

Angla Rigby writes...

Hello, brothers and sisters in Christ. I want to encourage you to open your eyes and see what our wonderful God is doing for us in St Helens. He is moving in awesome ways! Peoples' lives are being transformed. Churches are being given a new sense of direction and closeness with our Lord Jesus Christ. *"The gospel is bearing fruit and growing."* (Colossians 1:6) Yes, even in St Helens!

SHINE News

SHINE has continued to speak with other charities and the St Helens Council about child poverty. The St Helen's Council draft action plan to combat Child and Family Poverty will soon be circulated to church leaders, giving them an opportunity to comment on and help shape future services in this area. SHINE is organising a follow up to our Child Poverty forum in October.

Following our Transforming Our Community conference last November, SHINE is continuing to collate information about what churches are doing. This is an on-going, time consuming process, and I very much appreciate everyone's patience. This information is needed and will be used. So I thank you for your support and your prayers.

SHINE are now on Facebook! If you are on Facebook, please find us. Just google "Facebook St Helens Interchurch Network."

We ask for your continued prayers for the ministry of SHINE in this Borough. We ask you to pray for wisdom to discern God's will. Please pray for the current acting Chair, Father Tom Neylon, for me, the Administrator, and for the vision of SHINE. May God send the right people for His purposes in this Borough. May God be equipping these people now.

Youth Aflame News

On 30th September there will be one of Youth Aflame's biggest outreach events with the band LZ7 coming to play in St Helens at the Theatre Royal. Please have a look at the enclosed news sheet for all the latest Youth Aflame news and prayer points. See what our awesome God is doing!

Thank you

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 the previous prayer diary, we prayed about God’s Kingdom as joy, peace and righteousness, and how these are gifts that God gives us as His children. As we continue to pray about who our God is and what He desires for His people, I invite you to see what God is doing across the Borough of St Helens.

As we uphold the people of this Borough in prayer, let’s remember to celebrate what He is already doing. We do not pray to a distant God. We pray to a God who is with us, who sent His Holy Spirit – the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead (Romans 8:11) – to dwell in us. As we pray this August and September, I invite you to ask God to open your eyes to His Spirit at work in your life, in your family, in your community and in St Helens. And having had our eyes opened, may we not just look, but may we truly see.

Thank you for praying with us.

Many blessings,

Angela

SHINE Administrator

Unblocking the Wells of Salvation in St Helens

Next meetings:

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

Monday 12 September
St Helens Christian Life Centre



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

Sunday 31 July – Saturday 6 August

“When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. ‘Oh, my lord, what shall we do?’ the servant asked.

‘Don’t be afraid,’ the prophet answered. ‘Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.’

And Elisha prayed, ‘O Lord, open his eyes so that he may see.’ Then the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.” (2 Kings 6:15-17)

When the servant’s eyes were opened, he saw that they were not facing the enemy alone. That is still true today. Fortunately we are not surrounded by an army, but we do find ourselves with obstacles, facing situations that might make us wonder if we are under attack. The fears and doubts set in. We question our abilities. “Can I do it?” “Am I too old?” “Am I too young?” “Not educated enough.” “Too busy.” “It’s easy for Above-Average Joe, but I’m not him.” “It’s just too big of a problem.” “God couldn’t possibly mean me.” Any of those sound familiar? Notice that they all rely on our abilities and qualities and not on God.

“Blessed is he who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him.” (Jeremiah 17:7)

Trusting God means relying on His ability and not yours or mine. If God calls you to something, He will equip you to do it. And not only that, but if you look up and across the Borough, you might just see Him leading others in a similar direction. God is at work across the Borough of St Helens. Can you see it? We have an awesome God who works in some surprising ways!

Please Pray:

Father God, open our eyes, so we can see the people on your heart in this Borough. Open our eyes, so we can see the injustice that brings you to tears. Open our eyes to your Holy Spirit at work around us and among us. Open our eyes, so that we may truly see.

