

Created and redeemed for...

# Peace

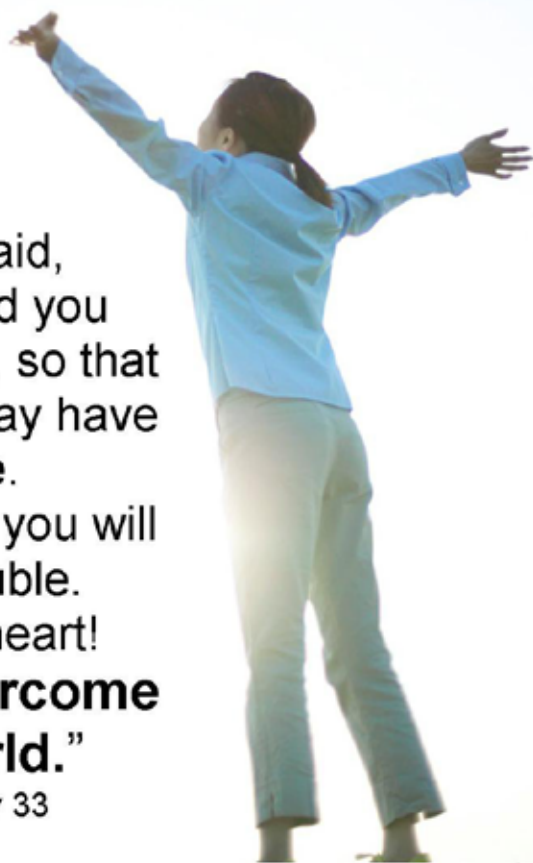
Jesus said,  
"I have told you  
these things, so that  
in me you may have  
**peace.**

In this world you will  
have trouble.

But take heart!

**I have overcome  
the world."**

-John 16 v 33



"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free."  
Galatians 5:1



## **Unblocking the Wells of Salvation in St Helens**

Next meetings:

Monday 13th June at 7.30pm  
St Helens Christian Life Centre

Monday 11th July at 7.30pm  
St Helens Christian Life Centre

Monday 1st August  
St Andrew's, Dentons Green Lane



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!*

**St. Helens Sinfonietta and Choir**

**Soloist: Heather Rogers**

**Speaker: Rt. Rev. James Jones**  
**The Bishop of Liverpool**

Tickets £10 £5 for students with ID  
£1 for children accompanied by adult

Tickets are on sale from: St Helens Parish Church  
Ormskirk Street United Reformed Church  
SHINE Office

# Angela Rigby writes...

**Hello, brothers and sisters in Christ.** May you be blessed and encouraged today! Please be aware of the following notices:

- ◆ Tickets are on sale at the St Helens Parish Church, Ormskirk Street United Reformed Church and SHINE Office for the **St Helens Praise** concert that will be held at the Town Hall on Saturday 11 June at 7:30pm.
- ◆ The next prayer meetings for **Unblocking the Wells of Revival in St Helens** will be at 7:30pm on Monday 13 June and on Monday 11 July, both at the St Helens Christian Life Centre and 1 August at St. Andrews Church, Dentons Green Lane.

## **SHINE News**

SHINE have held a Child Poverty Forum to find out more about the approach St Helens Council is taking in regards to Child Poverty. Please see the orange insert for more information, prayer points, and how you can get involved in the on-going discussions.

SHINE has also held a lunch for church leaders. Nick Tissot from Ascension Trust and the Haydock Street Pastors team spoke about the Street Pastors ministry. Please contact SHINE if you would like more information about Street Pastors.

The SHINE Trust Board would like to thank Rev Vincent Whitworth as he steps down from the SHINE Trust Board and into his new ministry. We wish him and his family God's blessings. We would also like to thank Pastor Mike Kerry for his support of SHINE and for serving as Chair this past year. We wish him God's blessings as he stands down from the SHINE Trust Board. We ask you to please pray for the new Chair, leadership and vision of SHINE. May God send the right people for His purposes in this Borough.

## **Youth Aflame News**

The Youth Aflame café nights are still going strong. They meet once a month at the Friends Meeting House. The Philippa Hanna concert held at Wesley Church was an evening of blessing for many of the Borough's young people – both churched and unchurched. We join Youth Aflame in thanking God for the café and the concert and ask God to protect the work He has started in the lives of these young people.

