

Prayer Themes

2014



St Barnabas
transforming lives • changing the world

Prayer Themes for 2014

We are continuing to develop our prayer themes in 2014. These prayer themes allow us to create a coherent prayer strategy within the church across its different ministries and congregations. Through this the church can move towards “praying in one accord”.

The prayer themes help us annually cover important prayer topics. The list of themes is designed to be broad enough to allow common themes to be revisited each year, so if you used last year’s prayer themes you will see many being reinforced again in 2014. This will enable us to ensure that areas requiring prayer are not overlooked.

There is a main theme for each month of the year. The topics are broad enough to allow development of different aspects of these themes for each week. Individuals and small groups are invited to pray into these themes in different ways over the month.

The themes chosen can be applied in **three directions** and **at different scales**. The **UP-IN-OUT model** has been used in St Bs for many years and a prayer theme can be applied in these different directions:

1. Applying the theme to our interaction with God (**Up**)
2. Applying the theme to our personal needs (**In**)
3. Applying the theme to the needs of the world (**Out**)

The **different scales** start from us as an individual, outwards to our families, friends, church, community, networks (eg work colleagues, sports club members), then on to Barnet, London, UK, and finally regions or even the whole world. To illustrate this let us take the first theme for the year which is relationships.

- We could pray that 2014 is a year when we deepen our relationship with God,
- We could pray that 2014 is a year when we improve our personal relationships (think through some of the examples of the different scales, eg our spouse, children, parents, boss, or neighbour),
- We could pray that 2014 is a year when relationships in the community around us improve. For example, we could pray for marriages in the parish, for the relationships children in Barnet have with their parents, inter-community relationships eg Muslim v Christian or for areas of the world torn apart by civil war or inter-ethnic conflict. We could pray for a healing in these relationships. We have been given a ministry of reconciliation - we can minister that through prayer wherever the Spirit may lead us.

Prayer is about us connecting with God and partnering with him to see our lives and world transformed. These themes are an aid to us to pray, but the Holy Spirit is our helper and prayer guide. Take these themes and discuss them with him and see where he leads.

May God enrich and bless you as you pray.

January - For sudden answers to our persistent prayers in 2014

Week commencing Sunday:

- 5 - Areas of the world with enduring persistent conflict and oppression eg Syria
- 12 - Spiritual breakthrough
- 19 - St Barnabas' needs including buildings
- 26 - For our unsaved friends and family members

February - Health

Week commencing Sunday:

- 2 - For GPs, and those working to meet health needs within their community
- 9 - For those working in hospitals in the UK and abroad
- 16 - For healing for those who are sick
- 23 - For the medical breakthroughs in the fight against cancer and illnesses/diseases

March - Relationships

Week commencing Sunday:

- 2 - For marriages
- 9 - For our own relationship with God to deepen
- 16 - For strengthened relationships within our families
- 23 - For intergenerational relationships and for the elderly who may feel isolated
- 30 - For our relationships with our work colleagues and/or friends

April - Children and Education

Week commencing Sunday:

- 6 - For children within St Bs to grow in their love for and knowledge of God
- 13 - For teachers and those working in education
- 20 - For students who have exams over the next few months
- 27 - For those working with children in the UK and overseas (including street children)

May - Europe

Week commencing Sunday:

- 4 - For the growth of the church across Europe
- 11 - For the UK's relationship with Europe
- 18 - For the EU, including the work of the EP and MEPs
- 25 - For the European economy and for those parts of Europe suffering hardship

June - The Poor and Marginalised

Week commencing Sunday:

- 1 - For ethnic groups who are marginalised and face oppression
- 8 - For areas of the world recovering from or facing natural disasters
- 15 - For those providing practical help to the hungry
- 22 - For an equitable global trading system and economy
- 29 - For an end to exploitation and unjust practices (eg FGM, slavery)

July - The Church

Week commencing Sunday:

- 6 - For St Barnabas including Henry, Colin, other leaders and staff.
- 13 - For the persecuted church and the work of Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW)
- 20 - For an increased presence of God in His Church
- 27 - For the church in conflict areas

August - The Monarchy and the Government

Week commencing Sunday:

- 3 - For the Monarch
- 10 - For the Prime Minister and other party leaders
- 17 - For MPs, members of the House of Lords and the work of 'Christians in Parliament'
- 24 - For the Mayor of London and the London Assembly
- 31 - For local government. For elected representatives and the services they provide.

September - The United Kingdom

Week commencing Sunday:

- 7 - For England
- 14 - For Scotland
- 21 - For Wales
- 28 - For Northern Ireland

October - Mission

Week commencing Sunday:

- 5 - For the estate based mission including Strawberry Vale and the work of Eden London
- 12 - For St Bs to be effective in its mission including the work of the Missional Communities
- 19 - For effective mission into communities/areas which are resistant to the gospel
- 26 - For those involved in mission abroad and for the work of St Bs Mission Task Force (MTF)

November - Peace, Crime and Justice

Week commencing Sunday:

- 2 - For the Police and the work of the Christian Police Association
- 9 - For those working in the criminal justice system (e.g. Courts and Prisons)
- 16 - For those engaged in a lifestyle of crime
- 23 - For the victims of crime and those who fear crime
- 30 - For peace

December - Christmas and Advent

Week commencing Sunday:

- 7 - For the preparations for Christmas at St Barnabas
- 14 - For people to become Christians or renew their faith this Christmas
- 21 - For the homeless and those facing financial difficulties this Christmas
- 28 - For families and those who are alone