Father, we pray for the young people over the summer, especially for the holiday clubs being held at Christ Church URC, St Paul’s Blackbrook, and other churches across the Borough. We give thanks for those who are preparing for these clubs and for the volunteers who will serve. We also pray for the young people who will attend camps over the summer. We pray for the young people of St Paul’s Blackbrook, the students from Haydock Sports College, and for the youth of the St Helens Christian Life Centre. We pray for the safety of the teams as they set

up for the week and for the youth as they spend the week at the camp. We pray the young people will encounter You, God, in new and exciting ways as they learn more about You. We also pray that the young people have lots of fun!

We also pray for those who lead youth activities throughout the year and may be using this time to take a break. May they be refreshed physically, mentally and spiritually. We join Mr Trevor Prescott of West Street Independent Methodist Church in thanking you God for their willingness to serve in this way, and we pray that You will give them new inspiration during their break.

And Father, we pray for the outreach concert that Youth Aflame are organising at the Theatre Royal on 30th September. We thank you for the work of LZ7. For the work they do in the schools and on stage to get your message across to the next generation. We thank you for the vision of Youth Aflame to ask LZ7 to come to St Helens. We thank you for those who have contributed financially and prayerfully to make this possible, and ask that you continue to bless this project in this way. We ask that you inspire the local church youth leaders to encourage the young people in their communities to come along to the concert. Prepare the hearts of the young people now to hear and accept your message. We want Your light, Your hope to peacefully invade the lives of the youth of this Borough, so that they may grow into a relationship with You, Father God.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Unblocking the Wells of Revival in St Helens
Monday 1st August , 7.30pm
at St Andrews Church Dentons Green

Please pray for the town centre churches

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

Sunday 7 – Saturday 13 August

“Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit,” says the Lord.” (Zechariah 4:6)

Up until 1974, the town motto was “Ex Terra Lucem,” meaning “from the ground, light” or “out of the earth comes light”. In the 1800’s coal was crucial to the Industrial Revolution sweeping through Europe and the UK. If you had coal, you had power to run machinery of various types from trains to equipment in factories. Coal meant you could make more, be more, do more, in a much quicker fashion. And more crucially to some, because of all this industriousness, you could earn more. Much of this earning by some was at the expense of people and children who worked in almost slave-like conditions.

Coal, if put under immense pressure over a long period of time can make a diamond. Also if you light a lump of coal, it gives off heat and a little light. Put enough pieces of coal together and you can have a pretty good barbeque! But what happens to coal after it’s used? The carbon is burned up, and you are left with what couldn’t be burned. The once hard piece of rock turns to ash. The light comes at a cost.

In 1974, the town motto was changed. The motto now reads “Prosperitas in Excelsis” which is taken from the Rainford Council badge and means “Flourishing Well.”

Well, in English, “flourishing well” can be read in two different ways. If flourishing is a verb and well is the adverb, you have a town that “develops rapidly and successfully” (flourishing) “in a good or satisfactory way or in a way that is appropriate to the facts or circumstances” (well). [Definitions are from Google dictionary.]

However, what if flourishing is the adjective and well is the noun? You have a “plentiful source or supply” (well) that is “developing rapidly and successfully; thriving” (flourishing). The questions become – what are we supplying? And who sustains the supply? Are we doing things in our own strength, shining our lights on our own, so we can burn out and turn to ash? Or do we have a source that is plentiful, even continuous? Are we powered by the Holy Spirit of our God? In Him we have a “plentiful source” and through Him we will “thrive.”

But it’s all a matter of perspective. It’s all how you look at it. One way – ultimately we will burn out and break apart into ash. God’s way – we will thrive, our resources constantly being replenished.

So, what’s *our* motto? Is St Helens just merely flourishing well? Or are we called to be a flourishing well?

Please pray:

Father God, we thank you for all You have done, are doing, and will do for the people of St Helens. We thank you for Your Spirit moving amongst us, changing

lives. We ask for more of Your Spirit, to fill us up and enable us to fulfil Your purposes in this Borough. Not by *our* might, nor by *our* power, but by Your Spirit.

Father, we pray for those who seek You through prayer, especially those praying for revival. To revive something means to “bring back to life,” “to impart new health or spirit,” or even “to restore the validity or effectiveness of.” Father, we pray for Your people in this town to be revived for Your purposes and for Your glory.

