

Local : 24x7 Prayer July 2020



Upton Vale
BAPTIST CHURCH

Introduction

Welcome to the Upton Vale 24x7 Prayer Week. Prayer is a powerful weapon. This is an inspiring week and we are excited about spending time waiting for God to speak to us and bringing our prayers before Him.

- ❖ This prayer guide is provided to assist you during an hour of prayer with a focus on the local community and the Good News for Torquay project; looking to see how we can be good news to our town. You can choose to follow this either via video or silently by reading the provided guide as a document.
- ❖ Please feel free to use different bible translations to those provided. You will need access to a bible for some aspects of this prayer guide.
- ❖ You can pause this video at any time to pray, focus or perform an activity.

Verse of the week

Our verse for this week is Micah 6:8.

He has shown you, O man & woman, 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.

[NIV]

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Verse for Wednesday

1 Samuel 3:10b - 11

Then Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” And the Lord said to Samuel: “See I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears of it tingle.”

[NIV]

Pause & Be Still (5 mins)

Psalm 37:7 “Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him”

- ❖ Let's leave the busyness of the everyday, put all our thoughts and cares aside and wait with real anticipation to see what God has to say to his church.



Rejoice (10 mins)

❖ Read Psalm 24

*The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;
² for he founded it on the seas
and established it on the waters.*

*³ Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD?
Who may stand in his holy place?*

*⁴ The one who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not trust in an idol
or swear by a false god.^[a]*

*⁵ They will receive blessing from the LORD
and vindication from God their Saviour.*



Rejoice continued...

❖ Psalm 24 continued...

*⁶ Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek your face, God of Jacob. [b][c]*

*⁷ Lift up your heads, you gates;
be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.*

*⁸ Who is this King of glory?
The LORD strong and mighty,
the LORD mighty in battle.*

*⁹ Lift up your heads, you gates;
lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.*

*¹⁰ Who is he, this King of glory?
The LORD Almighty—
he is the King of glory.*



Ask (30 mins)

- ❖ William and Catherine Booth preached to crowds of people in London in the 1860s. This work led to many being saved and to the founding of The Christian Mission, later renamed The Salvation Army. Catherine Booth once said, “To better the future we must disturb the present.” William and Catherine Booth noticed injustice, pain and struggle in the lives of those around them and they took practical action.
- ❖ A full explanation of the Good News to Torquay project has been detailed in a letter to the Church Family, which was sent out by the office on Friday 17th July. If you would like a copy of this, please email community@uptonvale.org.uk



Ask

- ❖ Here, in summary, we are aiming to discern God's will in a project to work out how we as a church in partnership with other churches and organisations in the Bay, encouraging and enabling the project together, can be good news to Torquay. After interviewing different people across many sectors in society, we have established the needs are varied, and we obviously cannot meet every need:
- ❖ **An opportunity** is wide open right now for a professional, collaborative approach. The Administration in the council at the moment is peculiarly open to engage with the church, may not always be. We need to seize this unique moment.
- ❖ **Poverty & deprivation** Child poverty, children going without food in school holidays. Provision of food provides opportunity to connect with families at the same time.
- ❖ **Housing & homelessness** Housing, not just homelessness, makes people vulnerable. Improve current housing stock in terms of quality, supporting those landlords delivering better practice. Those who need to move from problems such as damp accommodation often don't have the huge deposit needed.
- ❖ **Mental health** and individuals' well being - all ages affected.



Ask

- ❖ **Family issues** - poor value system at home level, guidance needed with parenting, children with wide range of problems, vulnerable children in care, drifting youth.
- ❖ The Police & Crime Commissioner regards **pornography** as a root issue in society
- ❖ **Start with children.** All issues get linked back to childhood trauma, family breakdown, domestic abuse, teenage pregnancy, children in care.
- ❖ **Raise aspiration of children and youth** - aim to bring hope, pride, helping each other.
- ❖ **Education & training** is a very important enabler
- ❖ **South Devon College** are keen to expand and develop and might want to re-establish a hub in Torquay town centre
- ❖ **Age group 16-25s**, seem to be a discrete group where there is little or no aspiration and many of them see little or no opportunity when they leave school.



Ask

- ❖ **Brain Drain** - Many of those who are academically bright go away and don't come back - talent leaves Torquay
- ❖ **Need to help without stigma**, so people will accept help.
- ❖ **Aspiration** - lack of aspiration evident all age levels.
- ❖ **Life skills** - need to build life skills and confidence
- ❖ **Business and Enterprise in the Bay** is one of the keys. Transformation won't come to Torquay without finding ways to get money into the Bay.
- ❖ **Need to develop a growing and vibrant economy** - with good jobs and career progression opportunities.
- ❖ **Town centre development is essential** - development is needed because of high street problems and empty shops - create employment, activity around the town.
- ❖ **Encouraging small businesses** is the best way to build vibrant economy.
- ❖ **Elderly population** - isolation, poor transport, bereavement



Ask

- The GNT team would really appreciate your prayers for this project, that they might discern God's will for the way ahead. We need to ask God to show us what he would have us do, who we need to be helping and how, and with whom we should be working to make the project the most effective and efficient. Thank you for your prayers. Please do let us know what you feel God is saying.
- **Prayer:** Where is there injustice, pain and struggle where I live? How can you/we speak justice, mercy & humility into your/our town?
- God, I ask you to disturb me. Help me not to walk on by or look the other way. Move my heart and inspire my mind - what role can I play in Your plans for these people?



Yield (5 mins)

- ❖ Prayer: Thank you Jesus, that you promise in Matthew 25, that whatever I do to love and support those struggling under injustice or poverty today, it's like I'm doing it for you.

'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Matthew 25:40

- ❖ As we yield or say yes to God, are your ears tingling?

Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." And the Lord said to Samuel: "See I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears of it tingle."

1 Samuel 3:10b-11



Yield continued...

As you finish this time of prayer, remember that God hears all our prayers and longs to give us the desires of our hearts. Leave your prayers at His feet and ask that His will be done.

Be still, breathe deeply and thank God for His presence. Release into His hands all that you have prayed for in this hour.



Thank you for joining us in praying during the Upton Vale 24x7 prayer week.

We pray that you have been blessed during this time and that God's presence is with you via his Holy Spirit.