

# The Northern Prayerhouse

## Prayers shared across the North of England



### **A challenge....**

I was hungry and you formed a working group and discussed my hunger.

I was imprisoned and you crept off quietly to your chapel and prayed for my release.

I was naked and in your mind you debated the morality of my appearance.

I was sick and you knelt and thanked God for your health.

I was homeless and you preached to me of the spiritual shelter of the love of God.

I was lonely and you left me alone to pray for me.

You seem so holy, so close to God.  
But I'm still very hungry and lonely  
and cold.

## **PRAYERS FOR CARLISLE**

### **From the Northern Prayer Hub**

For people in Carlisle and round about who are living rough with no roof over their heads and nowhere to wash or cook.

For people who are living in urgent and desperate need, excluded from normal social activities and struggling to put food on the table.

For people living in the most deprived areas of Carlisle, income deprived, employment deprived, education and health deprived.

We pray for the building of connection in our community so that people can flourish and thrive, embedded in networks of supportive relationships.

For all those who work towards building community.

People who need the foodbank and people who work in the foodbank.

For people who need the Citizens Advice Bureau and those who work for CAB.

People who have fallen into debt and people who work for Christians against Poverty and other agencies which help others resolve and become debt free.

People who are drawn into criminal activity through poverty and people who work with them in the courts and probation service.

We live in hope that we can move towards a more equal distribution of the gifts of life.

Help us to use only our fair share and no more.

## **Prayer for Davyhulme and the wider community of Manchester**

Heavenly Father, open our eyes to see the needs of those caught in the web of poverty and open our hearts to respond to those needs.

We ask your blessing on those who work for Lifeshare, Cornerstone and Barnabus and those who help in the Foodbanks that are so necessary for many.

Help us to see you in every person in need; the homeless, the dispossessed. We ask your blessing on the work of those involved with Shelter, Night Shelter, The Big Issue and the Salvation Army. We ask that you would honour and prosper the work of Wood Street Mission as they seek to relieve the plight of needy families in Manchester.

We pray for the people in our community of Davyhulme who come to us on Wednesdays for companionship and a hot meal. We pray for our volunteers who give their time, showing kindness and patience and making people feel welcome. We ask that you will bless Ann, Graham and Olga who are responsible for the lunch club.

Lord God, you have no hands but our hands, help us to be willing servants to those in need.

## **Prayers from Blackpool St John's CofE Primary School**

Dear Father

In Blackpool there are hundreds of homeless young people, some of them have argued with their families and others have no money and no jobs.

They feel sad, hungry, cold, lonely and bored. The streets can be very dangerous places. They sometimes hate themselves and take risks that mean they aren't safe.

We thank you for everything that God has given to us - we are so lucky.

We pray that you will keep the young homeless people in Blackpool safe and we pray that other people in Blackpool will share a little bit of what they have at Harvest Time to help young people who attend Street Life Centre.

We put this prayer into your hands.

### **For Garstang and the rural communities around it**

We offer our prayers for the people of our town and its surrounding villages affected poverty and deprivation.

We pray for those on low incomes affected by fuel poverty, particularly those living in isolated communities away from mains services, often in houses with poor insulation. We pray for them and their families recognising the impact that this can have on their health and well-being.

We pray for those feeling increasingly isolated in their own homes often without their own transport, for example as reductions in public transport particularly in rural areas increasingly restrict their ability to visit friends or families; or to access social activities that they have traditionally enjoyed.

We pray that we may become a beacon of community in which all are included and are enabled to live life in all its fullness.

### **For organisations working in the Garstang area**

We pray for organisations working in our area to help people overcome poverty or isolation. We pray for the services from the public and from the voluntary sector working to provide opportunities for people to meet in community and for those working directly to address the impact of poverty on individuals and families in our area; offering our prayers for those working in:

- Food banks
- Money and other advice services
- Service supporting people's health and mental wellbeing
- Community networks providing places to go and things to do accessible to people in their local setting

We pray that they may be sustained and enriched by God's blessing on their work, particularly as reductions in public spending appear to make their tasks more challenging

### **For our Church and its partners**

We pray for our Church and the other Churches of our town of Garstang.

We thank you for their witness to your kingdom here in Garstang, in the opportunities they provide for people to meet locally as communities in our buildings either as part of church activities or in their own social groups.

We thank you for the partnerships we have, working with other local organisations to address issues of poverty and disadvantage; praying particularly

- For the work of the churches to support local food banks

- For the offer of coffee and chat in many of our church halls
- For our church's long standing links to the work of the Lancaster and District Homeless service

We pray that we will continue in our ministry reaching out to the needy and isolated in our community in your name.

