

Shropshire
Prayer



Prayer Bulletin
Spring 2008

www.prayer-community.co.uk

The Shropshire Prayer Bulletin is produced in conjunction with the Shropshire Prayer Breakfast and is currently only available via the Prayer Community website. The Bulletin will be published quarterly on the website in January, March, June, and October each year.

For more information please visit the website at:

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WELCOME... to the first edition of the **Shropshire Prayer Bulletin**.

We live in a beautiful county – a wonderful example of God’s handiwork in creation. Magnificent hills, picturesque wooded valleys, rich farming land, tumbling streams, with the River Severn – Britain’s longest river – cutting through the county on its never-ending journey to the sea. The towns and villages have their own peculiar charm and heritage, providing shopping, employment opportunities and recreational facilities for residents and visitors to the area. Whilst Shropshire may be one of the least inhabited counties in the country, this enables those of us who live here, as well as those who visit, to enjoy an enviable quality of life.

But Shropshire, just like every county, has its own specific needs and issues.

As Christians we have an amazing privilege, as well as the responsibility, to pray for our county and for the people who live and work here. So the aim of these quarterly Bulletins is to encourage Christians in the county to pray for the needs of Shropshire – including the Borough of Telford & Wrekin – and to call down God’s blessing on the individual communities and the people living and working in them.

The Bulletins will provide a focus on a number of **Prayer Targets** (see back page). As well as providing relevant **facts and figures** to ensure we pray with understanding, there will be a mixture of items for **praise, prayer** and **proclamation**.

In the Lord’s Prayer Jesus instructed His disciples to pray God’s **“will be done on earth as it is in heaven”**. Although nothing in this Bulletin is meant to be prescriptive, please always bear in mind that aligning ourselves to God’s purposes and plans rather than our own agendas will enable us to experience his blessing. That’s why a number of passages from the Bible are used to help us appreciate God’s heart so we’ll be in tune with his will.

USING THE PRAYER BULLETIN

How you use the Prayer Bulletin is entirely up to you.

There are **nine Prayer Targets** so you could chose to pray for a specific area for say a few days or a week before moving to another. Alternatively you may wish to take one per day or just pray for one specific area of concern or interest rather than all of them. The choice is yours!

And each quarter there will be a **Seasonal Prayer** designed to focus our thoughts. However don’t limit yourself to the suggestions provided – be inventive and open to the Holy Spirit’s inspiration.

So please join us as we pray for Shropshire. And if you have any comments or suggestions, please email me via the link on the prayer-community website.

Every blessing

Stephen G. Derges

A PRAYER FOR SPRING

“Heavenly Father,

As we move into this spring season, help us to recognise that you want to breathe new life into each one of us.

It is a joy to wonder at and appreciate the physical new growth around us. In this county we have so much natural beauty for which we are grateful – thank you Father, for granting us the privilege of living and working here.

We ask that we, your people, will also develop and grow – in faith, in wisdom, in new initiatives that will help your Kingdom to be extended in this county.

Thank you that your desire is that everyone should be brought back to relationship with you through your Son, Jesus Christ. We pray we will be instrumental in sharing your love enabling our family members, friends, neighbours and work colleagues to grow in their relationship with you.

Forgive us for not always sharing your love effectively with those around us and for the times when we have allowed division and misunderstanding to break the bond of unity that we are commanded to maintain.

As we celebrate Easter and remember the cost Jesus paid in order to secure our reconciliation with you, we pray that we will be living sacrifices ready and willing to be your servants in every aspect of our lives. And as we celebrate Pentecost we ask that your Holy Spirit will strengthen and empower us to do your will in every circumstance.

We ask that you will pour your blessing out on this county:

- Inspire those who initiate and lead activities in this county
- Strengthen and support those who serve
- Prosper those who provide employment and those who are employed
- Build strong families and communities
- Protect us from evil

Grow your Church Lord – in us, in those with whom we are acquainted and in this land.

In Jesus’ name we pray,
Amen.

