

Authority as an additional safety net for the provision of free school meals to children and young people during Covid-19. Pray that this help would reach the vulnerable young people in our community. Pray that enough volunteers would come forward to make this important service possible.

SUN 24 Commit to God in prayer Sam and Frank as they preach this morning and evening.

MON 25 Pray for relationships within households – that the added pressures will not lead to fractured or damaged relationships, and that the huge increase in domestic abuse that has been reported will be reversed.

TUE 26 Pray for all our Guides and the leaders as they pray for and communicate with the girls. Pray also for wisdom and guidance for the various levels of the Guides, both locally and nationally, as they try to manage the current circumstances and prepare for the future.

WED 27 Continue to pray for all our Ministry Team – for Frank, Sam, Elizabeth and Michael and for all our elders, as they seek to lead and

support the congregation at this time. Ask God to grant His wisdom for all they do, and also pray for His care and protection for their well-being.

THURS 28 Planning for the next academic year has begun at Union College, but planning for the longer term future of the college has not been helped by the current situation. Pray for all those who have to make difficult decisions in a very uncertain situation.

FRI 29 Thank God for the opportunities He has provided for sharing the Gospel in our community in ways we could never have imagined before the crisis. Give thanks for our children and the posters that were delivered to the Arches. Others have been distributed in food parcels. Pray that God will provide more opportunities to explain our faith in deed and in our conversations.

SAT 30 Pray for the mental health and well-being of people – whether because of effects of, or anxiety due to, the virus or the isolation and strain of lockdown measures.

SUN 31 Remember Frank and Sam in prayer as they speak for our morning and evening services. Give thanks for all those involved in preparing the music and praise.

BLOOMFIELD PRAYER DIARY May 2020

Ps 4 v 1 “Be merciful to me, and hear my prayer”.

FRI 1 Pray for Helen Lyttle in Japan and for all her work with OMF. Pray that she will be able to introduce video conferencing with a small group of women from the Lighthouse Church and that there will be a real sense of enthusiasm from the women for this.

SAT 2 Remember particularly the Arches care home staff and residents in prayer. Pray for God’s continuing blessing and protection on everyone there – especially the staff who are working long shifts to bring love and care to the most vulnerable people in our community.

SUN 3 Pray for Frank as he preaches at our live streamed morning service, and for Sam who will speak for the evening series. Continue to give thanks for all the technology enabling us to hear God’s word preached at this time.

MON 4 Pray for all our teachers – and especially for discernment, guidance and

peace in having to organise and sort out the grading of GCSE’s and A Levels. As teachers face this unprecedented task some anxiety, pray that they will be able to get all the work done on time and achieve appropriate and accurate results for their pupils.

TUE 5. Ask God to grant wisdom to all our political, medical and scientific leaders as they seek to take difficult decisions during this time of crisis. Pray also for stamina for them and for protection for their physical and mental health.

WED 6 Give thanks for so many people listening through YouTube or Facebook to church services or linking into Zoom church gatherings. Pray that people who are searching or are becoming interested in Christianity or church will continue once the pandemic ends.

THURS 7 Continue to pray for all those working in the frontline of medical and care services – whether in hospitals, GP surgeries or in the community, in care homes or as domiciliary care workers. Pray for strength, stamina and protection for them all – and also that they will be provided

with the appropriate protective clothing and equipment.

FRI 8 Pray especially for our partner churches in Rwanda and Moldova – that those who are suffering financially due to the coronavirus restrictions will have enough food, medical supplies and shelter, and that the churches there will be able to provide both practical and spiritual support.

SAT 9. Continue to pray for all the Charis families and other children with special needs. Pray that the Charis children and parents will get access to the support they need. Pray for sustained ability for parents to provide structure for the children's days at home and for appropriate activities. Pray that schools will have wisdom as to the best way to support parents, to engage children and to provide work that is achievable, sustainable and interesting.

SUN 10 Remember Sam and Michael in prayer as they preach for this morning and evening respectively. Pray also that the Kidzone material online will be of great benefit to all the children, and give thanks for all those who have so faithfully put it together.

MON 11 Give thanks for our BB and the faithfulness of the leaders keeping up

communication with the boys and upholding them in prayer. Pray also for wisdom and guidance for the various levels of the BB locally and nationally as they seek to manage the current circumstances and prepare for the future.

TUE 12 Pray particularly for those who are living alone or who are in isolation at this time, that they will not feel lonely, and will receive good practical, emotional and spiritual support.

WED 13 Pray for arrangements for student assessment at Union College, as exams have had to be cancelled. Pray that the new arrangements will be robust and fair but also sensitive to students' anxieties.

THURS 14 Pray especially for anyone known to us who is suffering from Covid-19- that they will receive appropriate medical care and that they will be restored to full health.

FRI 15 Continue to pray for all the scientists working to obtain a safe and effective vaccine. Pray that their research and tests will be timely, safe, ethical and capable of being produced into a workable vaccine to help many. Pray also for co-operation which will transcend national or political boundaries.

SAT 16 Thank God for the volunteers, including members of Bloomfield, who comprise the

East Belfast Coronavirus Community Support Team, and the tireless effort they make in bringing practical support to vulnerable members of our community. Pray for their protection and that the Holy Spirit will use their work to heal our fractured land.

SUN 17 Pray for Frank and Drew as they speak for the morning and evening services respectively. Also pray for all those involved behind the scenes, especially those ensuring that the technology works to deliver these services and talks.

MON 18 Continue to pray for furloughed workers and for any businesses which are struggling. Pray that businesses will be able to re-open without many job losses, and that our economy will soon be functioning again with people's livelihoods protected.

TUE 19 Pray especially for Muslims on this their Night of Power during Ramadan. Many will spend the whole night in prayer and will often have dreams and visions. Pray that through this many Muslims will be led to Christians who can share their faith. Pray for Christian believers to have courage and the right words to share their faith with Muslims. Pray also for our Kirk Session

meeting by Zoom tonight – that God will grant each member His guidance for all that is said and done.

WED 20 Pray for those suffering from other illnesses and conditions during this crisis. Pray especially that they will get their appropriate surgeries or treatments at the right time, and that their medical needs will not be sidelined due to the virus.

THURS 21 As the OMF Japan Field Medical Advisor has gone, pray that God will grant OMF Japan the miracle of a new medic to bring much appreciated medical support and advice to all the missionaries. Pray also that the entire OMF Japan team will be faithful to their calling and be the people God wants them to be for such a time as this.

FRI 22 Pray for all other key workers at this time – for all those working in shops, deliveries of supplies, refuse collection, infrastructure or emergency services to name but a few. Pray for their health and protection and that essential services will continue to be provided.

SAT 23 Pray for the Eat Well, Live Well Programme delivered by the Education