



**SALFORD
WEEK OF
PRAYER**

2023 Prayer Guide

Thursday 8 June - Thursday 15 June

Churches in Salford praying and caring together for the city we love

'Seek the peace and prosperity of the city... Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.'

Jeremiah 29:7

What's on this week

Joint Launch Prayer & Worship Service

Thursday 8 June • 7.30pm-9pm
Mount Chapel, Eccles Old Road, M6 7AF

A joint prayer and worship service to start the week.

24/7 Prayer for Salford

Sign up on the website salfordelimchurch.org/swop2023 for one or more remote hourly prayer slots.

Joint Closing Prayer & Worship Service

Thursday 15 June • 7.30pm-9pm
St. James Hope, Eccles Old Road, M6 8EJ

A joint prayer and worship service to close the week

More information, email salfordweekofprayer@hotmail.com

Prayer Walking

As part of our Week of Prayer, we are encouraging churches and individuals to prayer walk around the streets of the city.

What is prayer walking?

When we prayer walk, we are walking with the purpose of listening and speaking to God about what we see. Our aim is to bless our streets in Jesus's name and to see His Kingdom and transformation come in our city.

What does prayer walking look like?

Whilst there are times when God might ask us to do something a bit weird and wonderful as a prophetic act (check out some of the Old Testament prophets!), most of the time we will want to simply walk, pray out loud where possible and look normal doing so! You may wish to pick up litter as a physical demonstration of the transformation that Jesus brings (it's also just a good thing to do!).

Many find it helpful to prayer walk with one or two others and agree a route. This could include the streets near where you live, those you've 'adopted' (visit **Neighbourhood Prayer Network** to do this) and/or the area around your church.

Bibles Verses in Preparation

'I will give you every place where you set your foot'

Joshua 1:3

'If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land'

2 Chronicles 7:14

Top Tips using 'W.A.L.K'

Using the acronym 'WALK' (from **24:7 Prayer**), here are some top tips when prayer walking:

- 1. Worship.** Ensure that you begin walking with your eyes firmly fixed on Jesus. Say the name of Jesus, read Bible verses, sing a worship song, speak in tongues. This will help you declare the Lordship of Jesus over the streets you walk on and remind you that you walk and pray in his strength, not your own.
- 2. Ask.** Pray for local businesses, schools, GPs and hospitals, sports and arts facilities, those in leadership and local governance, parks, people of peace, as well as homes. Keep your eyes open to places and people you might not otherwise have thought to pray for.
- 3. Listen.** As you worship and pray, leave space to listen to what God might want to say to you and then pray in response. This might come in the form of a picture, words, or inspiration from someone else's prayers.
- 4. Know your land.** Pray into specific issues that our communities and streets are facing. Do a bit of research if you are not sure. For detailed information about your particular area of Salford, visit **Ward profiles** (Salford City Council).

Bible Verses to Pray as You Walk

'The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you;
the LORD turn His face toward you and give you peace.'

Numbers 6:24-26

'Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you...
I will make peace your governor and well-being your ruler.
No longer will violence be heard in your land, nor ruin or destruction within your borders,
but you will call your walls Salvation and your gates Praise.'

Isaiah 60:1,17-18

'So this then is how you should pray:
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name,
Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on (say the name of the street/building) as it is in heaven.'

Matthew 6:9-10

May the God of peace bring peace to this house/street.
May the Son of peace bring peace to this house/street.
May the Spirit of peace bring peace to this house/
street,
this day/night and all day/nights.

A Celtic Blessing

Day One: Friday 9 June

Intro: Salford: 37 square miles, 5 districts, a quarter of a million people. A city full of history, culture, industry, beauty, and opportunity. A place, like all others, still reeling from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis which have exacerbated mental and physical health challenges, poverty and inequality. Since 2011, we have endured over 200 million pounds of cuts to local government and Salford is currently the 18th most deprived local council in the country. There is a lack of social/affordable housing and at least 5 primary schools are at risk of going into financial deficit. Furthermore, the rise in living costs, particularly energy prices, has increased reliance on foodbanks/food clubs and may make more people homeless.

The city has spiritual poverty too, with less than half of Salford identifying as 'Christian' and a much lower percentage attending church regularly.

However, Salford is also 'city of contrast'; despite poverty, we also have growth and affluence; both co-exist in the same city.

