



A Week of Prayer

**25th–30th
June 2018**

**for the Ministries of St John's,
Riverside and St Faith's**

and the Expansion of the Newland Christian Centre

"Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain." (Ps 127:1)



How to use this prayer diary

This prayer diary is intended to help fuel our prayers for the ministries of the different congregations and to focus our prayers on the refurbishment of the former bank which has been bought by the Newland Christian Trust and its integration into an expanded Newland Christian Centre. Each day includes information about different ministries, what to pray for them and how the new facilities will impact their work.

We hope everyone will join in prayer, both in their quiet times at home and at special events during the week (for details see the back cover).

The week will culminate on Sunday 1 July with a Gift Day.

Opening Prayer

Most gracious heavenly Father,

We bless and thank you that you are the Father of lights and that every good gift comes from your generous hand.

We especially thank you for the inestimable gift of your Son and the outpouring of your Holy Spirit upon us. In Jesus Christ we see that you are both the Giver and the Gift.

We are your children and we want to walk in the footsteps of our Saviour and imitate our heavenly Father. So we ask that our hearts would be moved to great generosity towards the work of the Newland Christian Trust, which you have singularly used to great effect over the years to promote the work of the Gospel in this Parish and beyond. We ask that you would continue and expand this work so that many more people will be saved and your Son supremely glorified.

All these things we ask for His dear name's sake. Amen

Melvin Tinker
Vicar

A Message from our Vicar

St John's is a growing church – and for that we give thanks to God. But growth brings its own problems and our existing accommodation is proving inadequate. Last autumn, the Newland Christian Trust bought the former HSBC bank at 550 Beverley Road, next door to the Newland Christian Centre, to provide a solution.

The plan is to make the old bank and the existing Newland Christian Centre into an integrated and enlarged Centre. It is essential that this work is completed as soon as possible, not only to enable our present work – in all its facets and across all ages – but it is crucial to provide a central base of operation for us as a church in the future.

Things are now moving very fast. In July we expect to go out to tender for the building work, with a view to starting work in September.

The cost of converting and equipping the expanded Centre is estimated at £300,000, and the majority of this will have to be raised within our own church family at St John's, Riverside and St Faith's. The size of the task ahead of us is not to be taken lightly, but I believe with God all things are possible. We all now need to consider prayerfully what part God would have us play in this project and how we might be able to help to meet this pressing need. God has provided us with a building – the timing of it becoming available was astonishing. The challenge for us now is to respond by completing the task and having the building up and running for God's work as quickly as we can.

If funds are not available – or if we are not confident that they will be when payments for the work become due – we will not be able to enter into a contract and the commencement of building work will be delayed.

So please join me both in praying for the building project and the ministries which use the Centre, and in giving, so that this important building work can begin. We are holding a special Gift Day on Sunday 1 July and we will announce the following week how much has been raised.

Melvin Tinker

Introduction

If we want God to use us individually and as a church, we need to be people who depend on Him more in prayer. John Piper wrote in 'Let the Nations be Glad':

"Not only has God made the accomplishment of his purposes hang on the preaching of the Word, but he has also made the success of that preaching hang on prayer. God's goal to be glorified will not succeed without the powerful proclamation of the gospel. And that gospel will not be proclaimed in power to all the nations without the prevailing, earnest, faith-filled prayers of God's people."

Read Romans 15:30-33

We need to pray rightly – praying with the right motivation, the right mind-set, the right understanding and the right relationship.

To pray rightly – pray for the Lord's work with the right motivation:

We have great needs and a great God. Paul writes: *"I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf"*. His needs always drove Paul to his knees.

To pray rightly – pray for the Lord's work with the right mind-set:

Prayer is warfare. Paul urges us *"to strive together with me in your prayers"*. Prayer is one of the weapons in our arsenal as we wage war against the evil one. So, we struggle, strive, wrestle and fight in prayer.

To pray rightly – pray for the Lord's work with the right understanding:

Prayer is powerful, but we must submit to God's sovereign will. Paul asks them to pray: *"that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints"*. Paul knew that the power of God was able to change his circumstances but always submitted to the Lord's will whatever his situation.

To pray rightly – pray for the Lord's work with the right relationship:

"The God of peace be with you all". We should know God's peace in the midst of anxious circumstances as we bring our requests to Him in thankful prayer.

May our prayers be used mightily by the Lord this week for the building of His kingdom and the glory of His name.

Scott McKay
Associate Minister

Monday – Children and Families Work

Children and families are an important part of our work. We run groups for children and young people from 0 to 18 on Sundays and throughout the week, where we teach them about God from the Bible in fun and engaging ways. We also take the Gospel into local schools.