**The following prayer was probably written by Bishop Hugh Latimer in 1551 at a time of economic crisis and the enclosure of common land.** It pulls no punches in the way it talks about landlords who exploit the vulnerable...

*We heartily pray thee to send thy holy spirit into the hearts of them that possess the grounds, pastures, and dwelling-places of the earth,*

*that they, remembering themselves to be thy tenants, may not rack and stretch out the rents of their houses and lands, nor yet take unreasonable fines and incomes, after the manner of covetous worldlings . . .*

*but so behave themselves in letting out their tenements, lands and pastures, that after this life they may be received into everlasting dwelling places.*

### **Prayer from Liverpool for Refugees and Asylum Seekers**

Lord Jesus, born in a family displaced by powerful forces, we pray for those displaced today.

For asylum seekers and refugees fleeing war and persecution,  
for those being resettled from Syrian camps  
and for lone children trying to find their families  
or any family to love and support them.

Work a miracle of hope in us and through us  
to grow a network of love,  
to start rebuilding lives in our own communities.

For your Name's sake.

**Amen**

**From Calvary Christian Fellowship, Lostock Hall, Lancashire  
Christians Against Poverty helping those in Debt**

We give thanks for

- the 85 people who have become debt free over the last 8 years
- the amazing volunteers we have at CAP Community drop-in

We offer our prayers for

- Clients suffering from depression & anxiety
- Clients with physical health problems
- Clients who have come to faith to be baptised
- Clients who are open to God to come to know him

We pray for the new **Lifeskills course** – which teaches practical money saving techniques, such as cooking on a budget, living healthily on less and making your money go further. We also pray for the trained coaches and volunteers supporting this programme and those who are taking part.

We pray we can build a stronger community and encourage and support one another in the goals we set.

We pray we are able to encourage and celebrate the skills people already have.

**CAP Job Club**

We pray for those attending the Steps to Employment course. May these skills help people applying for jobs and build their confidence. We also pray for the team as they welcome new people each week & keep supporting current members.

**CAP Release Group**

We pray for those who have set themselves goals for becoming free from life controlling habits. We pray for all supporting and coaching them through this process.

## **Prayers from Trawden St Mary**

### **For refugees – Pendle (as well as other areas in Lancashire) has just welcomed several Syrian families**

Heavenly Father, you are the source of all goodness, generosity and love. We thank you for opening the hearts of many to those who are fleeing for their lives.

Help us now to open our arms in welcome to our families who landed safely in Pendle, and reach out our hands in support.

That the desperate may find new hope, and lives torn apart be restored.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who fled persecution at His birth and at His last triumphed over death.

**Amen.**

### **For those in debt**

Father, we pray for the many who are trapped by growing burdens of debt, who see no way out, and who despair for their future: give them courage to tackle the problems they face, clarity in taking decisions which will turn their situation around, and faith that, as they cry to you in their trouble, you will deliver them from their distress;

we pray that you will provide for Christians Against Poverty and Open Door in their work to support those who need help and advice. through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **For the Homeless**

God of compassion, your love for humanity was revealed in Jesus, whose earthly life began in the poverty of a stable and ended in the pain and isolation of the cross: we hold before you those who are homeless, particularly young people who are no longer able to live in the family home. Draw near and comfort them in spirit and bless those who work to provide them with shelter, food and friendship, particularly Nightsafe and Safe Space, who are threatened by cuts.

We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen**

### **For Justice**

Living God,  
deliver us from a world without justice  
and a future without mercy;  
in your mercy, establish justice,  
and in your justice, remember the mercy  
revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen**

### **Prayers from Rev Canon David Banbury, Blackburn Diocese Parish Mission and Support Department**

Dear Lord  
Your Son Jesus Christ said blessed are the poor.  
May the poor be blessed  
With opportunities  
With hope,  
With transformation,  
With justice  
With compassion  
With new beginnings  
For the sake of your glorious kingdom.  
**Amen**

*The prayer attributed to St Francis of Assisi*  
Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.



### **Prayers for Burnley**

God of Love, help us as your people,  
to show your love in practical ways to those in need,  
particularly those who are trapped in the web of poverty,  
give them hope. In Jesus's name . **Amen.**

Lord Jesus, you came into the world to bring freedom,  
may all who are trapped in poverty and hunger know that freedom.

You came to bring justice, may all find justice.