We pray for the two URC lay preachers Reza and Chris who are coming from Basingstoke to share testimonies throughout Merseyside at the end of August. They will be meeting at St Peter’s Church in Parr on 31 August and 3 September at 7pm each night. They will also be at St Andrew’s Church in Dentons Green on 9 and 10 September at 7:30pm. Father, we ask that people come to these evenings and that they are evenings that revive your people, bringing them closer to You, and equipping them for Your purposes for them in this Borough.

We pray for Stephen Pilkington and his team and the tent mission that they are holding in Parr. Every night at 7:30pm from now until 10th September the team will be on Sutton Brook Greenway, next to the Fire Station, telling people of You. We ask your blessings on this mission and on Parr.

We pray for Dave & Sue Hanratty and Mike & Rebecca Balmford as they continue to organise the prayer meetings asking that the Wells of Revival in St Helens be unblocked. The next meetings will be held at 7.30pm on 12 September at St. Helens Christian Life Centre. We ask your guidance and blessings for those who attend these prayer evenings.

Father, we ask to be revived. Remove all uncertainty and doubt, and bring us back to life. For those who are poor in spirit, we ask that You open their eyes, revealing Your Kingdom at work around them, through them and for them. (Matthew 5:3) We ask that You revive us – the stones that You build up to make Your Church, with Jesus as the cornerstone. We ask that You revive Your Church in St Helens, to restore our effectiveness. Wherever we walk, may we show people who You are, and in seeing, may their lives be changed. Not for our glory, but for Yours.

In Jesus’ name. Amen.

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

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

Sunday 14th August – Saturday 20th August

“Like the blind we grope along the wall, feeling our way like people without eyes.”
(Isaiah 59:10)

Father, at times we act as if we don't know who You are. Forgive us. Restore our sight.

“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)

Father, we want to bear witness to Your glory in St Helens. Prepare our hearts for this task. Amen.

Marjorie and Lynda, M.I.T.E. Town Centre Chaplains write...

We ask you to pause and give prayers to the Lord for the economic downturn affecting our town centre and many other cities, towns and smaller rural areas. The day by day pressures on owners, managers and all employees is almost at a crisis point. When owner/managers have to make people redundant or cut their working hours, it puts all involved under tremendous strain and pressure, day by day.

Please be kind and thoughtful to all those you meet. They may not serve or greet you, as they may have done in the past, this does not excuse rudeness in anyway, but please be kind to them as you may not know what they are dealing with. A smile and a kind word can lighten many a day.

Please support our local businesses; a run-down town centre will have an effect right across the Borough. Remember our Chief Executive, Carol Hudson, and her team, as they deal with the fall out of government cuts, plus the downturn in our town, and many other issues.

Please remember it's not all gloom and doom. I remember in my business dealings only being able to work three days each week, due to the power cuts. It's not easy, but it does give us time to reflect on our lives and what our priorities are.

We can find strength in words of the Lord if we just trust Him at all times – both good and bad. It's a relationship, and in all relationships we are stronger together in the bad times as well as the good. For those who are made redundant, remember IT'S THE JOB THAT'S REDUNDANT NOT YOU, SEEK ADVICE AND SUPPORT. THERE IS LOTS OUT THERE TO SUPPORT YOU. Most of all share how you feel with others and the Lord, please remember He's a Faithful God. In Jesus there is hope for today and eternity. Trust in Him at ALL TIMES.

Matthew 6:24, *“No man can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one, and love the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.” Our Lord isn’t against money. It’s only when we love money more than Him. He gives, so we can be a blessing to others, that can be money or our time and our abilities.*

Many people pray for our town and its people, if you need a listening ear, please contact Marjorie on 07890 445784 or Lynda on 07765 626512. God bless you.

Mrs Carole Hudson, Chief Executive St Helens Council asks us to pray...

For all the retailers who are working so hard to keep their businesses alive in the current economic climate. Please pray for all businesses, especially those who may be struggling to keep going.

Rev David Eastwood, St Helens Parish Church, asks us to pray...