Please pray:

- Give thanks for the growing number of children and families who are part of our church at St John's and Riverside. Pray for spiritual growth in all the children, and for what they learn to affect their hearts, so they are delighted by Jesus and value him above all other 'treasures'.
- Praise God for the many committed children and youth leaders. Pray that God would grow them in their love for Him and for the children. Pray they would model what it looks like to live with Jesus as Lord and Saviour.
- Please pray for the two Holiday Clubs coming up in the summer. Pray that God will bring many children along to them, that His hand will be over all the practicalities, and there will be Gospel fruit from these mission opportunities.
- At St John's we have increased the number of our Sunday groups from five to six. Give thanks for the space the new building will provide for these groups. Pray that the new building will be a safe and suitable space where the children can have fun and learn about God.
- The new building will provide a better space for activities such as Toddler Group, Mini Music and our mid-week clubs. Pray that children and families will use it to invite their friends along to different groups. Pray their friends will find a warm welcome in these groups.
- The new space will give us opportunities to welcome more people, and thus engage more people with the Gospel. Pray we will be outward-looking and we will make the best use of the space.

Tuesday – Internationals

We welcome students from overseas and refugees from different parts of the world, offering friendship within the family of our church and help in feeling at home in this country.

Please pray:

- For the many missionaries we support and the work they are involved in throughout the world. (The recent prayer booklet will give information of what to pray.)
- That we will see more internationals attending our English as a Second Language (ESL) classes in the NCC and that we will be able to befriend them and make the most of opportunities to share the Gospel. Give thanks for all the volunteers at ESL, pray that their conversations will be helpful and fruitful, and that they will continue to be generous in their service to those who attend the classes.
- Praise God for the many refugees we have as part of the church family at St John's. Thank the Lord for the many acts of kindness shown by others in the church family to our brothers and sisters who have come to us from foreign lands.
- For wisdom and accuracy for Innocent as he translates the service sheets and Irambona as he translates during services. We want these initiatives to result in the good of God's people and His glory.
- That we will be able to buy a minibus, and praise God for the generosity and service of all those who regularly give lifts to families.
- Pray that Globe Café will continue to be a place where internationals are welcomed and cared for and where the Gospel is lived and proclaimed. Ask God to grant salvation for those who attend.
- Give thanks for the African service that meets on Sunday afternoons in the NCC. Pray this will be a time of real fellowship around the Word of God.

Wednesday – Riverside and St Faith's

Peter Birnie leads the Riverside and St Faith's congregations, with the assistance of Kay Hampton, Ministry Assistant.

Please pray:

- Give thanks for God's faithfulness to Riverside church in providing all that was needed over the last year and for the many people who work hard on the different rotas. Pray that their love for Jesus will grow as they serve him and one another.
- Praise God for those who have recently come to faith and ask Him to grow them in love for His word and obedience to His will.
- Praise God that we see some of the men making progress in leadership at Riverside.
- Give thanks for Kay and her great work with the children and young people. Pray that God will continue to provide good leaders for that ministry. Ask God to give them a deep love for the children by his Holy Spirit.
- Pray for the many unsaved contacts that we have as a church and ask the Lord to use the family services to draw people to Himself as they hear the Gospel.
- Thank God for the faithfulness of the congregation at St Faith's and pray that they will grow in their grasp of the Gospel and their desire to share it with the people of Dunswell.
- Pray for our minister, Peter, to have wisdom and godly ambition as he reflects on his first year in post and makes plans for the year ahead.

Thursday – Students and Teenagers

We have significant numbers of teenagers who attend activities on a Sunday and during the week. In addition, as St John's is close to Hull University, many students are part of our church family. Our student ministry is known as Rooted in Christ and includes Bible studies, social events and evangelistic activities, as we seek to build each other up and reach out to non-Christians.

Please pray:

- Give thanks for the students and teenagers that God has brought to St John's and Riverside. Praise Him for many Christians who are seeking to live for Jesus at school, college and university.
- That there would be a deeper sense of urgency among the students and teenagers for their non-Christian friends and an increase in their zeal for evangelism.
- That they would grow in their godliness and love for the Lord.
- That our increased presence on Beverley Road will help us reach Christian and non-Christian freshers and facilitate more work amongst the students at the university.
- For a suitable space in the new building which will provide a student/youth friendly environment where we can seek to disciple them and help them grow in their love and understanding of God, his Word, each other and the lost.
- That the new building will provide a space with a more suitable environment to run young people's groups, which will help the teenagers invite their friends along and build relationships, with the aim of reaching them with the Gospel.
- For the Lord's provision in providing a kitchen so that we can run evangelistic events that involve good food, which is a big pull for this group!

