominations – to pray for St Helens.

This prayer diary was put together by the SHINE administrator. We are trying something new and would appreciate any comments or feedback. May God bless you.

Sunday 15 – Saturday 21 May

Families

"Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them." (Deuteronomy 4:9)

As we pray for families this week, may we also pray for the "fatherless generation." For those who do not have a positive male role model. May God be "father to the fatherless." (Psalm 68:5) May the Church of St Helens assist God in this.

Barbara Jones has asked us to pray:

Dear Lord,
We pray for our children and their homes,
That children may know shelter, safety and warmth,
Full tummies, happy homes and family love,
And growing, become loving adults in their turn,
Amen.

Please pray for:

- ◆ marriage as God intended it to be – a unique relationship and commitment to each other and to God.
- ◆ families living in fear of the future because of the economic situation.
- ◆ each church in St. Helens to provide love, support and friendship to any needy family living in their community
- ◆ those who are experiencing serious breakdowns in family relationships
- ◆ lone parents who find the pressures of bringing up children and providing for all their needs has a serious impact on their own well-being and peace of mind

Please pray that:

- ◆ our society would treat marriage seriously
- ◆ governments would play their part in strengthening marriage
- ◆ marriage will be seen to be good and desirable
- ◆ those with authority to change the Law that will affect family well-being, would uphold Christian values and beliefs.

Please pray for the churches of Sutton and Rainhill

15th May – All Saints Sutton, St Michael's Sutton and St Nicholas' Sutton

16th May – Sutton Methodist Church and Sutton Village Church

17th May – Church of the Nazarene and Peasley Cross United Reformed Church

18th May – St Ann's and Blessed Dominic and St Theresa.

19th May – St Bartholomew's RC Church and St Anne's Rainhill

20th May – Rainhill Pentecostal Church and Trinity Church Rainhill

21st May – St James' Methodist Church, Rainhill

Sunday 22 – Saturday 28 May

The Seedlings Trust

"I love you, O Lord, my strength." (Psalm 18:1)

We have an awesome God! As my seven year old sings to me (thanks to the work of Seedlings Trust), "our God is a great big God – BIG GOD! – and He holds us in His hands!" Hallelujah!

From Jeanette Cain, the Seedlings Trust

We are 21 years old now, amazing to think of how many children have heard the Truth over those 21 years. God is good. We want to begin by thanking God for His goodness and His Faithfulness.

The schools diary is now planned until July – 16 schools. The majority of these are on a fortnightly basis, five assemblies on a monthly basis and three schools visited by Paul on a weekly basis. We thank God for these opportunities.

Stas4all is continuing to grow at the school in Billinge. We continue to meet on the fourth Sunday of each month. We are now seeing between 100–130 attend each month. Please pray for the team who run this alongside Paul.

Please pray for those who have taken Bibles and/or Bible Notes that the Lord will touch their hearts and lives.

One of the keys to this growth is the building of relationships. Please pray as these continue to grow.

Pray for Philip and the volunteers who are setting up a puppet Ministry to use during Stas4all.

Seedlings Trust is a registered charity and as such have a Board of Trustees. Our Chair needs to step down and we support her in this decision. Please pray that we can appoint a new Chair, and find a vice-chair to enable us to fulfil God's call. The Chair is one of the key officers in the Trust and so it is really important that we appoint a new one and therefore support our retiring Chair in her decision.

We continue to be involved with the work at Parish Church with the Parish Praise on the 2nd Sunday and the after school event. We are seeking God for the way to move this forward.

LOL the after school event at St Ann's Primary in Rainhill continues to grow, as do the two lunchtime clubs in Parish C of E school on a Monday and St Philip's C of E primary in Westbrook, Warrington, where more than 40 children attend of their own free will each Wednesday lunchtime.

Please pray for the following Christian organisations:

- 22nd May – Animate Youth Ministries
- 23rd May – Storehouse, Tango, and the Hope Centre
- 24th May – Prescott Oasis Centre and Haydock Connect
- 25th May – The UNiT
- 26th May – Christian Motorcyclists' Association
- 27th May – Salvation Army Hostel
- 28th May – SHINE

This Prayer Letter is produced by SHINE Trust Board

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