- ◆ The new service every Tuesday, called ‘20 Minutes on Tuesday,’ aimed particularly at those working in the town centre. May people find this to be an oasis in the week, and a place to which Christians can bring their colleagues.
- ◆ Our role as a church in the life of our town
- ◆ The new Tots and Tinies group
- ◆ Parish Church School, the teachers, staff, governors, children and families
- ◆ The appointment of the right person for our children and family worker’s position.

Please pray for the churches in Eccleston and Windle

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

Sunday 21st August – Saturday 27th August

“What do you want me to do for you?’ Jesus asked him. The blind man said, ‘Rabbi, I want to see.’” (Mark 10:51)

Father God, we acknowledge our blindness and ask for healing. We are looking for you, and we want to see You at work around us and through us. Amen.

Andy Vint, Youth Outreach Project Worker, Ramp Riders writes...

To date Ramp Riders continues to run a four-week outreach sponsored by Helena Partnerships in four areas across St.Helens. With special festivals and one-off events the team have had an amazing response to the high adrenalin packed activity, bringing safety and excitement with the adventurous side of risk and success.

In my three years of developing the outreach I have seen many young people who struggle to see their gifts, abilities and potential. Many are unaware of the inheritance they possess and struggle to find themselves and how they fit in. Project Freedoms Ramp Riders have been drawing along side young people to tell them the important news that they belong, that they are accepted, loved, and are heirs to the kingdom of heaven.

“But Jesus called the children to him and said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.’” (Luke 18:16)
Ramp Riders continue to illuminate this beautiful truth and are always looking for volunteers to join with us to invest in the younger generations.

For more info or how to get involved please go to www.rampriders.co.uk or telephone 07581 301150.

Email: andy@rampriders.co.uk

Please pray:

Father, please continue to bless Andy and the team at Ramp Riders. Encourage them and inspire them with new ways of instilling hope into the youth of this Borough. Help the young people to see the gifts, abilities and potential that You have given them, and enable and encourage them to accept these gifts. The enemy seeks to destroy, but Father, we want to build these young people up. We want them to grow into the adults that You would have them be – full of Your righteousness, Your peace and Your joy in the Holy Spirit.

Father, we are so grateful for the various ways You are reaching out to the young people in this Borough. We also join with Rev Frank Hinds in praying for The UNiT. We pray for the young leaders who are going to university. We pray they

will be beacons of light for You, and that others will come to know You through them. Protect them, Father. May you write Your Word upon their hearts. For The UNiT, we pray for new leaders to replace those that have left. We pray for the “Radical Weekend” (September 9-11 at the Billinge Family Church) that young people can be effectively equipped for mission and evangelism through this. We pray for the coming year of The UNiT as they begin to focus on mission, and we pray that it will see real fruit.

We continue to pray for Youth Aflame. For the café nights, the impromptu barbecues, the chocolate parties, the school clubs, and for the LZ7 concert on 30 September. We thank you for their vision and are humbled by how You are reaching into the lives of young people through them. We ask for more of this, Father.

We pray for all the Messy Churches that are springing up across the Borough. We join Rev Janet Roberts in praying for the start of the monthly Messy Church that will be held at St Paul’s in Blackbrook on Saturday morning. We pray St Paul’s will be able to witness to the community through the Messy Church and the other various groups. We also pray for the leaders of their preschool playgroup and for all the new children that will start in September.

Thank you, Father. Working for You, guided by Your Spirit, blesses us more than words can say. You are an awesome God.

Amen.

Please pray for the churches in Haydock and Earlestown

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



Sunday 28 August – Saturday 3 September

“Stop and consider God’s wonders.” (Job 37:14)

Walking around the block with my youngest child can take a long time on a sunny day, depending on how many flowers, bees and ants we come across along the way! She stops and investigates every one. Properly appreciating what she is seeing. Walking with my daughter has given me a new appreciation for insects and flowers! We can get used to things that we look at all the time, and if we aren’t careful, we can take things for granted and stop truly seeing them. When that happens, God is really good at bringing someone alongside you to show you something in a fresh new way. What are you looking at daily but not seeing? What is God trying to show you in a new way?

M.A.T.CH stands for Men and Their CHildren. Despite the recent cutbacks, many M.A.T.CH groups continue to run across the Borough thanks to volunteer dads who have learned to run their local M.A.T.CH group themselves, with the support of the Sure Start Children Centres. They volunteer, because they know not only how much their children benefit, but also how much their community benefits.