Friday – Seniors and The Newland Christian Trust

The Newland Christian Trust: The Trust is in a season of growth and development in our support of Gospel activities. This is exciting as there is an element of risk which challenges our faith, but also builds our confidence in God as we see Him at work.

Please pray:

- Praise God that the movement of much of our planned giving to the Trust went smoothly, enabling us to have a clearer financial picture.
- Thank God for all our trustees and the two new appointments.
- For wisdom as we review our objectives to meet future needs and consider staffing requirements.
- For wisdom as we plan the budget and that the Lord will provide for all our needs.

Seniors: We try to provide ways for those affected by old age, ill health or infirmity to remain active members of the church and we provide practical help and support.

Please pray:

- For an increased hunger among our seniors to pray together, and for more opportunities for additional smaller prayer meetings that they can get to and hear well.
- Praise God for the many faithful retired members, and pray that there would be good links with younger generations who can benefit from their Godly wisdom.
- That as a church we can help meet one another's practical needs, especially among our older members.
- Give thanks for the Holiday at Home event, and for the many guests who were invited. Pray that there would be opportunities for follow-up conversations about Christ.
- Pray for Geoff at St John's and Isobel and Martin at Riverside as they seek to co-ordinate work with the over 60s to build them up in the faith and to reach out to unbelieving friends and family.

Saturday – The Building Project

We are fine-tuning the details of building plans and appointing contractors. We hope to go out to tender for the building contractors in July and, subject to funds being available, to begin work in September. We expect the project to take up to 26 weeks to complete.

Please pray:

- Give thanks for God's provision of the new building and for His timing.
- Give thanks for the monies received so far, for the generous donations which enabled us to buy this building and pay the professional fees to date, and pray that funds will be provided to complete the work.
- Pray for wisdom for those making decisions about what to cut from the plans to remain within budget.
- Pray for the work of the architects, the engineers and all those who will work on our behalf, and for the selection of the building contractor.
- Pray that, when completed, the building will be well used and bring glory to God.
- Pray that, until the conversion is completed, we will be able accommodate our overflowing meetings safely and practically.
- Prayerfully consider how you can help, asking God to dispose our hearts to generosity.

Giving to the Building Project

During the Week of Prayer (and beyond), we hope each of us in the family at St John's, Riverside and St Faith's will consider how we can support the Building Project. At the end of the week, on our Gift Day on 1 July, there will be an opportunity to give towards the work. The following Sunday, we will announce how much was raised and whether we are in a position to sign a contract for the building work to begin.

You could support the Building Project in one or several ways:

- Make a one-off transfer of funds electronically.
- Make a one-off donation by cheque or cash.
- Pledge a one-off payment(s) at a later date(s).
- Give regularly.

In all cases, even if you are not giving immediately, please complete the green giving slip, place it in a special Gift Day envelope and put it in the collection bags on the Gift Day, or hand it as soon as possible afterwards to Allan Smith (the Newland Christian Trust Treasurer), c/o the church office, or to one of the ministers. This will enable us to plan ahead.

If you want to give regularly, or at a future date, please also complete one of the yellow giving forms.

Gift Aid: If you are a UK taxpayer and you are eligible to do so, do please 'Gift Aid' your donation. This enables us to reclaim 25p of tax for every £1 that you give. If you haven't already done so, there is a Gift Aid declaration that you can sign on the green giving slip.

Please contact the Trust Treasurer to discuss the most effective way you can give, or if you plan to give in several different ways. For example, some people may find, when they add together all their giving in this tax year, that it is greater than the amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax they have paid. In these circumstances, they could maximise the amount we can reclaim in Gift Aid if they split their donation over more than one tax year. The Trust Treasurer will be able to advise.

Prayer Events – 25-30 June

As well as praying at home, there will be opportunities during the week for us to pray together as a church.

Each day we will focus on a different aspect of the churches' life. Meetings will be led by those heading up these areas.

Prayer diary

Day	Time	Prayer Focus
Mon 25	9-9.30 am	Children and Family work (in Church)
Tues 26	11-11.30 am	International work (in Church)
Wed 27	8-9 pm	St John's, Riverside and St Faith's (in Church) <i>repeated on Thursday</i>
Thur 28	10-11 am	St John's, Riverside and St Faith's (in the NCC) <i>repeated from Wednesday</i>
Thur 28	7.30-8 pm	Students and Teenagers (NCC)
Fri 29	12.30-1 pm	Newland Christian Trust and Seniors (NCC)
Sat 30	8.30-9.00 am	The Building Project (NCC)

The week will culminate in a Gift Day on Sunday 1 July.

Please continue to use this diary over the coming weeks and months to pray for the ministry of St John's, Riverside and St Faith's.

For more information about the Building Project, please go to the 'Building' tab at: www.stjohnnewland.org.uk.