Youth Aflame has also held an outreach day at Nutgrove Primary School, which has developed into a weekly lunch time group. We thank God for His goodness and ask God to bless the seeds sown that day. We pray for opportunities to reach the children and families with the Gospel.

Youth Aflame have invited LZ7 to perform this September at the Theatre Royal on Friday 30 September. They are "a Manchester based band bringin' the

party hip hop and electro beats to force you to throw shapes you didn't know you had." Please start praying now for who you could invite, or consider if any of your youth clubs would like to come along. Tickets are £5 each and are available from the Theatre Royal box office. See [www.lz7.co.uk](http://www.lz7.co.uk) for information about LZ7 and to hear their music.

Please continue to pray 1 Peter 2:9 over our young people. "But 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."

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this prayer diary. The hope is to collate prayers from around the Borough, so that we can pray for and with each other in unity, as one voice, seeking God's guidance, protection, power and favour. "*Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty.*" (Zechariah 4:6)

In June, as we pray for our Borough, we invite you to reflect on Pentecost and what it means to us today. In July, we reflect on how we experience the Kingdom of God in our walk with Jesus, praying about Romans 14:17: "For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit..."

Please join me in praying for you and for the people of the Borough: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13)

Thank you for praying with us.

*Angela*

SHINE Administrator

## St Helens Fair Trade

To continue the success of being a Fair Trade Town please:



- ☆ Consider if your church isn't already encouraging the use of Fair Trade tea/coffee/biscuits for all your meetings and events.
- ☆ Try to choose a Fair Trade option when shopping even if it is only occasionally.
- ☆ Always ask for a Fair Trade Option in Coffee shops.

# Sunday 29 May – Saturday 4 June

## Pentecost

*“All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.” (Acts 2:4)*

### Father Tom Neylon writes...

St Paul says, “No one can say that ‘Jesus is Lord’ unless by the Holy Spirit” (1 Corinthians 12:3). This must mean that faith in Jesus Christ is the grace of God working in us through the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is the gift of God that enables faith in Jesus Christ to enter into the life of children, women and men.

During Easter Week I accompanied a group of young people with a variety of learning difficulties and handicaps with their adult helpers on a pilgrimage to Lourdes. As happens in places of pilgrimage throughout the world we hear the Word of God proclaimed along with hymns and prayers of praise and thanksgiving in many languages. Hearts and hands and voices raised to the one God and Father of all in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Disability or language is not a barrier to the gift of the Holy Spirit.

*“All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, ‘What does this mean?’ But others sneered and said, ‘They are filled with new wine.’” (Acts 2:12-13)*

During the Last Supper Jesus said to his disciples: “I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.” (Matthew 26:29)

The Last Supper was celebrated on the night before Jesus died. It was near the feast of Passover. Jesus died at the time when the Passover lambs were being sacrificed in the Temple in Jerusalem. His death is the sacrifice of the new and eternal covenant. The Holy Spirit enables us to receive the fruits of Jesus’ sacrifice on the Cross. Our sins are forgiven, and we receive the promise of eternal life. In the Eucharist we receive the Body and Blood of Christ, the crucified and risen Lord.

We live our life and faith in the gift of the Holy Spirit. May the Holy Spirit enlighten us as we rise each day with the duties and responsibilities that have been entrusted to us.

### Please pray:

Father, we thank you for the precious gift of your Son Jesus. For His sacrifice on the cross, that allows us to receive the gift of your Holy Spirit. We praise you that you pour out your Spirit upon your people, not just a little bit but to overflowing!

Enabling us to share your goodness with others without fear of ever running out ourselves "...my cup overflows." (Psalm 23:5)

Father, we pray for your churches in St Helens. Thank you for the goodness you have brought to this Borough. Please continue to pour out your Spirit over us. May your churches be a source for others to come in contact with You. May they see something in us that brings them to know You and to accept you as Lord in their lives.