You came to be love, may we give love to all we meet,  
by caring for them in their need. In Jesus's name. **Amen**

Gracious God, may we serve those who are suffering poverty,  
help us to feed, clothe, shelter those who have nothing.

Help us in our serving to treat them with respect  
and as equals in the sight of God, and not to look the other way  
or cross over the other side of the road. In Jesus's name. **Amen**

### **Prayers from Morecambe, from a prayer group led by Revd Mike Peatman**

*Bless Morecambe – Health Abounds, Beauty surrounds.*

We pray for repentance of our shortcomings as churches, our negative words, and  
we look towards a positive future for Morecambe.

We pray for the wellbeing of families, for harmony in their relationships, for the  
welfare of children and young people and intergenerational relationships.

We pray that churches can reach out to young people and their parents, and work  
with them to overcome their frustrations being played out through vandalism.

We pray for school workers, for local schools and for opportunities for more access  
to schools.

We pray for a release from a poverty mindset in Morecambe, a release from  
poverty and we pray for a release of creative ideas for businesses. We pray for  
prosperity and employment, especially for the young. **Amen**

***As the Year of Mercy draws to a close, Pope Francis has proposed six new Beatitudes for the modern age.*** Quotation from Fr. James Martin, SJ. Editor America magazine. (Jesuits in America)

"Blessed are those who remain faithful while enduring evils inflicted on them by others and forgive them from their heart.

"Blessed are those who look into the eyes of the abandoned and marginalised and show them their closeness.

"Blessed are those who see God in every person and strive to make others also discover him.

"Blessed are those who protect and care for our common home.

"Blessed are those who renounce their own comfort in order to help others.

"Blessed are those who pray and work for full communion between Christians."

### **Prayer from Skelmersdale**

Some people don't know who they are  
Some people don't know where they belong.  
We love your people Lord  
And we thank you for placing us here in Skelmersdale

Our identity in You  
Is more important than who we think we are  
Or who others think we are

We want to be light  
So that Light can banish the darkness

Grow us, woo us  
Love us, live in us.  
This is your town  
And your people.  
We claim them for You

And we seek to grow Your kingdom here.

**Dave Andrews' Reflection – at Together Lancashire we take this prayer particularly to heart, and repeat it often and loudly!**

I dream of a world  
in which all the resources of the earth  
will be shared equally  
between all the people of the earth,  
so that even the most disadvantaged  
will be able to meet their basic needs  
with dignity and joy.

I dream of a great society of small communities  
co-operating to practise  
personal, social, economic, cultural and political  
integrity and harmony.

I dream of vibrant neighbourhoods  
where people relate to one another  
genuinely as good neighbours.

I dream of people developing  
networks of friendship  
in which the private pain  
they carry deep down  
is allowed to surface and is shared  
in an atmosphere  
of mutual acceptance and respect.

I dream of people  
understanding the difficulties they have in common,  
discerning the problems, discovering the solutions  
and working together for personal growth and social change  
according to the visionary agenda of Jesus of Nazareth.

**And I dream of every church in every locality  
acting as a catalyst to make this dream come true.**

Amen

*Compassionate Community Work, Dave Andrews (2006)*



**Together Lancashire invites faith groups across the North of England to take part in prayer events and activities with a focus on tackling poverty and deprivation.**

**The North of England has a long history of being a House of Prayer. From the Celtic saints of Northumbria, the great abbeys, the Cathedrals and Minsters, the early dissenters and Quakers, the Methodist revival in the midst of the industrial revolution, there has been a deep spiritual longing to transform the world as it is into the world as it ought to be.**

### **Why do we need the Northern Prayerhouse?**

Christian organisations and networks are addressing challenges of poverty. As austerity measures continue to bite, faith groups continue to respond, ever more stretched through lack of resource, and burdened by the higher expectations from the public sector that we can pick up the pieces.

We wish to recognise the hard work, the pressures being faced by those who care and those we care for, and the resilience and expertise of people in local communities who are at the sharp end. At the same time, we wish to highlight areas of injustice and to appeal to decision makers and to God for change.

The same issues are being felt across the North of England. Church Action on Poverty continues its campaign re the Right to Food, focusing on **World Food Day** on 16 October. The **UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty** takes place on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

### **What is The Northern Prayerhouse?**

#### **We are sharing prayers from different areas across the North of England**

This prayer sheet comprises prayers from across the North of England; our Prayer page has a growing number of prayers – you can find it by searching online for <http://northernprayerhouse.blogspot.co.uk/>

**Please pray for those challenged by poverty and those supporting them – and share these prayers with others**

**Prayers will be Answered**

**For more information, please contact  
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