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| OCTOBER |  |
| Thur 1st | The Youth Net office staff are working back in the office again following strict guidelines protecting each other and working from home if needed to support our project leads and team. Please pray for them as they negotiate the new normal working practices. |
| Fri 2nd | In this season of Creationtide let us pray for all who are engaged in agriculture within the borough, providing food for our sustenance.  May they be blessed in their harvest and be guided to work in harmony with all of creation. |
| Sat 3rd | Today starts the 8 day festival of the Feast of the Tabernacles (alternative translations – Booths), and we join with our Jewish brothers and sisters in this feast of thanksgiving. Thank you God for all that you have done for us and given us; for being with us every day. Thank you that as Christians we do not have to create a special tent as your dwelling place, for your Holy Spirit dwells inside each of us as we have responded to your call. (Over the week I will share some scriptures that help us understand this week in our faith’s history) *FotT: Lev 23 v 33-44* |
| Sun 4th | Pray for those churches who are meeting in their new format and those who attend in person, those who watch on facebook and you-tube from home live, and those who catch up later. Pray for those who have started to virtually attend regularly, even if their old normal would not have included church. God is working in us and through us… He is the Way Maker, the Miracle Worker, the Promise Keeper, the Light in the Darkness… |
| Mon 5th | Today is World Teachers’ Day – Pray for any teachers you know personally and show them that they are valued as they once again have taken up the mantle of educating the country’s children within all the new protocols.  The Youth Net IF Project team are up and running following school protocols on various days during the week.  Explore and Engage (primary and secondary schools workers) are working out with the schools what schools want and how Youth Net can facilitate it during the week days.  *FotT: Deut 16 v 13-17* |
| Tues 6th | Who would have guessed at the beginning of this Covid Crisis that we would still be under strict guidelines into October? Pray for those in leadership, the scientists and medics who are seeking to create a vaccine against CV19 that will keep us all safe and enable social distancing to be put in the history books.  *FotT: 2 Chron 7 v 8-10* |
| Wed 7th | CPRE ask that we pray for people to be more mindful of the environment during this pandemic - discarded masks, and other litter, which don’t only spoil our beautiful planet but they also pose infection risks to other people and hazards to wildlife and domestic animals.  *FotT: John 7 v 2-53* |
| Thur 8th | Pray for House of Bread and Café 43 workers and volunteers as they negotiate the new guidelines as they change in order to provide the food parcels and meals to the vulnerable in our community. Pray for their friends who have had 7 months of missing the sense of belonging that the café brings. *FotT: Zech 14 v 16-19* |
| Fri 9th | Today, Father Stephen Wright will be consecrated Auxiliary Bishop in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham. Bishop Stephen will have responsibility for the Catholic Church in Staffordshire and the Black Country, succeeding Bishop David McGough.  *FotT: Rev 21 v 3* |
| Sat 10th | It's World Mental Health Day today. Pray for any ministries you know that do anything connected to mental health in our town and surrounds.  Paul at Stafford fm is planning to mention it in his programme so pray for him and for a good response from listeners. |
| Sun 11th | The Tree Council has designated the second **Sunday** in **October** as a **special** Seed Gathering Day to collect seeds for growing into the new trees of the future.  Pray for our environment following the unusual weather conditions of 2020 and for our harvests going forward. |
| Mon 12th | In addition to the Covid-19 pandemic, Fountains Counselling Service has been facing a number of challenges in recent months, and currently no new referrals are being taken. The Trustees are using this time to commission an external review of the service, and to prayerfully consider any changes that may be required. Further information will be given as the way forward becomes clearer. The Trustees would like to thank you for your ongoing support, thoughts and prayers during this time. |
| Tues 13th | The Youth Net detached community youth workers are out and about supporting young people in need around Stafford town centre and highlighted areas every Tuesdays and Fridays/Saturdays – alternating following social distancing guidelines. |
| Wed 14th | Pray – look around you and pray about what you see. Ask God to draw your attention to something specific and concentrate your prayers on this one thing today. |
