

September 2021, week 2

8th

We pray for all who live in fear - in countries where there is conflict, humanitarian crisis, famine or other natural disasters; countries including our own where numbers of the virus are rising, and those with not enough vaccine or even none at all; those who are suffering illness, social deprivation or discrimination of any kind.

9th

The WHO has warned again of an imminent humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan where people are already suffering lack of water, electricity, and money and also real concern for the effect of the current situation on hospitals and medical resources. An Afghan doctor pleads "Please do not forget Afghanistan".

10th

We are reminded to pray for our enemies and so we pray for the Taliban, that they have truly changed their attitude to women and girls in respect of their education and ability to work openly in their community, and changed sufficiently in all their policies to be able to govern fairly and effectively.

11th

On this anniversary of the tragedy of 9/11, remembering all who died and those whose lives changed irrevocably, we remember too the reason for our entry to Afghanistan, the recent tragic events there, and the sacrifices made by many in the last 20 years.

Sunday, 12th

"I have a dream a man once said where all is perfect peace; where men and women, black and white, stand hand in hand and all unite in freedom and in love."

13th

As we remember the suffering of other countries, so we pray this week for our own people. The virus is still rife and its effects continue to be felt in so many different ways. We pray today for those who still lack confidence to pick up their lives as they used to be.

14th

We pray for our children and young people whose education was so disrupted with much to catch up. We pray especially for those who missed special events –moving from primary school to senior school, missing important exams and coping with strange results, missing face to face teaching at school or university, and no graduations in the usual way. We pray that this year will be better.

September 2021 week 3

15th

We pray for all who had to work at home and found it hard because their surroundings were inappropriate, there was no peace to think and they missed their colleagues. We remember that others found home working good and want to continue. May each group use this this experience to learn what is best for them.

16th

Many became unemployed for the first time in their lives, dependent on social security and, for some, food banks, and whose future is still uncertain in the changing environments of today. We pray for hope, for new opportunities and for people willing to offer guidance and help.

17th

We pray for the housebound, sick and elderly, who were confined to their homes, lonely, dependent on others for so much, and missing family and friends. We pray that the kindness which was so apparent in the worst of the pandemic will continue to cheer and encourage them for the future.

18th

We pray for honesty and integrity in those whose responsibility is to govern at a time when the financial demands to aid recovery for all sections of society are enormous. We pray that they may accept where mistakes were made, learn, and be prepared to make whatever changes are needed.

Sunday, 19th

“Come, Spirit, on us breathe life and strength anew; find in us love, and hope, and trust, and lift us up to you.”

20th

This week we focus our prayer on our community, giving thanks for Linlithgow’s resilience throughout the pandemic through the work of statutory and voluntary organisations, the businesses who managed to keep going and the determination to recover despite the difficulties.

21st

We give thanks also for all the kindness shown to neighbours and to those in need. We pray that in the recovery, we all remember the need to continue to be aware of the needs of others, to smile and not to rush by on the other side.