Orienting Scripture: 'I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.' (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

Whatever our personal political opinions and affiliations, we start our week of prayer by praying for the senior members of our local government who have a vision for 'A fairer, greener and healthier Salford', as well as for Salford's MPs.



Rebecca Long-Bailey MP
Salford and Eccles



Barbara Keeley MP
Worsley and Eccles South



Graham Stringer MP
Blackley and Broughton

What might you want to pray for Paul, Tracy and John as individuals and lead members of their team?

How might you pray for Rebecca, Barbara and Graham as they represent Salford in Parliament?

Each day, we will pray for at least one of the 'Great Eight' priorities our council identified to tackle problems people in Salford are currently facing, and the people working hard to make them a reality.

Priority 1: Tackling poverty and inequality



- Ensuring poverty prevention and reduction is at the heart of everything we do in the city
- Support people currently experiencing poverty through continuation of personalised care to the most vulnerable residents
- Work to reduce inequalities wherever they exist

Pray about the above.

What might you want to pray for Sharmina and Michele?

You could also pray for those working in our local Job Centres, giving debt or benefit advice, food pantries/banks, healthy holiday clubs, as well as for local employers to offer fair and secure working contracts and conditions.

Some specific examples you could pray for are:
Salford Food Parcels, Salford Foodbank and Mustard Tree.

How might God use you to be part of the answer to your prayers, in your family, your street, your workplace, your church?



Day Two: Saturday 10 June

Orienting Scripture: 'Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.' (3 John 1:2)

Priority 2: Tackling health inequalities and providing the best possible care:



- Ensuring access to mental health care and support
- Ensuring children and young people are safe and have the best possible start in life
- Strengthening our unified model of health and care, including a valued care workforce

Pray about the above.

What might you want to pray for Mishal?

You could also pray for staff, volunteers and carers who work in the health sector: doctors, nurses and hospital support staff, counsellors, psychologists, mentors and community support workers, mental health charities and care home staff, to name a few. Pray too for God's miraculous healing for those for whom all else has failed and for people still suffering from the effects of Covid 19.

Some specific examples you could pray for are:
Caritas, Citywall and Salford Royal's Chaplaincy Team.

How might God use you to be part of the answer to your prayers, in your family, your street, your workplace, your church?

Day Three: Sunday 11 June

Orienting Scripture: 'My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest'. (Isaiah 32:18)

Priority 3: Affordable housing and reducing homelessness:



- Continue efforts to reduce homelessness and rough sleeping
- Strengthen our commitment to provide decent and affordable social housing including through the council's own ethical housing company Derive

Pray about the above.

What might you want to pray for Wilson?

You could also pray for local housing associations and building contractors, organisations providing support and emergency relief for the homeless, refugees or asylum seekers.

Some specific examples you could pray for are:
Manchester City Mission, Embassy-Village and Emmaus.

How might God use you to be part of the answer to your prayers, in your family, your street, your workplace, your church?

On this Sabbath day, we pray for The Church in Salford and for a Spiritual Awakening in Salford:

- For increased unity in prayer and practical ministry.
- For our love for both God and people to increase.
- For God's Spirit to revitalise leaders and volunteers for this next season.
- For individual Christians to be ambassadors of Christ in their homes, neighbourhood, workplaces and churches.
- For boldness and humility as we share the gospel
- For a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit
- For God's kingdom to come and his will to be done in Salford
- For many more people to come to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.



Day Four: Monday 12 June

Oriente Scripture: The LORD God said, "It is not good for man to be alone..." (Genesis 2:18)

Priority 4: Promoting transport and digital connectivity:



- Support the development the cycling and walking network across the city

- Lobby for further investment in a connected public transport system, including extension of the GM Metrolink and GM bus franchising

- Invest in our digital infrastructure and skills to ensure no resident or business in the city is digitally excluded

Pray about the above.

What might you want to pray for Mike?

You could also pray for those who work in road maintenance and safety, bus, tram and train workers, internet service providers and telecommunication installation and maintenance, as well as agencies teaching I.T. skills, especially the elderly, to remain connected in a digital age.