Prayer Target: Government & Political Leadership

We have been instructed to pray 'first of all' for those in political and governmental leadership (see 1Timothy 2: 1-4)

National & European Government:

The 5 Members of Parliament representing Shropshire are:

- Philip Dunne – Ludlow (CON)
- Owen Paterson – North Shropshire (CON)
- Mark Pritchard – The Wrekin (CON)
- Daniel Kawczynski (pronounced Kav-chin-ski) – Shrewsbury & Atcham (CON)
- David Wright – Telford (LAB)

In addition there are 7 West Midlands MEPs who represent the area

- Philip Bushill-Matthews (CON)
- Michael Cashman (LAB)
- Michael Natrass (UKIP)
- Liz Lynne (LIBDEM)
- Philip Bradbourn (CON)
- Neena Gill (LAB)
- Malcolm Harbour (CON)

Local Authorities:

In Shropshire there is a 3-tier system

- Shropshire County Council – 48 elected members
- 5 District Councils – with a total of 177 elected councillors
- 178 Local (Parish/Town) Councils

The Unitary Authority of Telford & Wrekin has a 2-tier structure

- 54 councillors represent the 33 wards that make up the Council
- There are 28 Local (Parish/Town) Councils

Praise: thank God that there are people who are willing to represent us. Even if we don't agree with their politics we can still be grateful that they are prepared to serve in this way

Proclaim: God's promise that when we pray for those in authority we will enjoy peaceful lives

Pray:

- For the Royal Family: for God's guidance and revelation to them
- National Government and all MPs – especially your own MP – that legislation will embody Godly principles and values and will reflect God's heart for equality, justice and compassion
- For MEPs – as they represent UK constituents and interests in the European Parliament
- For civil servants implementing and overseeing government departments
- For councillors and local government employees especially those in the 5 Districts in Shropshire who face changes and possible loss of employment as we head towards Unitary Authority status

Prayer Target: Law & Order

“Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God” – Romans 13: 1 (NLT)

West Mercia Constabulary has over 4,000 staff – police officers, community support officers, special constables, administration personnel and volunteers. The Authority has a budget of £176.8m (2006/7) and covers a population of 1.16 million in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin, Herefordshire, and Worcestershire – the 4th largest geographic area in the UK

West Mercia has been recognised as one of the top performing forces in the country and over the past 4 years there has been a:

- 23% reduction in total recorded crime
- 25% reduction in violent crime
- 44% reduction in domestic burglary
- 27% reduction in vehicle crime

The sanction detection rate (crime investigations leading to action being taken against the offender) is currently 32.5% – a 53% increase since 2003

The Safer Shropshire Partnership and the Telford & Wrekin Safer & Stronger Communities Partnership draws a number of agencies together working to improve public safety, increase awareness and develop preventative measures in areas such as anti-social behaviour; substance misuse; crime against people and property crime, the perception of crime and empowerment and reassurance especially in relation to children and young people

There are 2 custodial centres in Shropshire: HM Prison, Shrewsbury & HM Youth Offenders Institution Stoke Heath, near Market Drayton

Praise: give thanks for all those who daily serve the county dealing with a variety of incidents

Proclaim: that law and order will prevail and God’s justice will be seen using these words from Isaiah 56: 1 (NIVUK)

“This is what the LORD says: ‘Maintain justice and do what is right, for my salvation is close at hand and my righteousness will soon be revealed.’”

Pray:

- For the safety of police officers and for continued success in defeating crime
- For the work of the Safety Partnerships, Crime-stoppers, Neighbourhood Watch and other agencies in building public awareness and confidence
- For those who have been victims of crime
- For the Crown Prosecution Service, magistrates, judges and members of the legal profession who represent defendants and victims
- For prison officers and the Probation Service working with offenders
- For Armed Forces and civilian Ministry of Defence personnel based in the county

Prayer Target: Emergency & Social Services

Shropshire County Primary Care Trust is responsible for developing a 5-year strategy for health and health care for Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin to be produced by March 2008 together with a vision to 2020. It covers:

- How patients will be treated
- What developments and improvements are needed
- Staff recruitment, development and training implications
- Financial planning

Overseen by senior medical and nursing staff and directors from the two Primary Care Trusts and the two Acute Trusts in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin it covers 8 **Pathway Development Groups**:

- Maternity and New Born
- Children's Health
- Planned Care
- Mental Health
- Staying Healthy
- Long Term Conditions
- Acute Care
- End of Life Care

The Shrewsbury & Telford NHS Hospital Trust provides acute care for almost 500,000 people across Shropshire and Mid Wales with circa 1,000 beds and over 5,000 staff at the Princess Royal, Telford & Royal Shrewsbury hospitals. There are **Community Hospitals** at Bridgnorth, Bishop's Castle, Ludlow and Whitchurch whilst the **Robert Jones & Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic and District Hospital NHS Trust**, Oswestry specialises in bone and joint disorders, spinal and metabolic disorders affecting muscular development