This week, Father, we thank you for the leaders in our community and in our churches. Many churches have elected or appointed new officers, elders and wardens. Thank you for those who served faithfully and are taking a time of rest. Please bless those who are taking on new roles within the church and equip them to serve, teach them new skills as needed and empower your people to learn, grow and even soar! (Isaiah 40:31)

Father, we pray for ministers who are leading more than one congregation. Give them strength and encouragement. We pray also for churches without a minister at the moment. Continue to strengthen their leadership teams. We especially pray for the Salvation Army Church in Parr. We pray, Father, that you will be preparing the right person to come and continue to lead the witness that church has begun in Parr and St Helens.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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

**Please pray for the town centre churches**

- 29 May – Christian Life Centre and the Salvation Army Hostel
- 30 May – Barton St Mission and Bethel Mission
- 31 May – St Helens Baptist Church and Wesley Methodist Church
- 1 June – Holy Cross and St Mary's Lowe House
- 2 June – St Helens United Reformed Church (Ormskirk Street)
- 3 June – St Helens Parish Church, St Mark's North Road and St Thomas' Eccleston
- 4 June – Redeemed Church of God and Overcomers Pentecostal Assembly



## Sunday 5 – Saturday 11 June

### St Helens College and The UNiT

*“...but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”*  
(Isaiah 40:31)

One weapon against poverty is education. Access to education provides opportunities, increases life chances. This week please pray for the St Helens College, its staff and students. Please also pray for The UNiT as some of the young people will be leaving soon for college or university. We want people to “soar,” achieving all God would have them achieve, overcoming all the world’s obstacles in God’s strength.

#### **Paul Johnson, Lead Chaplain at St Helens College writes:**

Please pray for St Helens College. As you may well be aware, the Town Centre Campus is now virtually finished and the decant programme, to move classes and courses to their new areas, is well underway. Please give thanks for the speedy work that has been done and for the lack of serious accident and injury during the construction process. It is an excellent facility and one that will serve this community for many years to come. As with any new homes, there will undoubtedly be some snagging issues. Please pray that these will be resolved quickly and efficiently, without leading to stressful situations for any staff concerned.

Please pray for students and staff, as the examination period is upon us. This is often a stressful time for all concerned. Please pray for peace, good memories and excellent results for all students.

It has been well documented that the College, like every other within the sector, has been affected by funding cuts. This has resulted in a number of redundancies across the organisation. Please pray for those staff and their families who are involved. Pray for peace of mind and provision of new employment, where this is required. Please pray for staff morale, as this kind of situation will obviously have an impact. Please pray for the Senior Leadership Team and Corporation as plans are made for next year.

Our Principal, Pat Bacon, has informed the College that she will be retiring at the end of 2011. Please pray for her, that she will enjoy the final few months at St Helens College and that she will have a very long and happy retirement. Please pray also for the process of finding a replacement for Pat. Pray that the right person is appointed and that there will continue to be a strong desire to provide chaplaincy support for staff and students across the College.

Finally, please pray for all staff and students at St Helens College and other

educational organisations. At the recent SHINE event, which looked at poverty in the area, I referred to the importance of ‘raising the aspirations of people across the Borough’. Education is one of the finest tools that we have at our disposal to encourage individuals to reach their full potential and thus lower the poverty figures of the Borough. At a recent Prince’s Trust award ceremony, I was impressed by the youngsters that had completed the excellent programme. Each of them said, in their own way, that the opportunity to learn academic and social skills had changed their lives for the better. This opportunity is there for all, so we should ask God to encourage people to engage and see their own life opportunities improve.

My prayer for St Helens College is that the inevitable changes for the coming year will come from a position of strength. I pray that decisions will be made from rest and knowing God’s will because that is where a bright future will be found.

Please pray that, by hearing God’s direction in the period of transition, a new day of walking, running, new strength and soaring will come!

### **Rev Frank Hinds of the UNiT asks us to pray...**

- ◆ Pray for those older young people who have been actively involved in The Unit, who will soon be leaving to go to college and university. Pray that they will thrive in their new environment, and continue to walk closely with God.
- ◆ Pray for the summer programme, as we continue our series on Radical Disciples. Thank God that young people are both coming to Jesus, and being encouraged in Jesus, through this series. Pray for more of this!!
- ◆ Thank God for the fantastic sense of partnership and unity amongst the churches, and pray against any spiritual threat to that unity.
- ◆ Pray for our preparations for the Radical Weekend (September 9-11 at the Billinge Family Church), and that young people can be effectively equipped for mission and evangelism through this.

