

Week of Prayer and Fasting

5th – 12th February 2023

“Your Kingdom come”

What would it look like for Jesus’ kingdom to come ...now? One day it will! When Jesus returns in glory. Jesus taught us to pray, “Your Kingdom come.” **Ultimately it is a prayer for Jesus’ return**, when his kingly rule over all the earth will be fully established.

But praying “Your Kingdom come” **also means praying now for his will to be done** on earth as it is in heaven ...in our own lives and in the lives of those around us, in Jesus’ church and in his world. Jesus rule always has been and still today is resisted and mocked. But ...very excitingly, local churches are mini outposts of Jesus’ Kingdom, communities of people embracing Jesus’ loving rule.

A burden for Jesus’ kingdom to come, comes from hearts that are transformed to truly love God and to love people. Our prayer is that the Lord will kindly give us such a love for him and for people in our 2023 Week of Prayer and Fasting, that we might experience afresh his presence and power in prayer. **We face a big year ahead**, in particular, as God-willing we start our rebuild in the Autumn term. We have much to pray about as we seek to ‘Build for the future’ in building Jesus’ kingdom.

The plan for the week is to **‘fast’ all our programmed activities and replace them with the activity of prayer**. For one entire week our regular ministries will be ‘hijacked’ by prayer meetings. Why? Because we want to say to each other ...we are that needy ...all we do in seeking to build Jesus’ kingdom is useless ...unless the LORD is at work in and through us. Without him, we are building our own little kingdoms.

Prayer Request Cards are available to fill in and return to the ‘Prayer Request’ box. Or why not give some out to friends, family, neighbours or colleagues, asking if we can pray for them.

What about fasting? On top of ‘fasting’ our church programme for a week, there are some other more personal ways we can fast (Matthew 6:16-18). Here are some reasons for fasting:

1. Fasting can happen spontaneously, when hunger for God and passion for his glory is so intense that physical appetite is lost for a while.
2. Fasting is normally a conscious decision. It is saying, *“Jesus you are more valuable than what I am going without... And this passion for you I now intensify and demonstrate by giving up things in the hope of enjoying you more, not things.”*
3. When we see that our need for God’s presence and power to transform us is so urgent, we will rather go without God’s gifts than God himself.
4. Fasting frees up time to spend in prayer.

Fasting can be abstaining from all sorts of legitimate things that have become or could become substitutes for God. What you fast will depend on your particular appetites, life circumstances and physical health. Here are a few ideas – food (Luke 4:1-2), nice food and drink (Daniel 10:2), caffeine, sex (1 Corinthians 7:1-6), screens, social media, hobbies, household chores (love this one!), leisure activities etc.

So, plan ahead in your diary and block out to come to some of the prayer times programmed... but especially the BIG Pray. Let’s pray **“Your Kingdom come”** ...and who knows what the LORD will do in us and through us in 2023.

Programme: Week of Prayer and Fasting, February 2023

Date	Time	Venue	Prayer Focus (Numbers below relate to the new Prayer Diary)
Sun 5 th	10:00-10:30am	Broadwater School Hall	Communion
Sun 5 th	11:00am-12:15pm	Broadwater School Hall	Matthew 5:17-20 Radically Righteous
Sun 5 th	7:30-8:30pm	Barnes Road Lounge	23 Blokes Life Group / 1 Sunday Programme / 29 Building Project / 19 Leaders & Leadership Training / 10 Jack Charnley (Thailand) / 23 Men's ministry
Mon 6 th	9:00-9:30am	Zoom	10 Ben & Emelie Clark (Sweden) / 14 Communications & Administration / 12 Persecuted Christians & Open Doors
Tue 7 th	9:30-10:30am	Barnes Road Lower Hall	20 Toddlers / Marriages and Singles / 13 Pastoral Care / 5 Kids club/ 11 Broadwater Lodge / 6 Elam Ministries (Iran) / 28 CAP Money Management
Tue 7 th	12:30am-1:00pm	Zoom	Youth camps and All Age Services, 11 Broadwater Lodge / 27 Finance / 22 Grace Church Brighton / Hospitality
Tue 7 th	3:30-4:15pm	Barnes Road Lounge	16 Scramblers / 25 Messy Church, Holiday Bible Clubs and Puppets / 5 Junior Church & Creche / 18 Catherine Crawford – Wycliffe / 22 Friends International
Wed 8 th	8:00-8:45pm	Zoom	16 Explorers / 9 Schools work / 1 Communion / 5,16,17 Youth leaders training / 3 Women's Fellowship / 18 Allan Knowles – African Leadership (South Africa)
Thu 9 th	10:00-10:30am	Zoom	30 Life Groups & Prayer Meetings / 29 Building Project Fundraising / 1 Learning for Life & 11am Service / Workplace Mission / 26 Tearfund
Fri 10 th	10:00-11:00am	Barnes Road Lower Hall	30 Women's Life Group / 21 Women's ministry / 4 Families and Parenting / 5,16,17 Youth leaders / 26 Compassion International / 8 Buildings / 7 Music group
Fri 10 th	7:00-9:00pm	Barnes Road Main Hall	'The Big Pray' "...Your Kingdom come" in our world, our nation, our community, our church, our friends, our lives. Including... 16,17 Adventurers and The Mix / Gospel Vision / 2 Our locality / Passion for Life / 29 Building for the Future / 15 Enquirers / 31 FIEC / 24 Surrey Gospel Partnership
Sun 12 th	10:00-10:30am	Broadwater School Hall	(With a childrens' prayer group) Word Ministry: Spiritual Growth / Numerical Growth
Sun 12 th	11:00am-12:15pm	Broadwater School Hall	Matthew 5:21-26 Anger and reconciliation

'The BIG Pray' ...7:00-9:00pm on Friday 10th is the highpoint of our Week of Prayer and Fasting. We want to encourage everyone in our church family to set aside this evening for prayer... to pray "Your Kingdom come" ...for our world, our nation, our community, our church, our friends, our lives.

'The BIG Pray' Programme...

7:00 Welcome and worship 7:15 Prayer 7:55 Tea/Coffee 8:10 Prayer 8:50 Worship 9:00 Close	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Come along and pray for all or part of the evening. - If you have kids, why not get a babysitter or do 'tag' with your other half or someone else in the church family. - If you don't have kids at home could you offer to babysit for someone for part of the evening? - Refreshments will be provided in the break.
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