

FRESH VISION

18-25 JAN 2017

**A WEEK OF PRAYER AND FASTING FOR
SOCIAL ACTION - DAILY PRAYER GUIDE**

During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, *together4bristol* and *Christian Action Bristol* have called for a week of prayer and fasting to prepare for transformation of our city through people engaging in social action

Declare a holy fast; call a sacred assembly. Summon the elders and all who live in the land to the house of the LORD your God, and cry out to the LORD. ~ Joel 1:14

Thank you for committing time this week to pray for our city. We would encourage you to provide feedback via the following email address: prayer.t4b@gmail.com

Bristol – City of Hope



FRESH VISION – a week of prayer and fasting for social action 18-25 January 2017

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.

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

DAY 1: WEDNESDAY 18 JANUARY

ADDICTION

Addiction leads to isolation; good relationships are key for recovery

Please pray for:

- Release of fresh hope and desire for lasting change
- Agencies working with addiction and recovery communities
- Fruitful relationships between 12 step fellowships and Christians in Bristol

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Lacking social connections is as great a risk factor for early death as smoking 15 cigarettes a day

Please pray for:

- Increased love and respect across our city
- Contentment, generosity and compassion within our communities
- Wisdom for the many trustees and committee members who lead the 1000+ voluntary and community groups in Bristol

DAY 2: THURSDAY 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 (36%) who have thought about or attempted suicide due to debt
- More volunteers to come forward
- 96% of CAP clients who were surveyed remain debt free after working with CAP

DISABILITY

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 within the context of reduced funding
- Sufficient places for vulnerable adults to attend for therapeutic activities giving respite to long term carers
- Increased opportunities for the church community to contribute to the provision of support and care

DAY 3: FRIDAY 20 JANUARY

ENVIRONMENT CARE

Bristol is one of UK's most polluted cities with a 'substantial number of lives' at risk

Please pray for:

- Emergence of a new Christian Environment Network for Bristol
- For more people to use public transport or bikes more often
- For all Churches to consider switching to electricity from renewable sources

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:

- Continued partnership working between foodbanks across the city to meet increasing needs
- New relationships between foodbanks and supermarkets in South Bristol to give opportunities for people in communities to easily donate food.
- Capacity to give additional support to foodbank clients through debt advice, cooking on a budget courses, fuel-banks and pastoral care

DAY 4: SATURDAY 21 JANUARY

HOMELESSNESS

Bristol has the 2nd highest number of rough sleepers in the UK behind London

Please pray for:

- The developing partnership working across the church and other faith communities with the Council and other agencies
- The Church Based Winter Night Shelter currently in operation
- The church community to participate in the supply of social housing

POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

The Christian community in Bristol seeks to collaborate politically on a national, international and local 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 to network together to see Bristol flourish as a City of Hope

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

DAY 5: SUNDAY 22 JANUARY

PRISON MINISTRY

324 people died in prison in the past year, the highest on record; one third were self-inflicted

Please pray for these issues, and for significant improvements:

- Nationally, there were 32,313 self-harm incidents in 2015 - a 40% rise in just two years
- Boys taken into care as a child are 12 times more likely to go to prison
- 60% of prisoners reoffend within two years of release

REFUGEES

People who have applied for refugee status live on £36.95 per week

Please pray for:

- The needs of those who have sought sanctuary in Bristol especially those facing destitution
- Unaccompanied minors and other new arrivals as they integrate into Bristol
- Volunteers and staff supporting refugees and asylum seekers in local Christian and secular projects

DAY 6: MONDAY 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: TUESDAY 24 JANUARY

VULNERABLE WOMEN

There are an estimated 13,000 victims of trafficking and slavery across the UK

Please pray for:

- Unity against exploitation of women

- Bristol to be a place where slavery is

eliminated

- Bristol to be free of prostitution on the streets and indoors

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: WEDNESDAY 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 as 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 restore hope to this city

- To serve without asking for anything in return

- To work in open partnership with all sectors of city life

- To pray for all aspects of life in this city