

The Bible makes social justice a mandate of faith and a fundamental expression of Christian discipleship. From a scriptural point of view, justice means loving our neighbour as we love ourselves and is rooted in the character and nature of God.
“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8)

BEATITUDES

- Pray for the mental health of children and parents, still so relevant through this time.
- If we could ask for prayer to keep our upper floor which we use for storage and clothing preparation. We have a new tenancy and it includes that we would lose this space in the event of flats being built above shop.
- Also due to Covid no ability to have children's play area and seating area for mums and dads. Masks etc limiting some of our real contact with those who need our support. Pray please that everyone visiting will still feel able to speak freely and receive support as before.
- Also, we need to look imaginatively how to support families coming up to Christmas (gifts etc for children and financial support) we are unable to have our usual Christmas party which is really valued by families. Please pray that we can reach out in other ways to bring joy and help where needed.

CHRISTIAN AID

- This October, we highlight prayer requests and activities for Black History Month, as well as prayer requests from our country programme in Nigeria.
- There are also points for prayer on upcoming UN International Days that were once a feature of the monthly prayer e-mail.
- You can sign up for the prayer e-mail using the link available on the prayer diary page: www.caid.org.uk/prayerdiary
- With the ongoing insurgency in North Eastern Nigeria and, most recently, the Covid 19 pandemic, let us pray for Christian Aid staff implementing projects there.
- Ask God to protect them and their families; keep them safe from harm. Also pray that God will protect our beneficiaries and internally displaced persons. (Psalms 91:11)
- Pray for Nigeria and the leadership. Ask God for his divine guidance and wisdom, and to raise God-fearing leaders who will fight corruption, nepotism and other forms of ills.
- Pray for divine intervention and solution to the global pandemic. Ask God for quick recovery of those infected and protection of those on the frontline. Ask for quick recovery of businesses and livelihoods. (Joel 2:25)
- 24 October: Pray for the UN to be effective in supporting collective action to realise peace, development and human rights for all on United Nations Day.
- 24 October: Pray for greater awareness and solutions to the challenges to development on World Development Information Day.

ST. PAULS SOCIAL JUSTICE NETWORK - PRAYER RESOURCES - OCT 2020

BESOM

- We continue to be active in the community each week and with the Covid crisis appearing to be accelerating again we are hoping that restrictions will not be imposed again that will limit the work we can do. In this regard we would like prayer to cover our health and safety while visiting donors, recipients and their supporters. That is both ways, us keeping them safe and ourselves!
- Since the restrictions were lifted we have had a great deal of items offered to us. We have had to turn more and more donors away due to lack of storage space, which is unfortunate. This was mainly due to all the other charities across our and neighbouring areas closing their doors to new donations. We pray that other charities will open their doors again and take this surplus.
- Earlier in the lock down we were short of items and so used a great deal of our funds we had been blessed with at the end of last year to fill the gap.
- Despite the surplus items we have, every week we will be asked for specific items we do not have and again we thank the Lord that he continually fills the gaps.
- So, we thank and praise the Lord that he provides all we need whether it be time givers, donated items or monetary needs.
- We have had to spend more time reviewing our policies with regard to health and safety and safe-guarding and we pray for continued wisdom for the trustees and others involved in these processes.
- Lastly, we pray for our referrers who are those on the frontline in the community from social services, mental health teams, district nurses, schools link workers, refugee charities, women's refuges and more. That their eyes will be open to the practical needs where Besom and its supporters can help.

CAP

- Please pray that we get more referrals. With current government rules/advice not to evict people with rent arrears or put pressure on people with debts during the Covid crisis, a lot of pressure has been (rightly) removed on those experiencing debt. This debt has not gone away and will still be accruing, so at some future point people will need to repay their debts. We expect that there are a lot of cases building up, but people have not got to the stage where they ask for help. Our regional figures show we are at just 57% of the normal level of enquires for this time of year. Please pray that people will contact us before their problems become significant and other agencies (such as housing or social services) will refer people to us.
- We are running a series of six online sessions that are aimed at helping anyone who is struggling with issues as a result of being lockdown. Topics that are to be covered by the short course, specially designed to help with current pressures, are: 1) Anxiety and worry, 2) Lifting financial pressure, 3) Handling habits, 4) Making your money go further, 5) Handling loss. This is a course that is open for everyone not just Christians, so if anyone has friends or family who may also be interested, please let them know about the course. The details are in the notice in the church newsletter and the course starts on Nov 3rd. Please pray for people to join and fully participate in the course and that we can help them transform their lives through the course.

FOOD BANK

For people experiencing acute poverty, both people newly affected as a result of the impacts of coronavirus, and people for whom the pandemic struck at a time when they were already in financial crisis:

- For the courage to reach out for support where it is needed
- For timely access to the right social security benefits and for new employment opportunities for those in a position to work.
- For hope, and for opportunities to develop or maintain supportive relationships in safe ways.

For people running and supporting food banks:

- For wisdom and clarity in decision-making that results in the best support for people in crisis.
- For good relationships among staff and volunteers, and in local partnerships.
- For energy, good health and opportunities to rest and be refreshed.

For the work of the Trussell Trust team:

- For wisdom and insight as we work to serve and resource our food bank network.
- For our data and voice to influence public policy constructively, in a way that increasingly protects people from destitution.
- For a shift in public attitudes to poverty and growing appetite to see a UK without the need for food banks as we emerge from this crisis.

For government, business, church charity, and statutory sector leaders:

- For clarity and guidance as they navigate difficult decisions about how to protect and provide for people, including regarding money and food, in a fast-changing environment.
- Give thanks with us too for the extraordinary generosity, dedication and partnership we have seen at this time, and for the compassion and concern that this reflects.