| Thur 15th | The Love Stafford church leaders will continue to hold 30 minute zoom prayer times once a month on the third Thursday of each month at 12.30pm. Pray for your church leaders as they meet together virtually that this will be a time of supporting each other as well as seeking a corporate vision of what God is saying to his people in Stafford. Ask that God will meet with them in a new and exciting way and comfort, encourage and re-envision them with hope and joy. |
| Fri 16th | We (the team) are still praying for anyone interested in local radio media, as a form of outreach, to get involved in the Sunday Sunrise show on Stafford FM. Pray for the team (Paul, Pete and Jamie) who broadcast on a Sunday Morning from 7am to 10am 107.3 fm and on DAB and contact them if you have something to share. This is a huge opportunity folks – get excited that God has paved the way for his voice to be heard on our local radio station through these guys. (I remember the John Pantry lament song ‘Jesus on the Airwaves’ from the late 70s and our prayers then were for this to be a reality!) It is a reality! |
| Sat 17th | Pray for the Street Pastors who are still ‘being church’ to those who are working in or enjoying the night time economy, by listening, caring and helping and blessing our community. The pandemic has hit the hospitality economy badly and many places still cannot open as usual, if at all. And the street pastors are able to get alongside socially distant (of course) and show them that God still cares about them. |
| Sun 18th | Today is World Poetry Day - So, we can’t sing in church, but we can still sing praises to our God in our kitchens! Using the psalms – the poetry of the bible. Write your own poem of thankfulness, if you can… A World Poetry Day set of poems in thankfulness to God from the Love Stafford area… |
| Mon 19th | Smiling at strangers is a bit strange when wearing a mask. Pray for those who find the masks hard to wear, those who struggle to hear and those who feel intimidated by not being able to see all facial features. |
| Tue 20th | Pray for our local councillors – if you don’t know who is yours, check here: <https://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/DemServCouncillors> - and for our local MPs – Stafford is Theo Clarke, Stone is William Cash. |
| Wed 21st | Pray for students who will now be settling down into their new normal university courses again, that freshers will make friends and feel they are able to cope. For those students returning after the long break that their studying is becoming a joy. For those who need to do some sort of placement, that the logistics of this will sort out OK. |
| Thur 22nd | Pray for our hospitals and care homes. For all staff and patients, especially those working with Covid patients. Pray for those awaiting results or waiting for postponed operations. |
| Fri 23rd | Pray for the staff at the Crematorium, funeral directors, and everyone involved with bereavement counselling. |
| Sat 24th | The clocks change overnight tonight. Pray for those for whom this heralds a real struggle to cope, who really, really hate the darker nights. Those who have Seasonal Affected Disorder and those who are just scared to be out in the dark. For those who become more isolated due to not driving in the dark. Pray for a peace in their hearts and a willingness in our lives to help where necessary. |
| Sun 25th | Bible Sunday - thank God for his word. For the Bible Society and bible translators around the world who are struggling to keep going during this pandemic. How many bibles do you have in your home? Consider joining Bible a Month Club to provide one bible a month for someone who is desperate for the word of God for themselves in their own language. |
| Mon 26th | Half Term Holidays – pray for parents who are just getting back into the school routines and now have holidays to contend with! Pray for school staff who will need this break following having to stay ultra alert in schools to keep everything Covid-Safe. |
| Tue 27th | Pray for those key workers who come to your house/road; post, parcel deliveries, refuse collectors, milkmen, ice-cream vans…etc, that they are kept safe from the virus. And thank them for their service. |
| Wed 28th | Today is National Tell a Story Day in the UK. Can you tell your story, your testimony to someone else today? Pray for opportunities to share faith with family, neighbours and colleagues. |
| Thur 29th | Pray for those who have had to miss milestone birthday celebrations due to Covid. For weddings cancelled or greatly reduced in numbers attending, that they will look forward to the day when celebrating how they would have wished will be possible again rather than getting down about what had to be. Pray for those missing loved ones, either through distance or death, where the ache is profound. |
| Fri 30th | Pray for our high streets, for our small independent shops and cafes and restaurants, many struggling to keep going as the pandemic continues to affect the economy. |
| Sat 31st | At the time of writing the furlough scheme is due to end today. Pray for those who no longer /possibly do not have a job to go back to due to CV continuing for this extended period. Pray for the Government’s response to the ongoing pandemic in this area of financial support. |