Contact your local Sure Start Centre to find out about the M.A.T.CH group near you.

Brian, a volunteer dad from M.A.T.CH at Moss Bank Children Centre writes...

In the last few weeks our CRB checks have come through, and this has given us as a group the freedom to organise our sessions and get the kids out doing more interesting activities. We recently went to the fire station. Even had a ride in one of the engines!

M.A.T.CH encourages men and their children to communicate and enjoy quality time with one another. The dads in the group tend to spend quality time with their kids outside of M.A.T.CH, but this also allows children to interact other children of similar ages. The group are currently encouraging more dads with their children to join, because the more the merrier! Dads, grandads and male cares are welcome. The group just want to strengthen the bond between the child and the adult.

We have a format in each session which basically involves the children either playing on their own in groups or with parents. The different learning outcomes are varied and at different levels. We try to get the group outside as often as possible to learn through experience, not just from looking at pictures in books. The group takes turns in bringing food or snack, and the children tend to take part in making wraps or home made pizza etc. The food is healthy and the kids (and dads) love it! The group is constituted, and we are trying to raise money so we can organise trips out.

The dads also enjoy the social side of the group with the occasional trip to the pub!

Obviously no children are allowed, but all we tend to talk about are our children and the next activity at the M.A.T.CH group.

The children's maximum age range is up to 12, and there is no lower limit. The group's dads are responsible for their own children. We do keep an eye on the other dad's children, but overall we are responsible for our own.

Please pray

Father, open our eyes to the way You are at work in our communities. Give us wisdom and discernment to comprehend what we are seeing. May your majesty not blind us. Rather may we see with understanding.

Father, we pray for the M.A.T.CH groups that meet across the Borough. We give thanks for the grandfathers, fathers and male carers that volunteer and participate. We give thanks for the children. We ask that You bless them, and that you continue to encourage them. We also thank you for the staff at the Sure Start Centres that support the volunteers who run the groups.

Amen.

Please pray for the churches in Newton-Le-Willows

28 August – All Saints C of E Church and Emmanuel, Wargrave

29 August – Newton Christian Fellowship

30 August – St David's RC Church and St Patrick's RC Church.

31 August – St Johns' C of E Church

1 Sept – St Peter's C of E Church

2 Sept – St Mary and St John RC Church

3 Sept – Newton 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. The next prayer diary is our October/November edition – please e-mail us your prayer requests by **Friday 26 August**.

Sunday 4th September – Saturday 10th September

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!” (Matthew 6:21-23)

Father, we pray for “good eyes.” We pray for eyes that always look for your goodness. Instead of looking at the glass as half empty, may you show us how to admire the workmanship that has gone into the glass, appreciate the refreshing water to be found within it, and know with a thankful heart that you are the source of that water. “Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” (John 7:38) Amen.

Brian Dickinson from Haydock Street Pastors writes...

“He asked me, ‘Son of man, do you see this?’ Then he led me back to the bank of the river.” (Ezekiel 47:6)

There is a river that is flowing from the churches in our cities and towns of this nation. This river is bringing life and hope back to our communities. It is taking God’s love in a practical way out to meet the people where they live. Part of this river is called Street Pastors. It brings churches and Christians together, united in a common goal to see our communities transformed and to see Christ back where He belongs – at the centre of our communities.

Haydock Street Pastors was launched on 28th February this year. The team has nineteen committed volunteers who give up their time and effort on a Friday night between the hours of 7pm to 11pm – hail, rain or snow. Ezekiel talks about places where the fishermen will cast their nets, and we have learned over the last few months where the youths and children hang out on the estates and parks of Haydock. They are beginning to trust us, and sometimes they will shout us to go and talk to them. They also have favourite Street Pastors and very often ask where is that lovely woman tonight or where is the magician who does magic tricks.

There is a serious side as well. Drugs and alcohol are big problems in Haydock, and many of the youths we talk to are drunk or stoned on something. But when we ask them what do they want to do when they leave school many of them say I don’t know. We are trying to reach a generation that have no hope or plans for their future. Street Pastors want bring hope to a hopeless generation. In Ezekiel the river brings life wherever it goes. We want to bring hope to these kids. We want to show them that there is a future for them, that God never gives up on them. As a result of the alcohol, one team found a young girl drunk one night – so drunk that she could not stand.