South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust provides mental health and learning disability services in Shropshire & Telford & Wrekin

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service maintains 23 fire stations, 46 operational vehicles and a number of specialist appliances used by 500 fulltime and retained fire-fighters. They attend circa 6,000 incidences each year, i.e. 1 every 90 minutes

Praise: Give thanks for the courage and skill of those who put their lives on the line for us each day when emergencies occur – fire-fighters, ambulance crews, paramedics and for the expertise of doctors

Proclaim: Health and well-being over your community, your family and yourself so that we may accomplish God's purposes for us

Pray:

- That Shropshire Primary Care Trust will have wisdom in developing the care strategy for the area
- For hospital doctors, surgeons, nurses, ambulance drivers and other staff, your local GPs, nurses, health centres, physiotherapists and dentists
- For charities, hospices, palliative care and other agencies involved in fighting disease and providing respite facilities
- That emergency and rescue service personnel will be kept safe at work, that they will be able to carry on despite the traumas they endure and witness

Prayer Target: Economy & Environment

Although Ironbridge was the centre of the Industrial Revolution, as a predominately rural community Shropshire's economy still has an agricultural bias. Whilst farming, forestry and fishing have become less labour intensive and account for just 4.1% of jobs, much of the manufacturing activity is of a food processing nature, e.g. Eden Vale; Muller Dairy; Palethorpes

More than 4,000 firms have located their businesses to Telford, the majority being small to medium-sized enterprises with 20% (15,000 people) of the workforce employed by an overseas company

The major employment sectors are:

- Manufacturing: 18.9%
- Retail & Wholesale: 16.8%
- Health & Social Care: 10.3%
- Property & Business Services: 10.2%
- Public Admin/Armed Forces: 7.8%
- Education: 7.8%
- Construction: 6.7%

Overall the county has a **low unemployment rate** at 2.76% (Shropshire 2.5%, Telford 3.3%) but this still means over 8,800 people do not have employment

Environment: almost one third of Shropshire is upland with the highest point being Brown Clee. Much of the South Shropshire hills are designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Over 7% of the land area is woodland. There are several long-distance walks and footpaths including the Shropshire Way, Wenlock Edge, Jack Mytton Way, Offa's Dyke

There are numerous Sites of Special Scientific Interest, over 6,700 listed buildings (many in the care of the National Trust and English Heritage) and in excess of 400 Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

Praise: Give thanks that we have a beautiful place in which to live, work and enjoy. Thank God for opportunities for employment and for those who provide jobs

Proclaim: Colossians 3: 23 (NLT): ***"Whatever work you do, do it with all your heart. Do it for the Lord and not for men"*** as a blessing on those in your community you know who work

Pray:

- That employers and employees and their representatives will act fairly in agreeing working practices and employment policies
- For people you know who are self employed or starting out in business (especially young people) and those seeking employment
- That we will respect the countryside, sustain it and ensure that we do all we can to protect it for future generations
- For a balance between commercial and recreational activities, that economic considerations will not override environmental concerns and visa versa

Prayer Target: Media, Arts & Communications

Local radio stations covering the county include Beacon Radio, The Severn, Telford FM as well as BBC Radio Shropshire which provides services on different frequencies around the county and has a DAB channel. In addition BBC Midlands and ITV Central provide terrestrial news, current affairs and national TV programmes

The Shropshire Star is the primary daily newspaper and has 8 sister weekly newspapers across the county. Part of the Midlands News Association the Star also operates 2 of the 3 radio stations above and has a monthly magazine and other Group publications and internet operations

There are cinemas in Bridgnorth, Ludlow, Shrewsbury (2) and Telford and 'Flicks in the Sticks' provides a mobile cinema service for many town and village communities

Theatres in the county are located in Bridgnorth, Ludlow and Shrewsbury and at Oakengates and Wellington in Telford plus Much Wenlock's Edge Arts Centre. Many of the towns have local amateur dramatic, choral, operatic, photographic and arts societies

National and local journalists and broadcasters have a major impact on the way we think and act. They inform, advise and critique often bringing their own viewpoint to the fore. The Internet can have both a positive and a detrimental influence on the way information is communicated – all the major towns and most villages across the county now have Broadband access

