

Church Family Prayer

7th October 2020

Ephesians 3:10-13

¹⁰His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹²In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. ¹³I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

Praise and Thanksgiving

Children's and Families Work

Give thanks for:

- The commitment of the Adventurers and Explorers (A&E) leaders as they continue to do Zoom meetings
- Around 40 children being taught Ephesians each week
- Family Time – during the Zoom A&E meeting families spend 15 minutes using resources and ideas from the team to teach the main point of the passage.



Please pray for:

- Motivation and endurance as kids, leaders and parent become 'Zoom weary.'
- Families would understand how great God's plan to use the church to bring him glory is.
- How to be relational when not seeing the families face to face
- Creativity in how to do evangelism when our mid-week groups are not running
- New Mums starting again in person from 9th October – safety and logistics
- Small Talk starting 7th October going live on YouTube
- Wisdom as we look at ways to get families back to church and run the children's work

Pastoral Care Teams

Give thanks for:

- The church as a family who can look after each other, and how this happens in so many wonderful ways.
- These new teams with many volunteers willing to take on some of this care in a formalised way.
- The variety of ministries happening (Bereavement, Biblical Counselling, Practical Care, Meals, Community, Visiting)



Please pray for:

- Us all to be doing pastoral care of each other, so that these teams only fill in the gaps.
- No one in need to be missed.
- Wisdom about how to do pastoral care well at this time of social distancing and isolation.
- Team leaders and team members to be motivated by love to keep on serving even when it's hard.

Small Groups

Praise God for:

- The way small groups have been able to continue, despite restrictions on in person gatherings
- Our leaders, who work so hard to love, care and serve the groups
- The great gospel truths we are learning together from Ephesians this term.

Please Pray:

- That God would give us greater confidence in his plan for the church as we look at Ephesians.
- For energy and perseverance to continue meeting together, even if online.
- For leaders to have wisdom and skill as they lead discussions online
- For those who've got out of the habit of meeting together, that they would be supported and cared for.



Mission Partners—Andy & Zsofi Oatridge, David, Reka & Emily in Hungary with Acorn Camps

Praise God for:

- The new CORE Training course - they had a great start with a 24 hour away event and their first Bible workshop in September. The students, who are all youth leaders, are beginning to form into a great group who can work well together as they study Philippians.
- Their church youth group being able to meet in person - even if they all need to wear masks - and for the new teenagers joining them.

Please pray for:

- CORE Training course sessions on 6th and 20th Oct with Andy leading Bible workshops for the students.
- Wisdom and flexibility as they plan next Summer's camps not knowing if they can happen!

Global Anglican Church—Nigeria

In the diocese of Maiduguri in Borno State, Nigeria, the activity of the deadly Islamist terror group, Boko Haram, is everywhere. 34 Churches have been burned down. It is a big struggle to provide support for the clergy of these churches and also to rebuild the churches.

Please pray for:

- Bishop Emmanuel Morris as he supports clergy
- Churches as they rebuild
- God's protection from the violence and destruction of Boko Haram

Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (Armenia & Azerbaijan)

Last week a conflict erupted between Armenia and Azerbaijan over a disputed region, breaking the peace treaty in place since 1994.

Please pray for:

- Peace, for the fighting to stop, for lives to be saved.
- International engagement with this largely unknown story.
- Christians in that region to trust in the Lord, to be kept safe by him, to be his light there as peacemakers.
- All those in these countries and the world fearful for friends and family caught up in the conflict.
- The end of all conflict with the coming of the prince of peace.