They managed to get her dad's phone number and ring to pick her up. They waited with her until he arrived.

We believe that there are no quick fixes to transforming our communities. We are in this for the long haul. God wants to take us further and deeper just like He did with Ezekiel. We don't know what challenges we will face in the future, but we know that God will not just transform our community but that we will be transformed as well.

Please pray:

Please pray for our young people out on the streets that through Street Pastors they will see and feel God's love.

Pray for more Pray Pastors. We have people praying for us when we are out, and we can't do the job without them.

Pray for the Street Pastors themselves, for our protection and that God will give us more opportunities to share His love.

Pray for more people to join us, so that we can do two nights a week.

Pray for more churches in St Helens to start Street Pastors in their area, so more of this town can be impacted with God's love.

***Unblocking the Wells of Revival in St Helens
Monday 12 September, 7.30pm
at the St Helens Christian Life Centre***

Please pray for the churches of Parr and Rainford

4th September– Holy Trinity, Parr Mount

5th September – Parr Methodist Church and the Salvation Army, Tickle Avenue

6th September – St Vincent de Paul RC Church

7th September – St Peter's, Parr and St Philip's, Derbyshire Hill

8th September – Corpus Christi RC Church, Rainford

9th September – All Saints Rainford

10th September – Rainford United Reformed Church and
Rainford Methodist Church



Sunday 11th September – Saturday 17th September

“When he was at the table with them, he took the bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him...”
(Luke 24:30-31)

Father, encourage us to spend time with You. Teach us how to have a conversation with you in prayer. Rather than us just telling you our wish list, may we learn to listen to what You would say to us. You are speaking; may we hear. You are moving amongst us and in our communities; may we see. Father open our eyes. Amen.

Superintendent Rowland Moore of St Helens Police writes...

Watchman Nee wrote “Prayer is the most wonderful act in the spiritual realm as well as a most mysterious affair.” That got me thinking about the unseen invisible spiritual realm and how this affects everything in the visible world in which we live. For me, prayer provides the link ushering spiritual blessings into our everyday lives and brings spiritual power to bear on our worldly circumstances.

When you read your Bible do you have a tendency to move quickly from one verse of scripture to another until you have read the whole passage and then try to work out the point of what you have just read? You have every intention of spending time with GOD but there is always something else you need to do and it must be done right then!! ‘No’. You absolutely must make good on your intention to spend time with GOD, be it reading, listening, watching, praying, whatever Just Do It!

I find that the Devil is expert at taking us away from our walk with GOD. We can very easily become distracted, curious, envious, coveting, led astray by what’s going on around and before you know it your ‘sucked in’ to conforming with worldly things.

‘Mind your own Business’ – you need to ‘Mind your own Business’.

Why – because your mind is your business and your heart is your business!!

“For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.” Proverbs 23:7 (Amplified Bible)

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” Romans 12:2 (NIV)

“Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.” Proverbs 4:23 (NIV)

“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.” John 17:15-16 (NIV)

Please pray:

Father GOD, we thank you that your Love for us never ends and that we can share it with others abundantly and freely. We thank you for the power of the unseen that we know through our faith, belief and trust. We thank you for being the Word and for promises that you never fail to honour even when we doubt. Father GOD, help us to be still, wait upon you and know that you are GOD. May we keep our focus fixed upon you at all times and pray constantly and consistently, lifting you up in praise and glory. May we boldly come to your throne room to ask, and may we confess openly to you. Father GOD, we thank you today for your grace, mercy and forgiveness. Amen.

SHINE asks us to pray:

Father, we pray alongside Superintendent Moore and bring before you the prayers of the Police officers who dutifully serve this community. We pray against violent offences, particularly in the Town Centre. We pray against burglary particularly in Rainhill, Eccleston and Moss Bank. Father, we ask that the rates of those crimes go down so low, so quickly, that the Police statisticians start to question the validity of their reports and have to crunch the numbers!

