



OUR NORTHERN PRAYERHOUSE

An invitation to pray for those caught in the web of poverty

A basket of prayers moving from community to community across the North of England during October and November 2016

Sign up to hold a prayer event by contacting together@together-lancashire.org.uk

Together Lancashire invites faith groups across the North of England to take part in series of prayer events and activities with a focus on tackling poverty and deprivation.

The North of England has a long history of being a House of Prayer. From the Celtic saints of Northumbria, the great abbeys, the Cathedrals and Minsters, the early dissenters and Quakers, the Methodist revival in the midst of the industrial revolution, there has been a deep spiritual longing to transform the world as it is into the world as it ought to be.

Why do we need the Northern Prayerhouse?

Christian organisations and networks are addressing challenges of poverty. As austerity measures continue to bite, faith groups continue to respond, ever more stretched through lack of resource, and burdened by the higher expectations from the public sector that we can pick up the pieces.

We wish to recognise the hard work, the pressures being faced by those who care and those we care for, and the resilience and expertise of people in local communities who are at the sharp end. At the same time, we wish to highlight areas of injustice and to appeal to decision makers and to God for change.

The same issues are being felt across the North of England. Church Action on Poverty continues its campaign re the Right to Food, focusing on **World Food Day** on 16 October. The **UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty** takes place on 17th October 2016.

What is it?

The Northern Prayerhouse –handing on a basket full of prayers from area to area across the North of England.

You will pray prayers which you will receive from your neighbouring area, as well as praying your own. Your prayers will easily be transferred via an electronic 'basket' to the next neighbouring area; there is scope for those who would like to be "pilgrim heralds/angels/messengers" to make journeys to neighbouring centres in person in the real world. Together Lancashire will organise the prayers to move from prayer event to event.

To find out more please contact
together@together-lancashire.org.uk
or look on our Together Lancashire
Facebook page and website
www.cuf.org.uk/together-lancashire



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What do you have to do?

Each local area is invited to hold a prayer event to pray for those in a neighbouring area as well as their own. An area might be a local parish or congregation, a home group or prayer cell, or the staff, volunteers and service users of a local community project or food bank. Or it could be an inter-church network or a group of projects that work together. Their prayers would then be passed to the next area electronically by email.

Each local area will decide which aspect(s) of the web of poverty to focus on. There could be several strands coming together in one place, or a series of strands on different days, eg homelessness, food poverty – that is for the area to decide. Make it manageable and simple.

When?

Each local prayer event would take place in October and into November, but ideally in October in order to have maximum impact and momentum. We want people to feel part of a larger movement which is making a difference.

How it will work

Invitations sent out during August and September. **Sign up to the Northern Prayerhouse required by 14th September**, with dates and locations (town or area) of prayer meetings.

All the prayers from one area will be put in an email (If you write prayers on post its or flip charts just take a photo of them and of your event and attach it) and passed to the next area – which would pray those prayers, then pray their own. As well as recognising our dedication to our communities, we can talk about social justice (or rather injustice). We could share stories highlighting the distress caused by poverty and how we as organisations are responding.

Each local area organisation is responsible for the organisation of its own prayer event and for collecting prayers to put into the electronic basket. You will also be responsible for sending out your own invitations, and arranging any local publicity.

Joining it all up

TL is the lead body in co-ordinating the movement of prayers from event to event. TL will provide a Facebook group and/or blog to use as the 'basket' to share prayers. Once we know who is taking part we will make linkages between different localities. There will be a comments and responses section where people can record any answers to prayer, relevant Scriptures etc.

Outcomes

Better understanding of the local concerns and how these are being addressed

Sharing of knowledge and expertise

Prayers will be Answered

Next step

Contact together@together-lancashire.org or ring 07904 919413 for a chat before 14 September