

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Greetings at the beginning of the year 2021. Maybe Charles Wesley's hymn captures some of our feelings as we have entered another period of restrained activity:

1. And are we yet alive,
and see each other's face?
Glory and thanks to Jesus give
for his almighty grace!

2. Preserved by power divine
to full salvation here,
again in Jesus' praise we join,
and in his sight appear.

3. What troubles have we seen,
what mighty conflicts past,
fightings without, and fears within,
since we assembled last!

4. Yet out of all the Lord
hath brought us by his love;
and still he doth his help afford,
and hides our life above.

We will not be able to have our usual programme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18-25 January) this year. It is important however that we continue to be united in prayer. I have had a suggestion from Jim Fitzgerald of River Church which he asked me to share with you and which may provide a focus for unity in prayer during this week and maybe longer.

Jim has written:

999 Prayer focus.

Last night I was really shocked at the announcement of over 1000 deaths in one day directly attributed to the pandemic. I had a really restless night as being prompted by the Holy Spirit to pray about the seriousness of what we are facing yet again. With the Nation clapping for heroes. I was asked of the Holy Spirit what is the church doing in this. So I would like you and your church to join me in the following Prayer Focus.

999 prayer for our nation and in particular the local services

To pray for 9 minutes 3 times a week at either 9 A.M or 9 P.M

- *Pray for those who are facing mental strain*
- *Pray for those who are mourning*
- *Pray for those in front line services*
- *Pray for those in our hospital for healing*
- *Pray for our GPs and others who will be undertaking the vaccination program*
- *Pray for those who are alone and feeling isolated*

- *Pray for those in leadership at all levels*
- *Pray for the well-being of those caring in all settings*
- *Pray for a quick and lasting end to this pandemic and healing in our communities*

No registration needed just want to bring these prayers to the ever-listening ears of the Saviour who just loves to do the impossible.

Please use the following scripture to navigate starting

Proverbs 3.5-6

Trust the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.

Seek His will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take..

If you would like to e-mail me on jim.fitzgerald1@ntlworld to let me know you are praying.

Be blessed Jim

I finish with the Methodist Covenant Prayer at the beginning of the year:

I am no longer my own but yours.

Put me to what you will,

rank me with whom you will;

put me to doing,

put me to suffering;

let me be employed for you,

or laid aside for you,

exalted for you,

or brought low for you;

let me be full,

let me be empty,

let me have all things,

let me have nothing:

I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things

to your pleasure and disposal.

And now, glorious and blessed God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

you are mine and I am yours. So be it.

And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.

Yours in the love of God,

Revd. Ray Porter

Chair Churches Together in St Neots