

BUILDING A CITY OF HOPE

18-25 JAN 2018

A WEEK OF PRAYER AND FASTING FOR CITY TRANSFORMATION - DAILY PRAYER GUIDE

During the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**, Together4Bristol and Christian Action Bristol are, for the second year running, facilitating a week of prayer and fasting.

This year the theme is '**Building a City of Hope**', seeking to encourage the Christian community to reach out with abundant generosity to contribute to meeting social need across the city.

'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.' Romans 15:13

We hope that Christians across Bristol will pray individually and in their churches throughout the week for guidance on how we can most effectively engage with our localities and with wider issues of social justice.

Thank you for committing time this week to pray and reach out to our city. We would encourage you to provide feedback and prayerful insights to: prayer.t4b@gmail.com.



Building a City of Hope - a week of prayer and fasting for city transformation 18-25 January 2018

The guide below is intended to provide the context for prayer, focusing on two specific strands of social action each day.

Day 1: Thursday 18 January

Addiction

Funding for Drug & Alcohol services in Bristol has been cut by 15% this year. Please pray for:

- Those working in treatment services
- Flourishing recovery communities throughout Bristol
- Growing partnerships between churches and Life Recovery Groups

Community Development

Bristol's library services, youth centres and community buildings are at risk of closing. Please pray for:

- Wisdom for Marvin and his assistant mayor as they make difficult decisions with much less funding than in previous years
- Increased love and respect across our city
- Contentment, generosity and compassion within our communities

Day 2: Friday 19 January

Debt Support

In Bristol 16% of residents, 69,000 people, live in the most deprived areas in England. Please pray for:

- CAP clients: 89% have incomes lower than the National Average

- The 2,732 people who went debt free in 2016

- More debt support Centres to open in Bristol

Disability (physical, sensory impairments and those with additional needs)

There are over 16,000 adults living in Bristol with a physical disability. Please pray for:

- The provision of services for those needing care but with reduced funding
- Sufficient places for vulnerable adults to attend for support giving respite to long term carers
- Increased opportunities for the church community to contribute to the provision of support and care

Day 3: Saturday 20 January

Environment Care

Bristol is one of UK's most polluted cities with a 'substantial number of lives' at risk. Please pray for:

- The emergence of a new Christian Environment Network for Bristol
- New initiatives that bring investment in improved public transport and cycling use
- All Churches to consider becoming an A Rocha "Ecochurch"

Food Poverty

Every day people in Bristol go hungry due to redundancy or bereavement, welfare problems or receiving an unexpected bill on a low income. Please pray for:

- Preparation for challenges ahead in 2018 with Universal Credit being rolled out across Bristol

- Establishment of a sustainable model around breakfast club provision across the city

- Development of partnership models and strategy around Feeding Bristol to head towards a zero-hunger city vision

Day 4: Sunday 21 January

Homelessness

Rough sleeping in Bristol has increased during 2017 despite an array of initiatives. Please pray for:

- The Bristol Churches Winter Night Shelter currently in operation and running until 29th March

- Creative solutions and resources for further shelters and move-on accommodation

- Tangible opportunities for the development of social housing using church owned property and land

Political Engagement

The Christian community in Bristol seeks to collaborate politically on a local, national and international scale. Please pray for:

- Ongoing clear communication between the Council and the churches

- Continued and deeper trusted relationships with key Cabinet, Council and Parliamentary members and other agencies

- Increased inspiration and mobilisation of the Christian Community to be the heart, hands, feet and voice of Jesus

Day 5: Monday 22 January

Prison Ministry

Over 100 people committed suicide in prison last year, the highest on record. Please pray for:

- Our 4 local prisons, HMP's Bristol, Leyhill, Ashfield and Eastwood Park and the 1,600 male and 440 female inmates within them

- The church community to provide the relational support that so many ex-prisoners are so desperate for

- The chaplaincy departments, charities and volunteers who work with prisoners and ex-prisoners.

Refugees

The needs of many refugees are increasing, with destitution and street homelessness for many. Please pray for:

- The needs of those who have sought sanctuary in Bristol

- Those who have arrived on resettlement programmes, as they integrate into Bristol - that they may be welcomed

- Volunteers and staff supporting refugees and asylum seekers in local Christian and secular projects

Day 6: Tuesday 23 January

Social Investment

The social investment market is estimated to be worth around £2 billion in the UK and growing. Please pray:

- That significant investment is diverted to fund organisations and initiatives that genuinely benefit society

- That the local, national and international investment mind-set

changes from one of control, fear and individualism to one of faith, hope and collective action

- For God's wisdom on the right balance between strategic scale and a person-centred approach

Street Pastors

Bristol Street Pastors aim to show the love of Christ to the people out in the city at night by listening, caring and helping. Please pray for:

- The peace and safety of our city at night
- More volunteers to increase our impact
- Deepening relationships with those who work in the night-time economy

Day 7: Wednesday 24 January

Vulnerable Women

There are an estimated 13,000 victims of trafficking and slavery across the UK. Please pray for:

- Unity against the exploitation of women, with strong and effective partnerships to bring systemic change
- Bristol to be a place where slavery is eliminated and people flourish
- That Bristol will be free of prostitution – on the streets and indoors, and that women fulfil their potential

Young People

Bristol is a young vibrant city but increasing inequality has a disproportionate negative impact on young people, making it harder for them to see a sustainable future. Please pray for:

- Young people and education - a good experience of education unlocks choices and opportunity
- The mental health of young people - there are increasing numbers of young people suffering from mental health difficulties

- Families - that young people would experience families that are supportive, nurturing and loving – including those in foster care or adoption

Day 8: Thursday 25 January

As we come to the last day of our week of prayer and fasting we would encourage you to spend some time quietly listening and to sense what God is speaking into our city at this time.

We would also encourage you to pray into the following aspects of the overall vision of **Christian Action Bristol**:

- To love all people in this city;
- To help, through our actions, to contribute to building Bristol as a City of Hope;
- To serve without asking for anything in return;
- To work in open partnership with all sectors of city life; and
- To pray for all aspects of life in this city.

Thank you for committing time to pray for our city.

We would encourage you to provide feedback via the following email address: **prayer.t4b@gmail.com**.