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

- 5 June – Billinge Family Church
- 6 June – St Aidan’s Billinge and St Mary’s RC Church
- 7 June – St David’s Carr Mill
- 8 June – St Patrick, Clinkham Wood and St Peter and St Paul RC Church
- 9 June – Haresfinch United Reformed Church
- 10 June – St Mary’s Blackbrook
- 11 June – St Paul’s Blackbrook

## Sunday 12 – Saturday 18 June

### The “Gentile Pentecost”

*“Then Peter began to speak: ‘I now realize how true it is that God does not show favouritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.’” (Acts 10:34-35)*

#### Rev Gary McGowan writes...

As a good Jew of the first century, Peter would never enter the house of a Gentile. Yet through a vision, God told him not to call anything impure that God has made clean. Because of his vision Peter responded positively to an invitation to visit the home of Cornelius, a Roman Centurion. The outcome has been called ‘the Gentile Pentecost’ – the Holy Spirit was poured out on all who gathered there. That meant that the whole world now became the Church’s mission field. God was calling both Jew and Gentile to faith in Jesus.

We rightly celebrate Pentecost, but this occasion was just as important, without this ‘Gentile Pentecost’ the Christian movement would have remained a Jewish sect.

It is too easy in Church life to exclude some individuals, or groups of people from our outreach programmes, yet **everybody** in St Helens needs to hear the gospel! There are times when we too need a vision from God to move us into our next mission project.

#### Please pray:

Gracious Lord, we confess that we are blinkered when it comes to sharing the good news of Jesus. There are those we overlook and those we avoid, and we tell ourselves that this is your will. Open our eyes we pray to see the depth and breadth of your love for the people of St Helens and help us to show that love to all who we encounter.

Father, we thank you for co-operative ventures such as the Capstone Café. We pray this will be a blessing to both the St Helens Baptist Church and HATRA (Hardshaw Area Tenants and Residents).

We pray your blessings over St John’s in Earlestown as they resume outreach visiting within the parish during the summer. A small team visited over 600 homes last year. We pray that this year they will be blessed with even more conversations with local people about how the church can help. We pray for more opportunities to tell people about you. We join them in praying for “THREE-way listening.” The people of St John’s want to listen to the people in the community and they hope the community will listen to them, and at the same time, St John’s

are listening for your voice Father, asking, “What is St John’s called to do to serve this community?” Please guide their steps, leading them to the answer.

Father, we lift up to you the St Helens Parish Church. We thank you for their witness within the town centre and schools. We ask you to bless the new midweek service “20 Minutes on Tuesday.” We hope people will grasp this opportunity to step out of their busy working days and step into a quiet moment with you. We also pray for the new toddler group. We pray it will be a blessing to both the children and their carers.

Father, we pray for the work churches are doing within the schools across the Borough. May the children and staff see your love for them.

Father, we pray for all the Bible study groups happening throughout the Borough. We pray for the St Helens Bible Study Group who meet on Mondays from 6:00pm to 7:30pm in the Library and on Tuesdays from 2:30pm to 3:30pm at Ormskirk Street URC. Father, may you create a hunger in our hearts to know more of your Word.

Father, please continue to convict of sin through the power of the Holy Spirit, and guide us through the same Spirit to those who need and are ready to hear the good news of Jesus Christ. May you prepare us and teach us how to discern when to speak and may you give us the words to say.

In Jesus’ name. Amen.

### **Please pray for the churches in Eccleston and Windle**

- 12 June – Christ Church Eccleston
- 13 June – St Luke’s Eccleston
- 14 June – St Julie’s
- 15 June – St Andrew’s
- 16 June – St Teresa’s
- 17 June – Newtown United Reformed Church
- 18 June – St Thomas of Canterbury.

## **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 19 – Saturday 25 June

## The Fatherhood of God

*“Even if you had ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. Therefore I urge you to imitate me.”* (1 Corinthians 4:15-16)

### Rev Philip Fell writes...

Everyone has a father – even if an absent one. Fathers can have powerful influence on our lives – for good or ill. Jesus wants us to relate to God primarily as Father rather than simply as the Almighty, the Creator, the Judge etc. – all of which remain true however.

*Jesus says, “The pagans run after all these (material) things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”* [Matthew 6: 32-33]

- ◆ A core value of the Kingdom of God is the Fatherhood of God

Our King is our loving heavenly Father! And this is the model for all our relationships within the Kingdom of Heaven.

The word translated “guardians” in 1 Corinthians 4:15 above literally means teachers. Sometimes the Church has been very good at “teaching”, but less good at Paul’s emphasis on “fathering” (or mothering) others in the faith.

