

Ten days of Inspiration & Prayer for Newham



Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you.... Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper. Jeremiah 29:7.



Foreword

Welcome to the 2013 prayer diary! God loves Newham and so we are excited about the prospect of uniting Christians across the borough to pray in concert, whether on your own, with friends, in a prayer meeting, a service, or a celebration.



We rejoice that the recent London church census shows attendance is growing here, and yet underlines the need to continue praying & working together to see more of God's Kingdom come.

Year:	1989	1998	2005	2012
Numbers:	9,400	10,100	12,100	16,100
% change:		+7%	+20%	+33%
% of popn :	4.4%	4.4%	4.9%	5.2%

You will find information and topics to inspire you, with a daily prompt to remember fellow Believers in particular parts of Newham. You can just read and pray it as you go, alternatively you could take a little longer to find a flow of new thoughts or prompts for deeper prayer and action.

This diary was first created to use from 7th to 16th November 2013, but can be used again and again. You can find it online at www.transformnewham.com

Every blessing,
Simon Clinton.

Chair of Transform Newham, & Snr. Pastor at Highway Church, Stratford.

Pray for leaders in the borough

Scripture ... petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. 1 Timothy 2: 1- 4

Pray that leaders in the following areas have wisdom and discernment in these times of shrinking budgets and fierce competition.

Sir Robin Wales, the Councillors and Officers around education, social services and the other vital works of the Council.

The Fire Chief Wayne Brown, and Police Commander Rob Jones.

Health:- Bart's NHS Trust - Peter Morris & Len Richards; East London Foundation Trust - Marie Gabriel & Dr Robert Dolan, plus senior teams.

Leaders of the Utilities:- Water; gas; electricity; and particularly the sewage treatment works at Beckton, the largest in Europe.

Business Leaders whose firms offer products, services & employment.

Community Group Leaders needing to collaborate and adapt in order to survive in these difficult times.

Pray for Believers in Stratford and Maryland to find and grow in the callings of God throughout every area of their lives.

Hard times

Scripture. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies
Ps 23:5a

As the verse shows, God's provision is present even in the midst of grave difficulties. All around the world institutions are being shaken, and there are many consequences for millions of people.

Locally we see friends, colleagues, and perhaps we ourselves who are short of money and have mounting bills; are stuck in fuel poverty; coping with an overcrowded home; sometimes having no place to call home; enjoying little access to the natural world of sweeping hills and distant horizons; feeling lost while living in an alien culture.



Many grieve for relatives in countries far away, for friends and relatives who are chronically ill or who have died, while others have dear ones who are out of touch not knowing where they are.

Alongside all these difficult situations, if we ask and look clearly, we see God is at work in Newham.

Ask in detail for the mercy and loving touch of God on one or more of these situations, especially for people you know in difficulty.

Pray for Believers in Beckton to be refreshed in God.

Some responses to these hard times

Scripture. Love your neighbour as yourself... Matt 22:29

 Go and do likewise. Luke 10:37

Accommodation & Welcome:- Refugee & Migrant Project; Just Homes; Church night shelters – E15 and NEWway; Anchor House.

Finances:- Bonny Downs & Community Links Benefits Advice services; Money A+E; Food Bank; Effective training & job advisory services. For the Family Poverty Directory see www.aston-mansfield.org.uk

Other helpful responses:- Bereavement Drop In Centre; sports and exercise clubs inc for elders; healthy eating campaigns; community gardening and growing; trips to the seaside; sewing; arts projects.

Thank God that Believers and others of goodwill are responding in many different ways to serve and work with people in difficulty.

Pray that the volunteers and leaders can get alongside people in need and are able to make a real difference.

Pray that the workers feel supported and do not weary in doing good.

Do you want to find out more about any of these for your own situation or for someone you know?

Pray for Believers in Plaistow, for strengthening, perseverance, and encouragement along the way.

Children

Scripture. Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Luke 18:16.

Do we hinder children from coming to Jesus by our behaviours or structures, either consciously or unconsciously?

Ask God to show you something of the next step you, your group or church can take to make it easier for children to respond naturally to Jesus.

In all their messiness and spontaneity, how can we encounter something of God through our children? How can they lead or signpost us to something new in God we find difficult to attain?

