

Bless Leeds

21

Christians around the UK are taking to the streets this year and prayer walking the places where they live and their neighbourhoods.

Why not join in as an individual, a couple, as a church or group of churches, to see the whole population of Leeds and the surrounding LS postcodes prayed for over the summer months?

You can go out to pray at a time to suit you and those you may be prayer walking with.

Who knows what the Lord might do in people's lives, as we carry His presence into our city?

The remainder of this leaflet gives some guidance on prayer walking, information about a video which you can use for publicity and about an App you can download to let us know which streets you have prayer walked.

Examples of prayers you could use:

We stand in the name of Jesus and bless this street, that its people might prosper under the hand of God. We bless you that peace, justice and righteousness might take their proper place within these homes. We bless you that the Father's compassion might fall upon the people, that the poor will be lifted up and the knowledge of Jesus will come amongst you like a flood. Amen.

Lord help me/us to see things in this area in a new way. Here is where we are connected – please look with me/us. Give me/us clues. We pray that on this street the Spirit of Christ will be known and change lives and circumstances. Help us to bring the good news of the kingdom of God and His love to the lives we are near and in touch with. Amen.

Lord, we pray for this street. We thank you for all the agencies that seek to help the population, but Lord we realise the magnitude and complexity of the issues are often beyond us.

Father we pray that by the work of your Spirit, your kingdom will come into this neighbourhood bringing salvation in all these areas of concern and drawing people to yourself. Give wisdom as we come into contact with our neighbours. Help us to have a word in season.

Father, let new opportunities emerge, restore prosperity to this neighbourhood, let your healing power break out and let the joy of the Lord fill our homes and streets. Amen.

Some general information...

Feel free to make as many copies of this leaflet as you need, for your church and those going on prayer walks.

A **video and flyer** about this initiative is available to download on the Bless Leeds 21 web page, which can be found on the Leeds Christian Community Trust (LCCT) website.

An **App** is also available to download there, so you can indicate where you have been prayer walking. This will help to ensure that all the streets with an LS postcode are covered in prayer and identify any areas which are not yet being covered.

We encourage you to prayer walk your areas as many times as possible over the summer months.

You may wish to plan other initiatives in your neighbourhoods as a result.

If you get to know other Christians in your areas, you may wish to meet up more regularly to pray for your streets.

Look out for details of prayer gatherings to be held in connection with this initiative.

For further information contact:
blessleeds21@gmail.com



Why prayer walking?

Prayer walking is stepping out into our streets and communities, believing that as we do so, the promise given to Joshua can be ours as well: **'Every place where the soles of your feet will tread, I have given to you'. Joshua 1 v 3**

By prayer walking we become more aware of the needs in our localities. The Lord may show us some specific things as we walk and pray. In general, we know that...*

- ✓ On average, 20% of a street's population is aged 16 and under, and 20% are over 65.
- ✓ There are issues of loneliness and poor health on an average street, with over half the population living with some kind of medical condition.
- ✓ The average debt, excluding mortgage, per home is £15,400, with a typical home making debt repayments of £400 per month.
- ✓ Domestic violence is rife, with 2.3 million people affected in 2020.
- ✓ Many people live in fear of walking in our streets after dark.
- ✓ Each step we take in Jesus' name can weaken the hold of the enemy in that location and make way for the Kingdom of God to come.
- ✓ Prayer walking keeps us focussed and engaged in God's mission to our city and neighbourhoods.

*Information from Neighbourhood Prayer Network



Some practical suggestions

If you can't get out to walk, you could pray for someone else who is walking, or pray from your home for a road you know well.

You can prayer walk on your own, but there are benefits in going in pairs, or a group, not least is safety. Please be mindful of your own safety and any perceived threat you may pose to others, if you are not known in the area.

A larger group could break out into twos and threes, as this may be less intimidating or conspicuous. If you're in a group, agree a time to meet and the time and place to finish together.

Decide your route. It's likely you will start with your street or immediate surroundings, but having done those you may well decide to walk elsewhere. Check with the App to see where hasn't been covered yet.

Pray and declare blessings on the area. Focus on God's plan, purpose and destiny for the place and the people who live there. Praying 'Your Kingdom Come' is a great start.

When you meet up with others from your group, share what you've felt, seen, prayed and heard from God. Keep a record and share any stories or thoughts at bleeds21@gmail.com

Finally, please ensure someone completes the App.

Help for prayer walking from 24/7 Prayer Network - this uses **WALK** as an acronym and contains four simple steps:

W – Worship as you set off, with your eyes on Jesus. Speak His name, say a psalm, hum a worship song – anything that will declare the Lordship of Jesus over the streets you walk in.

A – Ask. Flowing from your worship, begin to ask the Lord for His Spirit to fall on the street, the homes, businesses, schools, other churches, medical facilities etc. that you walk past. As well as praying generally, pray specifically for people and situations you may know about. Pray for the people of peace you know that God has brought you into contact with who are opening doors of opportunity for the gospel. Pray blessings on the area.

L - Listen. Do leave space to listen to what God might say then pray it back. Look out for specific people the Lord may direct you to pray for – especially those you 'accidentally' meet! If you are in pairs, listen to each other's prayers, as this might spark off other words and thoughts.

K - Know your territory! Keep yourself informed about the area you are walking. Get to know some of the current situations that require persevering prayer. Celebrate any particular grace that rests on the area and ask the Lord to make your area a blessing beyond its borders.