### Paul Fathered Timothy

Not only did Paul input to Timothy’s life, the young man responded well to this. So Paul is able to call him, “*my true son...*” [1 Timothy 1:2]

Wouldn’t you love to be able to point to someone and say, “My true son/daughter in the faith”

- ◆ not just that you led them to Christ but that you nurtured and disciplined them
- ◆ so they learned early what you had learned over years

This is inheritance! Letting the kids get for nothing what you worked for!

### Some things to think and pray about:

1. Who are you fathering/mothering in the faith?
2. Whose life in God are you empowering and encouraging?
3. What are you passing on to another believer?

4. What can you do to develop a relationship with a young/older person – to encourage and disciple them?
5. We are called to father a fatherless generation
  - i. Pray for those who are being brought up in broken homes, where there is no father or mother present
  - ii. Pray for single parents in their difficult job of being both parents to a child
6. Pray that in the church we develop a culture of kingdom fathering and mothering.

***That will be a church the world outside will want to know about!***

**Mr Trevor Prescott of West Street Independent Methodist Church has asked us to pray...**

On Saturday 2 July, West St Independent Methodist Church will be holding its Annual Walk of Witness around its neighbourhood followed by a field day. Pray that there will be a good turnout for the walk and that our neighbours will note our willingness to witness to our faith in this way and will come and join in the fun afterwards. The Walk starts at 2:00pm from the Church Hall in West Street. Please join us.

**SHINE asks us to pray...**

In May, Ramp Riders started a twenty week outreach programme sponsored by Helena Homes in four areas across St Helens. They have contacted the SHINE office and asked that when they are in your area, please stop by and say hello. They want to make contacts with people from the local churches. Pray God blesses this time, and that the young people are encouraged, inspired and uplifted. Pray the churches see this opportunity and respond. For more information about Ramp Riders, contact 07581301150 or see [www.ramriders.co.uk](http://www.ramriders.co.uk).

**Please pray for the churches in Haydock and Earlestown**

- 19 June – Earlestown Baptist Church
- 20 June – Blessed English Martyrs RC Church
- 21 June – St James the Great, Haydock
- 22 June – St Mark’s Haydock
- 23 June – Christ Church United Reformed Church
- 24 June – Haydock Independent Methodist Church
- 25 June – Haydock Methodist Church

## Sunday 26 June – Saturday 2 July

### The Persecuted Church

*“While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ Then he fell on his knees and cried out, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’ When he had said this, he fell asleep. And Saul was there, giving approval to his death. On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison. Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.” (Acts 7:59–Acts 8:4)*

*“Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.”* Praise the Lord! What power, joy and peace must have been upon them by the Holy Spirit. I would like to think I would respond to persecution like that. In my strength, I am fairly certain I wouldn’t. But in God’s strength...well...as Paul writes *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”* (Philippians 4:13 NKJV) And after acknowledging strength comes from God, Paul writes in verse 14, *“Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress.”* (NKJV) Strength comes from Christ, but fellowship of believers, building each other up, is also important.

Around the world, there are Christians dying for their beliefs. Parents faced with the heart wrenching decision of whether to tell their children about Christ, because where they live, although spiritually speaking Christ means life, knowledge of Christ could bring about persecution or even death. Thankfully, the Church in the UK is not truly persecuted. Unfortunately, the body of Christ in the UK isn’t really seen as a force anymore. As said recently in the pulpit at a local church, “We’ve allowed some of the mediocrity to come in and steal the joy and the purpose and the fervour we should have for God.”

A lot is spoken about martyrs in the media. Even those who profess to be Christians who would kill others. I thank God for the example set by Stephen and the first Christians in Acts 7-8. Christ died for us. He doesn’t demand we go on murdering rampages for Him. However there are times when the world will “throw stones” at you, asking you to worship this “god” or that. When it does, God gives you the strength to stand against it in His peace and say, “You may have your gods, but I know mine. My God is mercy in the power of Jesus Christ. I will not bow to yours.” People can get upset at the thought of being that blunt, but standing firm isn’t about treading on the rights of others. It is about standing in God’s strength, declaring your heart’s desire to follow Jesus and only Jesus.

## **Please pray:**

Father God, we pray for Christians around the world that are being persecuted simply because they believe in you and follow your ways. We thank you for the strength you give them to stand against such persecution, even to death. We mourn for those who have been killed for your name, and we pray for the communities that are affected by these deaths. We pray against the burning of your churches. Father, we cry out to you to strengthen your people all over the world with your peace, your joy, and your power through the Holy Spirit. Father, we ask that “you will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.” (Isaiah 26 v3) We pray for the full armour of God for our brothers and sisters in Christ who are facing persecution or imprisonment. Please hear the prayers in our hearts for them.

