



## Churches Together in Harborough Prayer bulletin March 2020

*Please use this bulletin for your own prayer support of your Christian brothers and sisters across the area, and please pass it on to anyone who might be interested in praying outside their specific church or group needs.*

### **Corona Virus arrangements while churches are closed**

Each church is making special arrangements to help church members and others worship, pray and learn during this enforced time of closed buildings. We are so fortunate that we have technology to assist us (however much we complain about it!), but please also bear in mind those people who for reasons of poverty or old age do not have personal access to the internet. If you want further details of any of these arrangements please access the relevant church websites; the addresses of which are all listed at <https://www.harboroughchurches.org.uk/churches/town.html>

*Basic arrangements as known at the time of writing:*

Anglican Team: Streamed service via Zoom

Baptist Church: Talks, reflections and prayers on the website

Congregational Church: audio service via website

Harborough Community Church: sermon on YouTube

Living Rock Church: An on-line gathering

Methodist Church: church website updated with resources

Our Lady of Victories Roman Catholic Church: Spiritual and other information through a weekly website

*Please pray that through these various means people, whether regular church members or not, will be encouraged with fresh hope by the Holy Spirit. **We have just heard that the Harborough Mail will be printing a short column from various church leaders during the crisis. Pray for all who contribute, that they may have wisdom in writing and that their positive stories will be used by God to kindle faith.***

**Easter:** Please note that the outdoor Good Friday event in The Square has been postponed for 12 months. We hope that the large amount of work that has already gone into it will be resurrected in 2021.

Meanwhile, pray that without our usual celebrations on Easter Day, the message of the risen Jesus will be communicated to the wider community through our various channels and be a source of hope for many.

Pray that in this time of crisis, many will be drawn back to our compassionate and unchanging God.

### **Specific prayer news from churches and groups**

*(In alphabetical order) Most of this was written before the Corona Virus alterations to church programmes. However, the people involved and the general needs expressed remain relevant.*

#### **Anglican Team**

Please pray for Great Bowden during their vacancy for a clergyperson, journey through a process of change and then work towards appointment thereafter. The Team are looking to recruit a second youth work apprentice to work with Josh. Pray for the right person to join our team who can get alongside young people and demonstrate the love of God. St Dionysius asks for prayer for the proposed Re-ordering Project as we journey through the Faculty Application process this month, asking for God's favour in the decision

and the Spirit's guidance as we work out the way ahead for plans and finance for this hugely significant and beneficial project for the whole community.

### **Baptist Church**

Please pray for Ady, our volunteer trainee youth minister as he nears the end of his degree course and seeks God's leading for his future our Church family retreat day at Launde Abbey in April, that it would be a special and prayerful time of fellowship with the Lord and each other.

### **Churches Together in Harborough**

We are still short of a secretary to arrange meetings and handle correspondence (but not minutes of meetings). A brief job description is at <https://www.harboroughchurches.org.uk/assets/2018-11-CTH-job-descriptions.pdf> Please pray for a suitable volunteer to be found.

### **Congregational Church**

*Please pray for the worship and devotional life of our church:* Most gracious God, we have made ourselves very busy for your sake. May we also grow in the habits of quietness and sensitivity to your presence. May our prayer-life be sincere and our praises be a fitting expression of the joy all Christians know in being in fellowship with the Lord Jesus.

*Please also pray for the families who attend our Toddlers' Group:* Living Lord, we pray your blessing on this weekly ministry and especially for those who find the care of very young children both exhausting and isolating, for all its moments of delight. May the many conversations made possible at Toddlers lead to you and to your offer of abundant life, for 'one generation shall praise your works to another'.

### **The Cube Youth Centre**

- We've got some young people with very tricky home lives, please pray for their families and the services working with them
- Please pray for our volunteers, that we would care for them well, that they would be blessed in their serving
- Please pray for the funding bids we have that are outstanding as we look to expand services
- Please pray for our counsellors as they work with some very distressed young people, that they would bring light into dark places and empower them to thrive
- Please pray for the behaviour of the young people in our Wednesday group, usual excited and rambunctious behaviour but nonetheless some more focus and calm when listening to instructions would be great!
- Please pray for our relationships with secondary schools as we look to work with them to support young people
- For the primary schools as we support the Churches in helping the year 6s transition to secondary school
- The carnival is a day where we not only raise money but also open up the centre for the public, please pray for great weather and conversations as we share our centre and work with the town
- For Julie and Charlotte as we navigate the waters of running a business, charity and youth centre. That we would persevere and laugh through the hard times, supporting each other and staying close to God.

### **The Jubilee Foodbank and its many users:**

Loving God, we come to you with a sense of distress that in one of the richest countries of the world the demands on our Foodbank continue to grow. We thank you for our many volunteers, partners and donors, and we ask for insight into the needs and experience of those who find themselves in need of the most basic requirements for life. We pray also for our partner church in Romania, and for their ministry in delivering food and medicines to people in need from all sections of their divided community.

### **Methodist Church**

Please pray for the Methodist Circuit as we seek to employ a new lay worker ("Growth and Nurture Support Worker") to start work in September after Susie Colliss retires. Please pray for Susie also, in her last few months in this role, and into her retirement.

Please pray for Pizza Club at the Methodist Church as we continue to grow and develop - engaging with young people from several of our churches - aged 8-12. Please pray for the thinking and planning around a potential new monthly ecumenical time of worship and prayer for issues of Justice and Peace (which will include Climate Justice and various other issues).

### **Our Lady of Victories Catholic Church**

FR Owen has requested prayers for our persecuted brothers and sisters.

### **Street Pastors**

We need more people to join them or to become Prayer Support people. Maybe God is calling you to become a Street Pastor or Prayer Supporter at the Bower House while the team goes out on its early session. Street Pastors help to keep people safe and bless the community with Jesus' presence on the streets, a great privilege. For more information, please contact Stephen Morse, Street Pastors administrator, tel: 07504 221 696.

### **Torch Trust, the Christian sight loss charity.**

Pray that supporters hearts are stirred to support us in prayer and financially to enable us to raise over £7,100 for a specialised guillotine and CD printer, so that we can continue to provide Christian literature in accessible formats to people with sight loss.

### **And finally, Lenten Prayers are asked for Naseby Square Housing Complex**

Your prayers are requested during Lent for the decision makers involved in the Planning Application by Harborough District Council (HDC) to demolish social and sheltered housing without replacing it. HDC suggested costly repairs and maintenance as being un-necessary whilst awaiting Planning Consent – and thus nothing happened in this regard until after a public meeting held in December 2019. Please pray for the tenants and that God will speak to the hearts and minds of those who simply want profit regardless of the social consequences. *Dave Tomlin*