



TOGETHER4BRISTOL PRAYER UPDATE: EASTER 2021

Hi everyone

Happy Easter!

Here are a few examples of the Christian community **working together** across the Bristol region in the last few months, with **Praise** for what has happened recently (especially in an amazing response to COVID-19) and **Prayer and Action** for the next part of 2021.

Please pass these on to your contacts, to encourage them and for prayer!

PRAISE POINTS

We thank God for:

1. The new Together4Bristol (T4B) website, helping the WHOLE Christian community to work together in unity to be good news in the WHOLE of life in the Bristol region. And for two films which have had a big impact: Carols for Bristol, with nearly 8000 views, and Bristol Remembers to mark the first anniversary of the start of lockdown.
2. The Bristol Churches Winter Night Shelter and for a grant, which covered the extra B&B costs this year and for the involvement of 14 churches and many volunteers.
3. The Christian community's response in Bristol to COVID-19, for example through 300 volunteers from 67 churches, supporting isolated and vulnerable people in the community. For more details, see the Noise website. Also for Noise 365 which takes the vision of showing God's love in practical ways into every day of the year. We pray for The Noise 2021, with small practical projects taking place across Bristol over the May Bank Holiday weekend (1st to 3rd May).
4. The Politics and Social Action sphere, called Christian Action Bristol (CAB), which led the Christian community's response, including to food poverty. As this film shows, the overall response was extraordinary.
5. The amazing response from CAB and the Family sphere, to the need for emergency fostering, with over 60 households from the Christian community volunteering. See Home for Good and this film.
6. The Keyboard Trust networker, Carmen Carroll, connecting with over 40 black-led churches in the region, with recent Zoom events such as: "Is the Vaccine Safe?" and (in collaboration with the Health sphere) "Caring for the Carers". Contact keyboardnetworker@gmail.com.
7. The Bristol Housing Festival team. Praise God for the release of the Archbishop's Commission into Housing, Church and Community report, Coming Home and pray for the follow-on plan.
8. Continual prayer by T4B's prayer networks (Arise Bristol!), through WhatsApp groups, Zoom calls and over the hills around Bristol, throughout the COVID-19 crisis. For the regular prayer gatherings (recently on Zoom) for the Business, Education, Health, and Family spheres.
9. The Arts sphere, or Kingdom Creatives. Since the COVID-19 crisis, Erica Bebb has connected and mentored about 50 creatives, including with regular Zoom calls. Praise God for the work of the original core team, for the new steering group, for leading and provision. Also for various projects, such as a prayer and fast seeking God's heart for the creative arts. For more background, including the concept of the "dome" and a map of projects, read here
10. The Family sphere's (Love Family) use of online courses, such as from the National Parenting

Initiative. For more information, contact t4b.family@gmail.com

PRAYER and ACTION POINTS

We pray for:

1. Wide distribution of the Manifesto from the Faith community for 6th May 2021 Mayoral election and for the Faith community's Hustings (details tbc). We pray for peace over the election period. See the Statement of the Chair of T4B in response to the recent violent protests in Bristol. From 6th April, the One Church, One Day prayer initiative will cover the city in continual prayer until the election. For more information contact the Crawleys: silasandannie@gmail.com
2. Even greater engagement with the council by the Christian community, led by CAB, which helps the Christian community engage with the City Office (over 40 from the Christian community were involved at the March One City Gathering of nearly 400 people), to help Bristol move away from being a "tale of two cities" towards a One City Vision by 2050 and to help build a City of Hope.
3. Churches' online services to continue to have a wide impact across the city as they emerge from lockdown and find out best ways of gathering again in person.
4. Financial support to ensure there is a sustainable supply of food for the network of Foodbanks across the city and also for the work of Transforming Lives for Good (TLG) to provide mentors in schools for vulnerable pupils. Donate through the Bristol Churches City Fund. Thank God for over £130k raised in 2020!
5. The Education sphere and Bristol Schools Connection, working with CAB and the council, to help churches connect with Transforming Lives for Good (TLG) to provide mentors in 40 schools. Support is also being provided to address digital exclusion, with 10 churches identified as locations for donating laptops by the public for onward transfer to disadvantaged children and young people. See Laptop Donations – DigiLocal
6. New ways for the Christian community to connect, such as through Zoom. This includes for the church leaders' prayer breakfast with the Mayor, on May 13th 7am to 8am. If you are a church leader, contact Roger Allen (see below) to be added to the invitation list.
7. The Bristol Housing Festival team's growing partnerships across the region, such as Homes *not* Houses, focused on the vital role of the local church in providing homes (move-on housing) for those affected by homelessness. InHope explain it in more detail here. And the partnership with BBRC and Elim Housing Association, which hopes to work with faith groups who want to use their land for affordable housing in the city. You can read more about it here.
9. The Health sphere's weekly Zooms for encouraging creativity, for healing and for the growing Healing Centre Project. For Bristol Healing Rooms' Wednesday afternoon prayer session from 12.30pm and two healing homes on Tuesday nights from 19.30pm and Saturday mornings from 10.30am. All meetings are now online with Zoom. Contact: bristolhealingrooms@gmail.com
10. And for the Sport sphere, for World Sport Ministries and Christians in Sport's online resources, quiz and webinars: See Pray, Stay, Play. Pray for them as they engage with young people and adults outdoors again and for wisdom regarding summer camps.
Please email us if you no longer wish to receive these prayer bulletins.

Derick Mulubwa, Prayer, Together4Bristol, Arise, Bristol Evangelical Alliance (prayer.t4b@gmail.com)

Roger Allen, Enabler, Together4Bristol / Churches Together in Greater Bristol (enabler.t4b@gmail.com)