Father, we pray for the unity of the body of Christ within the UK. We pray against anything that may try to disrupt that unity. We know our *“struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”* (Ephesians 6:12) Empower your Church to stand in peace, in joy, in righteousness for Your glory. May we always treat each other respectfully, and in love, rebuke and encourage each other as brothers and sisters through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Father, we thank you that your Church in the UK does not truly know what it means to be persecuted. May you forgive us when we take you for granted. Forgive us when we do not treat your word as daily bread, when we do not appreciate Christian fellowship and the ability to work together as churches to transform our community. Forgive us when we treat prayer and worship as something on our “to do” lists. Father, when we fall into these sins, we ask for forgiveness and pray that you will *“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.”* (Psalm 51:10 KJV)

We ask these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.

## **Please pray for the churches in Newton-Le-Willows**

26 June – All Saints C of E Church and Emmanuel, Wargrave

27 June – Newton Christian Fellowship

28 June – St David’s RC Church and St Patrick’s RC Church.

29 June – St John’s C of E Church

30 June – St Peter’s C of E Church

1 July – St Mary and St John RC Church

2 July – Newton Methodist Church

## Sunday 3 – Saturday 9 July

### The Town

*“You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.” (Isaiah 26:3)*

It’s all too tempting in times of uncertainty to want to crumble under the weight of fear. But that is not what God wants for us. We are to trust him. Easy words to say, and in our strength, not so easy to do. But in Ephesians 2:8-9, we are reminded that faith in God – the ability to trust God – this a gift *from* God. Not something we must do or achieve.

*“His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of the warrior; the LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.” (Psalm 147:10-11)*

This week we ask you to pray for the town and for our Police. With the current Budget cuts and political climate, many may feel this town is weak or even worthless. But the strength God is interested in creating in this town goes much deeper than worldly ideas of power and wealth. The true worth of this town is its heart – the people. Their faith in God and their love for each other.

### Please pray:

Father, we join Carole Hudson, the Chief Executive of St Helens Council, in praying for the young people of this Borough. Many may be feeling stress from exams, worrying about results and about future university fees. We pray also for those who may be leaving University without a job. We pray for your peace, which doesn’t always make rational sense, to come upon the young people of this town who are uncertain about what the future holds for them, guard their hearts and minds and keep them focused on you. (Philippians 4:7) We pray your blessings on them, Father God.

Father, we lift up our Police to you. Their jobs are not easy, and often go without thanks. We join Superintendent Rowland Moore in praying for the officers who have been made redundant. Father, we thank you for them, and that you will protect them and their families through this difficult time. For those facing the threat of redundancy, Father, we ask that you strengthen them and guide them to where you need them to be. We pray for wisdom and compassion within the leadership of the Police as extremely tough decisions are made regarding rationalisation.

Father, as the Police undergo restructuring, with several departments moving

location, we pray for patience, understanding, wisdom, and that the moves achieve the desired aim of an even better service for the communities of St Helens. As major departments centralise (i.e. Control Room and Custody), we pray for smooth transition and continuation of business with minimal disruption. We pray that the standards and integrity of St Helens Police officers remains high at all times and that the light of justice shines brightly where standards are not maintained. "LORD, you establish peace for us; all that we have accomplished you have done for us." (Isaiah 26:12) We pray this for our Police at this time of many changes.

Father, we pray against the burglaries and car crimes committed in Haydock and Newton-le-Willows. We lift up to you the victims of these crimes.

We also pray for Fair Trade in our town, Father. We join Judith Price in asking that you bless the Council's efforts to encourage businesses and shops to use Fair Trade products. We ask that you will prosper all those who work towards making all our Trade Fair. We know you are a God of justice and mercy. Even when faced with our own difficulties, help us to remember the suffering of others and help as we can.

Amen.

### **Please pray for the churches of Parr and Rainford**

3 July – Holy Trinity, Parr Mount

4 July – Parr Methodist Church and the Salvation Army, Tickle Avenue

5 July – St Vincent de Paul RC Church

6 July – St Peter's, Parr and St Philip's, Derbyshire Hill

7 July – Corpus Christi RC Church, Rainford

8 July – All Saints Rainford

9 July – Rainford United Reformed Church and Rainford Methodist Church

## **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](mailto:office@shine.org.uk). The next prayer diary is our August/September edition – please e-mail us your prayer requests by **Friday 1st July**.