We pray for minimal disruption in the implementation of internal restructuring at St Helens, and the effect of wider Force structural change requirements caused by severe financial constraints (particularly pertaining to Support Staff experiencing uncertainty about job security). We ask for discernment, knowledge and wisdom.

We offer thanks for the significant performance improvement in our Citizen Focus targets (customer satisfaction regarding Burglary – actions taken and follow up; Vehicle Crime – actions taken and follow up; Violence – actions taken and follow up.)

We ask for effectiveness against Organised Crime Groups operating within the St Helens area and for effectiveness in the fight against metal theft across the area.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Please pray for the churches of Prescot and Thatto Heath

- 11 Sept – Our Lady Help of Christians RC Church and St James, Eccleston Park
- 12 Sept – Prescot Methodist Church and Whiston Methodist Church
- 13 Sept – Prescot Salvation Army and Prescot Community Church
- 14 Sept – Balmer St Methodist Church, Nutgrove Methodist Church and West Street Independent Methodist Church
- 15 Sept – St John's Ravenhead and St Matthew's Thatto Heath
- 16 Sept – St Austin's
- 17 Sept – Toll Bar with Prescot United Reformed Church

Sunday 18th September – Saturday 24th September

“Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone.” (Deuteronomy 34:7)

Father, in all stages of our life, from now until You come to bring us home, may our eyes remain strong and focused on You. Amen.

Paul and Jeannette Caine of Seedling Trust write...

Thanks for the openness of the fifteen schools Paul will be going into between September and December, the diary is now fully booked. Pray as Paul continues to see children with a hunger to know more of God.

Please pray for staff in all schools as they face increasing pressure from cuts, policies, changes to pensions, etc...

We thank God for the ongoing work of STA's4All in Billinge. We consistently see over 80 people present on the fourth Sunday of the month where we meet in St Aidan's Primary school. We have seen as many as 130 attend, which is amazing.

Please continue to pray for Paul and the team as they plan and run this. Some members of the team at St Aidan's have just started a puppet ministry. Please pray for them as they seek to present the Gospel in this way.

The second Sunday of the month sees Parish Praise, a Family service led by Paul in the Parish Church, where usually Parish C of E school attend and take part. Either their school choir attends or there is a group dancing. Please continue to pray for this as we see children, parents and staff attend each month. We thank God for the opportunity of doing this and strengthening links between school and church.

Paul has been appointed Children's Minister at Parish church. We thank God for this. As a Trust one of our aims has always been to encourage the church in their work with children. This is such an opportunity for us and the Church. Please pray for the team who work with Parish Praise.

In addition, Paul continues to lead a Parish Praise event after school in schools every half term. Please pray for Lynne, the Head Teacher, David Eastwood, the Vicar, and the team who are involved with this.

Please pray for our Trustees. We have said goodbye to two trustees, who due to heavy commitments have had to step down. We thank them for their contribution as a Trustee. Please Pray for Philip Stott and Ian Rimmer who have very kindly offered their services as new Trustees.

We thank God for Sue Kirkham who has just completed her term as Chair of Seedlings and passed on the Baton. She has been a faithful servant in the past few

years and been an excellent Chair. Thanks Sue!

LOL is an after school event which happens each month in St Ann's Rainhill. Paul has now been able to step back a little as it is now established and runs quite well without his input each time. He still helps out with planning and worship.

Thank God for all our Trustees who faithfully carry out their task and for the support they offer Paul and for their Wisdom. Our current Trustees are: Janice Smith, Richard Denno, Rev Martin Thorpe, Mike Balmford, Sylvia Gleave, Sue Kirkham, Philip Stott, and Ian Rimmer.

SHINE asks us to pray:

Next week (26-30 September) the Haydock Outreach group will be holding a mission week at Haydock Sports College about Restorative Justice. Please pray for this week.

***Youth Aflame presents LZ7 in concert at 7.30pm on
Friday 30th September at the Theatre Royal.***

Please pray for the churches of Sutton and Rainhill

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



This Prayer Letter is produced by SHINE Trust Board

Rev. Fr. Tom Neylon Rev. John Draycott Miss Helen Davies
Mr. Joe Higgins

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