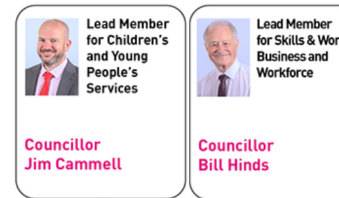
Thank God for the accessibility of digital means of connection during the past few years and the positive changes to churches, workplaces and families as a result.

How might God use you to be part of the answer to your prayers, in your family, your street, your workplace, your church?

Day Five: Tuesday 13 June

Oriente Scripture: 'The mind of the prudent acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge. (Proverbs 18:15)

Priority 5: Skills and education (A Learning City):



- Develop skills pipelines and a connected education system to link people to new job opportunities in productive growth sectors in the city

- Supporting young people to continue with their education in high quality and safe settings

- Support the transition of young people and recently unemployed into decent and sustainable jobs, focusing on growth sectors in the Salford and GM economy

- Support business development and innovation for the creation of new jobs and employment

opportunities

Pray about the above.

What might you want to pray for Jim, Teresa and Bill?

You may also want to pray for the teachers, support staff and governors of Salford's schools, colleges and university, as well as those providing alternative educational provision in a range of settings. Pray for parents to be good examples to their children and for the many pre-school and after-school providers across the city.

Some specific examples you could pray for are:
Transforming Lives for Good, Greater Manchester Youth Network and The Chaplaincy team at Salford College.

How might God use you to be part of the answer to your prayers, in your family, your street, your workplace, your church?

Day Six: Wednesday 14 June

Orienting Scripture: 'All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had'. (Acts 4:32)

Priority 6: Creating an economy for all:



- Maintain confidence to invest and develop in the city, focussed on our strategic opportunities and sectors and provide foundations for inclusive economic growth

- Maximise the social value and impact from our role as an anchor institution, including by prioritising local suppliers and local supply chains

wherever possible, and committing to a strengthened Salford Social Value Alliance and 10% Better Campaign

- Supporting the development of alternative economic models and community wealth building to support residents to benefit from the local economy

- Lobby for a fair funding settlement for Salford to guarantee effective public services

Pray about the above.

What might you want to pray for Jack?

You may also want to pray for those who work in the financial sector; that they will invest wisely, advise sensibly and be good stewards of money and resources.

Pray for healthy attitudes towards material wealth and the desire to be generous with those who have less.

Some specific examples you could pray for are:
Christians Against Poverty Centres at GoChurch and FaithLife Centre

How might God use you to be part of the answer to your prayers, in your family, your street, your workplace, your church?



Day Seven: Thursday 15 June

Oriente Scripture: 'God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.'(Genesis 1:28)

Priority 7: Tackling the climate emergency:



- Secure investment and development in green spaces and green infrastructure across the city, including electric vehicle charging points, affordable energy
- Encourage active travel and improvements in air quality

- Invest in green skills and green economic sectors to strengthen the city's future economic resilience

Pray about the above.

What might you want to pray for Jane?

Priority 8: Creating vibrant places and spaces:



- Deliver commitments within the city's new Culture Strategy, including creation of a Salford Heritage Commission to support the city's vibrant cultural assets



- Ensure local access to, and benefit from, the city's world class cultural assets such as the Lowry and RHS Bridgewater

- Build on the city's strong voluntary, community and social enterprise sector to build resilient community support and ensure Salford is a supportive and safe place

- Create and support vibrant neighbourhood centres at the heart of their local community

Pray about the above.

What might you want to pray for Barbara, David and Hannah?

Thank God for the mass of green spaces, beautiful parks and diverse cultural experiences in Salford – pray we will each play our part in supporting and maintaining such local amenities. Pray for churches and other third sector agencies who provide places of welcome, safety and relationship.

Pray for increased confidence in accessing community provision for those who have felt isolated over the past few years, especially the elderly and those with poor mental health.

Some specific examples you could pray for are:
The Vine Community Hub, Lifecentre, The Lighthouse Community Hub on the Brookhouse Estate.

How might God use you to be part of the answer to your prayers, in your family, your street, your workplace, your church?

Share and Encourage Others

It would be really encouraging to hear stories of your experiences this week, any encounters you may have had as you've prayer walked, and what you feel God might have spoken to you.

Do let us know by email:
salfordweekofprayer@hotmail.com





For more information about Salford Week of Prayer 2023 and to sign up for prayer slots, visit salfordelimchurch.org/swop2023 or scan the QR code below.