## Sunday 10 – Saturday 16 July

### The Kingdom as Righteousness

*“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men.”* (Romans 14:17-18)

God wants his children to live in His Kingdom – in righteousness, in peace and in joy in the Holy Spirit. Not in our strength or works so we can boast (Ephesians 2:9), but rather as gifts that the Father lavishes upon us His children. The next two weeks we will look at the Kingdom as Peace and as Joy. This week we think about the Kingdom as Righteousness.

*“Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.”*  
(Genesis 15:6)

*“The words ‘it was credited to him’ were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness – for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.”* (Romans 4:23-25)

Everyone with young children knows when their child has done something they shouldn't have done. It's easy to spot. The child won't look you in the eye. Now, righteousness is a mighty big word. I tend to think of it as being in a right standing before God. In other words, being able to look God in the eye.

This is completely a gift of God to us through His Son Jesus Christ. We can't earn a right standing with our Father God – no matter how good we are. It's a gift. Once we repent, it's like we are standing in front of Father God, guilty as sin, with Jesus (the ultimate big brother) standing next to us, knowing full well we are guilty, but Jesus says to the Father, “It's alright Dad. I know she's sorry. I'll take the punishment.” And the Holy Spirit then testifies to your heart being changed. All we have to do is repent and “believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.” (Romans 4:24) Wow!

#### **Please pray:**

Father, righteousness is a big word. Not easy to explain or understand. We thank you for Paul's ability to write at length about it in plain language as found in the letter to the Romans. Thank you for inspiring him to write it and for ensuring that letter was preserved and translated so that thousands of years later your precious Word could reach our hearts. That letter continues to be such a blessing to your people.

Father, although we may not understand it – for your generosity overwhelms us at times – we thank you for your gift of righteousness. We thank you that you desire us to become more like Jesus, and that you have made a way for that to happen.

We pray this week, Father, for your Kingdom. “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done.” We thank you that you have adopted us to be children in Your Kingdom. We thank you for the gifts of peace, joy and righteousness that you give us as heirs in your Kingdom. Help us, Father, to accept these gifts: to walk in your peace, despite the surrounding chaos and uncertainty; to sing with your joy, when the world says we should be silent and afraid; to stand in your righteousness through the power of the cross, despite our knowledge of the sins we have committed. Make us a new creation, we pray.

In Jesus’ name. Amen.

### **Please pray for the churches of Prescott and Thatto Heath**

10 July – Our Lady Help of Christians RC Church and St James, Eccleston Park

11 July – Prescott Methodist Church and Whiston Methodist Church

12 July – Prescott Salvation Army and Prescott Community Church

13 July – Balmer Street Methodist Church, Nutgrove Methodist Church  
and West Street Independent Methodist Church

14 July – St John’s Ravenhead and St Matthew’s Thatto Heath

15 July – St Austin’s

16 July – Toll Bar with Prescott United Reformed Church



## **Capstone Café**

**Come to the St Helens Baptist Church  
on Hall Street for a good cup of coffee.**

***Open Saturdays from 10am – 1pm.***

***From June 16th, also open on Thursdays from 11am – 2pm.***

## Sunday 17 – Saturday 23 July

### The Kingdom as Peace

*“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 14:17)*

*“Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you!’” (John 20:19)*

*“All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” (John 14:25-27)*

#### Rev Val Hughes writes...

I’m amazed that the first words the risen Lord spoke to his disciples were words of peace. My first words would have been words of complaint & disappointment! I’m even more amazed at the wealth of meaning encapsulated in the Hebrew word for “Peace”: SHALOM. It means WHOLENESS, so when we greet someone with SHALOM we are wishing total wellbeing on the other person. According to the IVP Illustrated Bible Dictionary, SHALOM means: *“completeness, soundness, wellbeing, harmony with God & others, material prosperity, physical safety, spiritual wellbeing.”*

We are told to pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6) and let’s also pray for the SHALOM of our local towns and Borough!