Praise: give thanks for the way in which we can communicate and be made aware of international, national and local issues

Proclaim: the Apostle Paul describes Satan as the *"prince of the power of the air"* (see Ephesians 2: 2). Proclaim that He that is in us *"is greater than he that is in the world"* – 1John 4:4 (TNIV)

Pray:

- About the items of news that are relevant to your local community – when you listen to radio, watch TV or read the newspaper, pray about the items that are being reported and for those involved
- Ask God's blessing on local newspaper editors and journalists and seek for opportunities to use their publications to share the Gospel
- Against the detrimental influence of the Internet and for parents/guardians that they will be wise in the way they allow their children to access it
- That Christian radio and TV networks will be able to expand the range of their services and coverage and that more local stations, including hospital radio services, will transmit Christian content
- That more Christian artistes, songwriters, playwrights, authors, journalists will have opportunities to appear in the media making a positive impact not just through their work but by being ambassadors for Christ

Prayer Target: Leisure & Tourism

Shropshire boasts numerous leisure pursuits and attractions plus major festivals, shows and events that draw visitors from all over the world. Some of these events and attractions include:

- Much Wenlock Olympian Games
- Mid West Show
- Shrewsbury Folk Festival
- Bridgnorth Children's Festival
- Shrewsbury Flower Show
- Chorley Show
- RAF Cosford Cold War Museum
- Shifnal Carnival
- English Haydn Festival
- Ludlow Food Festival

The Ironbridge Gorge is a World Heritage Site known throughout the world as the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution. Set in a splendid wooded valley adjacent to the River Severn, there are several museums to explore as well as the original iron bridge itself

The Severn Valley railway running alongside the Severn from Bridgnorth is another major attraction often used in filmsets and TV programmes where steam locomotives are required

Shropshire has 16 Countryside Heritage Sites all free to enter and managed for nature conservation, cultural heritage and recreational opportunities. Other sites offering nature trails and scenic walks include:

- Nesscliffe Country Park
- Severn Valley Country Park
- Colemere
- The Wrekin
- Ellesmere Mere
- The Stiperstones
- Carding Mill Valley
- Caer Caradoc & The Long Mynd

Praise: God for the beauty of His creation

Proclaim: Psalm 24: 1-2 (CEV) ***"The earth and everything on it belong to the LORD. The world and its people belong to him"*** over our county

Pray:

- That we will enjoy the beauty of God's creation this Spring and that as we see new life appearing we will appreciate that we have become 'new creations' through Jesus (2 Corinthians 5: 17)
- For visitors to our area – that they will enjoy the surroundings, appreciate the history, relax in the countryside and open spaces and take pleasure in recreational activities
- That those who accommodate visitors will provide excellent service; that restaurants and coffee shops will offer wholesome products and value for money and for the staff of Tourist Information Centres
- About the special needs in your locality asking the Holy Spirit to show you the particular issues that your community faces in respect to tourism and leisure and for Christians working or involved in leisure and tourism activities

Prayer Target: Education & Learning

Education:

There are over 50,000 pupils from the age of 3 to 18 educated in 167 schools in Shropshire and 64 in Telford & Wrekin

Throughout Shropshire & Telford combined the number of full time equivalent teaching posts is:

- 1,600 primary teachers
- 1,770 secondary teachers
- 110 special needs teachers
- 1,360 teaching assistants

Both Shropshire County and Telford & Wrekin offer adult and community education services including University of the Third Age programmes and adult literacy and numeracy facilities

Grant funding for university and other courses is administered by Shropshire County Council for the county and Telford & Wrekin

Shropshire County operates 25 libraries and has a fleet of 6 mobile libraries visiting 600 places on a fortnightly cycle. There are 9 branch libraries in Telford & Wrekin and a mobile library which visits 80 locations in the borough fortnightly

Praise: thank God for those who have dedicated themselves to teaching and developing those for whom they have care at school

Proclaim: that children and young people will be able to declare the words of Psalm 71: 17 (HCSB)

“God, You have taught me from my youth, and I still proclaim Your wonderful works”

Pray:

- For wisdom for those involved in deciding the future strategy for schools (especially in Shropshire at present)
- For school governors, head teachers and senior staff as they grapple with the allocation of resources, pupil/teacher ratios, curriculum development, absenteeism and discipline issues
- For teachers, teaching assistants, specialists and volunteers as they prepare and share knowledge, skills and values to children
- That ancillary staff – site managers and caretakers, meals supervisors and assistants, librarians, secretaries and other administrative personnel – will be able to cope with the pressures they face in supporting school activities
- For children and young people at school – their behaviour and attitude and that they will feel valued and have an appropriate sense of pride in their achievements whatever their success in examinations
- That those who require special needs support will be able to find suitable provision
- For increased freedom for those who specialise in Religious Education and that Christians who visit schools to take lessons and assemblies will be able to communicate the love of God

Prayer Target: Family Life

The latest figures for England & Wales from the Office of National Statistics (2006) show divorce numbers reduced year on year by 7% and were the lowest for 30 years. But this is masked by the decline in the number of people getting married – in 2005, the number of marriages was at its lowest level since records began in 1862

Local authority responsibilities include:

- Registration of births and deaths
- Marriage and civil partnership ceremonies
- Adoption and fostering
- Homelessness facilities
- Child & Vulnerable Adult protection policies
- Equality & Diversity
- Social Care provision
- Citizenship ceremonies

2,062 (almost 6 every day!) incidents of domestic violence or abuse were recorded by police in Shropshire during 2005/6 of which 552 were classified as criminal offences incurring a cost estimated at £7m

Although at circa 289,000 (mid year estimate 2005) Shropshire has one of the lowest densities of population in the UK it is increasing at a faster rate (7% since 1991) than the UK average (5.3%). However this is almost entirely due to migration into the county as for the past 5 years deaths have exceeded births. The population of Telford & Wrekin is circa 164,600, an increase of 16.3% since 1991 – mainly due to migration primarily associated with employment

26% of Shropshire's population is aged over 60 (16.3% in Telford & Wrekin) and a further 21% over 50

Praise: God that the Bible declares, ***“Father of orphans, champion of widows, is God in his holy house. God makes homes for the homeless”*** – Psalm 68: 5-6 (MSG).

Proclaim: use the words from Isaiah 32: 18 (TNIV) for yourself and your neighbours as a promise from God,
“My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest.”

Pray:

- For parents and children you know in your community especially those who have lost a loved one recently
- That Christian families will have a positive effect on the communities in which we live and that they will demonstrate God's love
- For churches as they put on marriage and family courses and organisations such as Alpha and Care for the Family will have a greater influence in our communities through their resources and materials
- For those caring for elderly relatives, those with disabilities or illness
- For agencies and charities involved with caring for victims of violence and domestic abuse

Prayer Target: Church in the Community

We have many expressions of 'church' – different denominations and traditions which have in the past been sources of division. But we are called to unity as when we work together in harmony it is there that God commands (ordains, pronounces, bestows) his blessing (Psalm 133)

As part of the **Hope 2008** initiative church communities throughout the UK are pledging to bring a million hours of kindness to the people around them leaving a legacy of Christian involvement in our communities. Churches in Shrewsbury and Telford have joined together to plan Hope 2008 programmes and other areas are still formulating their activities

Churches Together in Shropshire and the Telford Christian Council work in conjunction with many denominations to encourage unity, provide resources and develop action plans to proclaim the Good News

This springtime, during Lent, over the Easter weekend and Pentecost, many churches will be involved in special services and activities to publicly share the Christian faith.

Christian organisations and charities are involved in working with:

- Police & Emergency Services
- Prison and Hospital visitation
- Men's, women and children's groups
- Sports activities
- Debt advice
- Asylum seekers

Praise: God for the diversity we have within the Church that enables everyone to be able worship God individually yet collectively

Thank God for our Christian heritage and for the many opportunities available to pray and intercede for the people of this nation

Proclaim: ***"Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples"*** – John 13: 35 (NCV)

Pray:

- That churches across the county will faithfully proclaim God's love resulting in numerical growth and increased spiritual maturity
- God's blessing on those leading churches locally – ministers, pastors, lay leaders – and for national church leaders, that they may hear the Holy Spirit's prompting and faithfully serve their congregations and the community
- That local churches and fellowships will be relevant to the people they serve, effective in proclaiming the Gospel and have an increasing influence
- That Christians will be consulted by community leaders and that Christian values and principles will be incorporated into plans and decision-making
- That people will be increasingly aware that Easter is much more than a break from work and that it is the primary celebration of the Christian Church
- For a breakthrough in your community – that you will be aware of the spiritual and practical needs of your area and will be able to find ways of meeting them in love and grace

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The following websites may be of assistance in finding out more about your community and some of the background details for the Key Prayer Targets.

