



**Prayer Walk
Swanage ~ 2020**

A Virtual Prayer Walk

On Wednesday 29th April, as part of Swanage Churches Together Day of Prayer for Purbeck, I took a photographic prayer walk through part of Swanage early in the morning and thought that you might like to share it with me if you are self isolating at home or sheltering with relatives outside Purbeck. The photographs record a unique time in the life of our town.

Most of the short prayers are ones we are already praying and a few are part of my personal journey of faith. They are not exclusive. You will certainly have your own thoughts and prayers to add. Please use them in a way that is right for you and if you want to send me your pictures/prayers I will try to add them when I take another prayer walk through a different area of Swanage.

6th May.

Follow this link to the prayers and pictures

www.swanage-urc.co.uk/prayerwalk

May God bless you and those you love
and keep you safe.

Anne S





Dearest Lord, we are living in difficult and uncertain times. We don't know what might happen, we fear unemployment, poverty, loneliness, illness and death. Help us to look beyond the dark clouds to your light, that shines in the darkness and the darkness has never put it out.



Thank you for your redeeming love that enables my sin to be nailed to the cross and frees me from guilt to serve you.





Thank you Lord Jesus, that you have been with us through the night.



May your Spirit guide me as I walk this morning. Open my eyes to glimpse the world as you see it.





Bless the town of Swanage and all the people living here. As they begin a new day may your love and protection surround them.



We ask your blessing on new ventures taking shape in our town at this difficult time. Give the managers wisdom and integrity in all their decisions. May they treat their staff fairly and humanely, and when the time is right may they welcome visitors with generous hospitality.





Bless the people working in the hospitality industry; pubs, hotels and restaurants and cafes in the town. So many who were depending on a busy holiday season for their livelihood and now it is gone. Businesses are closed, the streets are empty. Show us how we can help them; give us compassion and empathy. Be with people who are missing the camaraderie of local meeting places.





Thank you for the builders and road menders who have continued to work, despite anxieties for their safety. We pray for the local shops, mostly closed at the moment. Guide their planning for the right time to reopen and for the future safety of their customers. When they open again there will be so many changes besides a new road system; give them imagination to come up with innovative solutions.

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but through me." Thank you, Jesus for showing us the way. At this time when many are questioning their values in life, we pray that your Spirit will work in them.

May the way we, as your family in Swanage, lead our lives point the way to you, showing your love and compassion in our community.





Thank you, Father, for the people in Purbeck with artistic gifts, in music, art, dance, drama and poetry. Thank you for the joy they bring to our lives.

Bless our postal workers as they continue working to ensure we receive our mail promptly and securely. Thank you for the joy of receiving a letter from someone we love when we are separated. Please show me if there is someone who would feel encouraged if I wrote to them today.





Lord, there are no trains running now. Thank you for all the people who have worked so hard to bring a railway back to Swanage and pray that their work will be able to continue when this crisis is over so that all the steam enthusiasts may continue to enjoy journeys through our beautiful countryside by train.



We ask your blessing on the staff at Swanage medical centre, doctors, nurses and clerical workers, who are all working such long hours and facing difficult, possibly dangerous, situations. Give them the courage, wisdom and strength they need.



Thank you, Father, for the shop workers ensuring there is enough food in our shops, for the delivery drivers, shelf stackers and till operators. Keep them safe and give them the patience to deal with their customers unfamiliar with measures put in place to protect their well being.



“For I know the plans I have for you. Plans to prosper and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Lord, these flowers are tightly closed but opening in the rising sun; help us also to blossom in the warmth of your love and fulfil the plans you have for us.



Bless our emergency workers who need to work creatively to keep social distancing whilst still being prepared to rescue those in trouble .

Thank you for the bus drivers still working to connect Swanage with Wareham, Poole and Bournemouth. Bless them and passengers who need to travel on the bus. Keep them all healthy and free from harm.





Bless our church family in Purbeck. Thank you for the work being done in each church to support our local community and show God's love in all that we say and do. Bless our church leaders and inspire them with creative ideas to bring your kingdom to Purbeck.



Father, we pray for those working in the tourist industry, so important to the Purbeck economy, but now at a complete standstill. We pray that the government will be generous with small businesses with small reserves and help will be given swiftly; for those facing unemployment that they may not lose hope; for the charities giving advice and practical support. May we personally help our neighbours sensitively and generously.



Bless our own church family whilst we are unable to meet together. Help us to find ways to support the lonely, the frail, those who are anxious or mourning the loss of a dear one, or have doubts at this time. Bless Martyn and the Elders as they provide spiritual leadership and pastoral care for the church. May we all proclaim our hope through Christ in our words and actions.





Bless the elderly inhabitants of our town and those who care for them. Many elderly people will be anxious about the virus and the possibility that they will be infected or even die. Bring them peace of mind. May their carers reassure them and have the patience to explain things clearly, especially to those suffering confusion and memory loss.

We pray for the children and parents who normally come to the Sure Start Centre and the youngsters who usually come to the youth centre. Many families are uncertain and worried about the future. May they draw strength from one another, find sympathetic people to give them good advice and kind neighbours and friends to support them at this time.





Father, I don't know the names of the people living on this street, but I praise you that you know each one intimately, that you are aware of all their fears and joys, that their names are written on the palm of your hand and you love them. Help me to love and care for them and everyone living in our town.



Father, I pray for the safety of our children whilst the schools are closed. Some may live in abusive homes, others in homes where unemployment means poverty and hunger. Bless the Food Bank and other organisations working to help them. Bless the teachers with innovative ideas for home schooling lessons and give parents the patience to explain the lessons to the children.





Thank you dear Lord for our ambulance service, often the first point of contact with an emergency patient. Bless them with calmness to reassure anxious patients and families. Protect them from exhaustion and infection. May they have the equipment they need to avoid contamination for themselves, their families and other casualties.

Bless all who work in Swanage Hospital; doctors, nurses, health workers, cleaners and porters. Protect them all from harm. May they receive the protective clothing they need. Give them the courage and energy they need. Fill them with compassion. Surround them and their patients with your love and peace.





Bless the residents and carers in the care homes in Purbeck. Protect them from this cruel virus. May enough ppe equipment be made available for all the staff to protect them and prevent any infection taking hold. May they understand the anxieties of their charges, especially those who are confused and missing family visits and treat them sympathetically.

Creator God, we praise you for the beauty that surrounds us, bringing us comfort and hope, speaking to us of your care for the world. Forgive us for the times we have exploited its resources. Help us to remember this time when the air became purer, bird song louder than the traffic and wild animals ventured out of hiding. Strengthen our determination to give more care to our world.





Keep us trusting in your love, dear Father, so that even whilst the dark clouds of this infection are over us, we see you at work in the love and care of NHS workers, friends, neighbours and strangers.



Give us hope for a better future .





Bless this beautiful area of Purbeck.

When the threat of the virus recedes, let us not desire to return to our old life but look forward to a new time when your love, justice, generosity and compassion are shown to all we meet.



Anne Squires

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