- ◆ **For healing & wholeness** for individuals and communities, remembering our local hospitals, doctors, clinics and district nurses, and the Christian ministry of healing through prayer & the laying on of hands, offered through the churches of SHINE
- ◆ **For harmony with God** remembering those who need to “make their peace” with God, the prodigals still running away, those with hard hearts who resist the Holy Spirit, those approaching the end of their earthly life
- ◆ **For harmony with one another**, remembering the need for each of us to restore peace when we break fellowship. (Ephesians 4:3, Hebrews 12:14) Pray for anybody known to you who has fallen out of fellowship with others. Are you struggling with a relationship breakdown? Is there any step the Lord is telling you to take? Matthew 18:15-16
- ◆ **For material prosperity and wellbeing** for our towns and communities in

this difficult economic climate, for new jobs to be created for those made redundant and new opportunities for young people & the over 50s.

- ◆ **For physical safety** for our neighbourhoods, safety from violence, crime, accident & disaster, safety on our roads for young & old.
- ◆ **For spiritual wellbeing**, let's ask the Risen Lord who sends the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit to continue to equip His church to live the kingdom life of righteousness, peace & joy!

### **Mr Trevor Prescott of West St Independent Methodist has asked us to pray...**

West Street Independent Methodist Church is having a review of all its activities, spiritual and social, with the assistance of another local church. Pray that our members will face up to any challenges which arise and will be willing to make changes where it is felt necessary. Pray that the leaders of the two churches will be able to work amicably together and will support each other in prayer.

### **Please pray for the churches of Sutton and Rainhill**

- 17 July – All Saints Sutton, St Michael's Sutton and St Nicholas' Sutton
- 18 July – Sutton Methodist Church and Sutton Village Church
- 19 July – Church of the Nazarene and Peasley Cross United Reformed Church
- 20 July – St Ann & Blessed Dominic and St Theresa.
- 21 July – St Bartholomew's RC Church and St Anne's Rainhill
- 22 July – Rainhill Pentecostal Church and Trinity Church Rainhill
- 23 July – St James' Methodist Church, Rainhill

## **More Prayer Labourers needed:**

Did you know that over 600 copies of SHINE Prayer Focus are distributed every two months? We know that maybe not every copy will be used every day, but it is still a staggering thought that so many people are uniting in prayer across the town around the same objective of a Christ centred



St. Helens. If you know of others who have a commitment to praying for the transformation of St. Helens, why not give them a copy? Phone the office and ask Angela to send you an extra one today.



## Sunday 24 – Saturday 30 July

### The Kingdom as Joy in the Holy Spirit

*“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 14:17)*

*“But the Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, and self-control. There is no law against such things as these. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have put to death their human nature with all its passions and desires. The Spirit has given us life; he must also control our lives.” (Galatians 5:22-25)*

#### **Rev Deacon Dave writes...**

The greatest love story ever told! Not a film or a book, but the joy of the kingdom of Heaven here, now on Earth through the Holy Spirit, the free loving gift from the Father as Jesus promised. The Spirit who through our baptism makes us sing and dance, who binds us together as the one body of Christ and with this Heavenly joy, gives us the strength, the courage, the love to proclaim to the world the greatest love story ever told!

The Holy Spirit breaths life into us, frees us to live a spiritual life. He changes our personal world, leads us into places unknown, fills us with courage, gentleness, love and blows through the whole of our human experience. It is with and through the Holy Spirit that we can proclaim the Good News of Jesus, by the Holy Spirit that the people of our town will receive that News, accept that Gospel and lives, neighbourhoods, our Town will become places of love, peace and goodness. Alleluia!

#### **Please pray...**

Holy Spirit, we welcome you into our lives, into our communities, into our world. Guide us, lead us, fill and use us! Open the hearts and minds of the people of our town to receive the Word of God, blow through our people, changing our lives, producing your fruits – to the glory of God! Amen! Amen!

#### **Please pray for the following Christian organisations:**

- 24 July – Animate Youth Ministries
- 25 July – Storehouse, Tango, and the Hope Centre
- 26 July – Prescot Oasis Centre and Haydock Connect
- 27 July – The UNiT
- 28 July – Ramp Riders
- 29 July – Salvation Army Hostel
- 30 July – SHINE

Created and redeemed for...

# Joy



"Shout for joy to the LORD...Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are His...For the Lord is good and His love endures forever." Psalm 100

"...the joy of the LORD is your strength." Neh 8v10

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near."  
Phil 4v4-5

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free."  
Galatians 5:1



**This Prayer Letter is produced by SHINE Trust Board**

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