Local Authorities & Services

Shropshire County Council	www.shropshire.gov.uk
Telford & Wrekin Council	www.telford.gov.uk
Bridgnorth District Council	www.bridgnorth-dc.gov.uk
Oswestry Borough Council	www.oswestrybc.gov.uk
North Shropshire District Council	www.northshropshiredc.gov.uk
Shrewsbury & Atcham Borough Council	www.shrewsbury.gov.uk
South Shropshire Borough Council	www.shrewsbury.gov.uk
West Mercia Police	www.westmercia.police.uk
Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service	www.shropshirefire.gov.uk
Shropshire County Primary Care Trust	www.shropshirepct.nhs.uk
Shrewsbury & Telford Hospital NHS Trust	www.sath.nhs.uk

National Authorities & Services

UK Government	www.directgov.gov.uk
National Statistics	www.statistics.gov.uk
Prison Service	www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk

Local MPs

- Philip Dunne	www.philipdunne.com
- Daniel Kawczynski	www.daniel4shrewsbury.co.uk
- Owen Paterson	www.owenpaterson.org.uk
- Mark Pritchard	www.markpritchard.com
- David Wright	www.davidwrightmp.org.uk
Shropshire MEPs	www.europarl.org.uk

Media & Tourism

BBC Television	www.bbc.co.uk
BBC Radio Shropshire	www.bbc.co.uk/shropshire
ITV Central	www.itvlocal.com/central
Shropshire Tourism	www.shropshiretourism.info
Virtual Shropshire	www.virtual-shropshire.co.uk
31 Days	www.31days.co.uk
Shropshire Review	www.shropshirereview.co.uk
Shropshire Star	www.shropshirestar.com

Local Christian websites

Churches Together in Shropshire	www.chtogshropshire.co.uk
Telford Christian Council	www.telfordchristiancouncil.co.uk
Anglican Diocese of Lichfield	www.lichfield.anglican.org
Anglican Diocese of Hereford	www.hereford.anglican.org
Catholic Diocese of Shrewsbury	www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org
Heart of England Baptist Association	www.baptist-heartofengland.org
Methodist District	www.wsmethodist.org.uk
Salvation Army	www.salvationarmy.org.uk
United Reformed Church (West Midlands Synod)	www.urcwestmidlands.org.uk

National Christian websites

24-7 Prayer	www.24-7prayer.com
Alpha & Alpha Marriage	www.alpha.org
Care for the Family	www.careforthefamily.org.uk
City Links/Redeeming our Communities	www.citylinks.org.uk
Christian Vision for Men	www.cvmen.org.uk
Cross Rhythms radio	www.crossrhythms.co.uk
God Channel	http://uk.god.tv
Faithworks	www.faithworks.info
Hope 2008	www.hope08.com
Hope 2008 Info	www.hopeinfo.co.uk
Oasis Trust	www.oasistrust.org
The Message Trust	www.message.org.uk
UCB (United Christian Broadcasters)	www.ucb.co.uk
World Prayer Centre	www.worldprayer.org.uk

KEY PRAYER TARGETS

Government & Political Leadership: for MPs, MEPs, national and local government, Civil Servants and the Royal Family

Law & Order: the Police, Judiciary, Armed Forces, and other community partnerships/organisations

Emergency & Social Services: the NHS and health related activities, Fire & Rescue and other community services plus public and voluntary sector organisations and charities working with those disenfranchised through homelessness, social exclusion, race and equality, mental health and disability provision

Economy & Environment: business & commerce, employment & unemployment, agriculture and other rural issues, financial prudence; environmental sustainability, regeneration and infrastructure – transport, highways, planning, conservation, housing

Media, Arts & Communications: for broadcasters, journalists, writers, producers and entertainers and those involved in the arts, television; radio; internet; newspapers

Leisure & Tourism: sports, events, festivals and activities, hoteliers and those who provide accommodation as well as visitors to our county on holiday

Education & Learning: schools & colleges, libraries, vocational training and opportunities for those with specific learning requirements;

Family Life: parenting, marriage, the issues facing our youth and children, for senior citizens and the residents of care and nursing homes

Church in the Community: our witness, worship, relevance and impact we have in our neighbourhoods, in the county, nationally and internationally

