



New Creation Churches

August 2020

Prayer Diary

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

Matthew 7: 7

“Knock and the door will be opened to you”

As the LOCKDOWN restrictions are gradually eased I have been thinking about ‘Opening the Door’ both from a pandemic situation but also a spiritual one. I was reminded of the words of Charles Wesley in his hymn 'Come Holy Ghost our hearts inspire' and to the words "Unlock the truth, Thyself the key"

The other night about ten in the evening there was a sudden ring at the bell- I'd locked up for the night and turned the lights off. With some trepidation I carefully unlocked the door turned the handle and keeping my foot against it slowly opened it and peered out. Nobody!.... just a little late-delivered Amazon parcel on the step!!

We are all aware of the gradual process of relaxing the Lockdown we have been going through and that the future is still very uncertain. Some are afraid its too soon, some frustrated its too slow - some are very anxious... other determined to get out and on with things. Some want to get the church open as soon as possible, others want to wait until we are back to normal. (whatever normal can ever mean again?)

I came across these - rather obvious I thought - instructions for opening a door :- Turn the key - pull down the handle - open carefully.

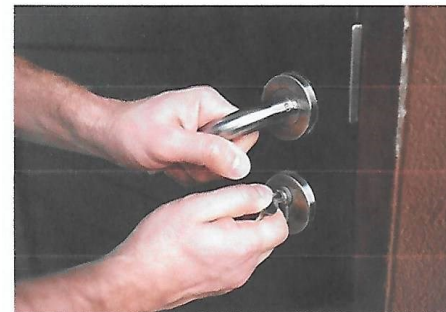
A PRAYER

Lord - turning the key means letting go of my self- security and trusting who's on the other side. I know I can often get locked-down in my fears, guilt, tradition etc. Give me the faith to allow Christ in and let go of those things that make me - not secure - but a prisoner.

Lord - as I turn the handle I know I am still in control - more vulnerable, but in control. Who is on the other side. Can I trust them? I know that sometimes my response to Jesus is hesitating. I need the assurance of the words- '*unlock the truth, thyself the key*'. I can turn the handle because I trust in Jesus.

Lord -Trusting Jesus and with the assurance of his truth I want to fling wide the door, but perhaps I need to do it slowly - I need forgiveness, healing, understanding? There are so many fears at the moment; people being freed with great enthusiasm, becoming irresponsible and selfish unthinking and arrogant. The door from Lockdown needs to be opened gently - cautiously. Lord, as I open my heart and life to Jesus once again, lead me gently through the door of my fears into the freedom of your love and a new beginning. AMEN

Rev Steve Marr



Instructions to Unlock and Open

Unlock—

Pull down the handle –

open gently

Bible Verses

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

Revelation 3: 20

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3: 5—6

Those who know your name trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you.

Psalm 9: 10

ANSWERS TO PRAYER FROM PREVIOUS MONTH'S DIARIES:

- We continue to give thanks for the way the local communities have responded to the current situation looking after the most vulnerable.
- Generosity in donations to the Foodbank.

A reminder of what the Prayer Diary is about:

The prayer diary reminds us to pray each day for a person in the church, a street or organisation, and a diary event, and informs and directs our prayers, underpinning and supporting the day-to-day work of the churches in Banwell and Congresbury. The Diary is circulated to St Andrew's electoral roll in both Anglican churches and Congresbury Methodist members.

Please keep it in a handy place to use each day - it is designed to stick on the fridge with a magnet, or to fold to go in a book or bag etc.

The aim is that once every five months every person in the churches, each village & church organisation / group & each village street will be prayed for. **If you have not yet been included (and wish to be) please contact Congresbury Church Office (01934 833126).**

YOUR FEEDBACK IS WANTED

We would welcome any feedback and news of prayer answers / requests. Please contact the Congresbury Church Office (01934 833126) with your suggestions, answers to prayer, and any specific prayer requests. *Please could you get these to the Church Office by 20th August. Thank you.*

Current Prayer Diary Editorial team: David Ashton-Hilton, Mo Barber, Avril Chadwick, Liz Cran, Grace Isaac, Sonya Stocker and Ian Stocker, Rosemary West

New Creation churches -Prayer During the Day

O Lord, open our lips and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

This is the day that the Lord has made

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

(Psalm 51.15, Ps 118.24)

As we recall God's faithfulness we pray:

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. *(Lam 3:22-23)*

The Word of God

*the **psalm for today** is in this month's Prayer Diary.*

*The **Bible readings for today** are in this month's Prayer Diary.*

Response *silence and a time for individual reflection*

Prayers

please use today's entry in the prayer diary to guide your intercessions

The New Creation Prayer:

Loving God, you are one-

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, united in peace.

Unite our two traditions and village communities into one body- your body, and sustain our rich diversity we pray.

We give you thanks for your commitment to your people of every age and place.

We ask for your help to fulfil our commitment to you and each other.

Grant us your peace, that we might grow in patience and humility, and help us to leave behind all that might hinder our unity as we walk with you.

Enable us, by your Spirit, to work together in peace in a new way,

to love our neighbours as ourselves and to honour Christ as Lord. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer is said

The Conclusion

Bind unto yourself the name, the strong name of the Trinity;

by invocation of the same,

the Three in One and One in Three.

Of whom all nature hath creation,

Eternal Father, Spirit, Word:

praise the Lord of your salvation,

salvation is of Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

(St Patricks breastplate prayer)

If you would like to join with others in saying daily prayer, please see Pew News for details for the coming month.