Ask for humility and leadership of the children in your care.

Pray for good foundations to be laid in their lives at home and at school on which they too can build.

Pray that they reach their potential and fulfil the callings that God has prepared in advance for them to do.

Pray for Believers in Manor Park – for wholeness and healing in their lives.



Young people

Scripture. “Do not say, ‘I am too young’....Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the LORD.
Jeremiah 1:7.



Pray for the local schools and colleges. Pray for any staff known to you who are devoting their best efforts to educating the rising generation. Do note particularly

the new schools & colleges: Oasis Silvertown Academy and Chobham Manor Academy in E20; the new buildings of the Birkbeck /UEL campus in Stratford.

Pray that God’s dreams & visions will flourish in the lives of young people you know.

Pray that they find and enjoy the paths which are right for them and do not get distracted, but can in time help their friends who are in need.

Pray for the specialist groups which seek to mentor and nurture God’s callings in the young people; XLP, Newham Youth for Christ, Eden Plaistow, Alternatives, Gangsline, the East Village youth worker, Fight for Peace, probation, various sports clubs, arts activities, and many more.

Pray for Believers in East Ham to inspire their young people.

Map of our borough.



Use this map in a variety of ways, such as praying over it; lighting a candle beside it; laying your hand upon it; tracing your finger up and down the main roads and rivers as you pray (like a finger labyrinth).

Newham's Legacy.

Newham is clearly a place of welcome for all peoples of the World. It is also a place of pioneering social reform and a spiritual beach head.

Ethelburga led the very first Christian work here as long ago as 666 AD!

Quaker Elizabeth Fry lived here and her major work was the reform of prisons making them more humane, especially for women & children.

On the site of Fry's home on Plashet Grove came the Jeffries Brothers in 1925 bringing a Pentecostal revival.

Sir Joseph Lister (Quaker again) was born here who went on to pioneer sterile surgery and so save countless lives.

J. Keir Hardie became the first Labour MP ever (in the world!) when elected to West Ham South in 1892. He stood for improving the lot of working people, informed by his faith.

Will Thorne helped to establish the new National Gasworkers Union in 1889. He lived here and was MP here for many years.

Edith Kerrison was the first woman on our Council. She worked hard to improve things for women and children.

John Newton went to school in Stratford for 3 yrs.

Wesley and Whitefield both preached in Plaistow.

Who else and what else is God using in Newham?

The land of Newham.

Scripture. O land, land, land, hear the word of the LORD. Jeremiah 22:29.

In recent times, the land and people of Newham suffered the indignities and pains of industrialisation without necessarily seeing many benefits. This contributed to a sense that Newham's (metaphorical) walls have been broken down and its gates burnt by fire (echoing Nehemiah 1).

There were always signs of hope in the past and there are in the present which point to the future.

Pray for the land to be restored and cleansed. Note: 2m tonnes of dirt were cleaned of chemicals and other poisons to make the Olympic Park!

Pray for the land of Newham to be fruitful and try planting fruit or vegetables as a sign. Then use them to feed someone!

Pray for people to develop a greater sense of belonging to this land. Do this for the part of Newham you know best and try walking around it as you pray. Part of what you might use is Isaiah 62: 3-5. "No longer will they call you Deserted, or name your land Desolate. But you will be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah; for the Lord will take delight in you, and your land will be married."

Pray for a new story to be written on the land and in people's lives, one of hope, of confidence, of destiny, particularly in North Canning Town and West Ham.

Physical Regeneration

Scripture. Your city will be known as a good place to live and a city full of people. Isaiah 62:12b.

LB Newham's Core Strategy states they expect another 37,500 mainly family homes by 2027. This could mean an additional 112,500 residents.



Existing Regeneration Projects include: Hallsville; Cross Rail; Silvertown Quays; East Village; Olympic stadium; upgrade at Beckton sewage works.

Plans still being formed: rest of the Olympic Park; Chinese business park (ABP) at Albert Dock; Minoco Wharf; road tunnel linking Canning Town to Greenwich; replacement for Woolwich Ferry, & a new airport terminal.

Pray for wisdom for the developers: and once on site, for the safety of the workers constructing these homes, businesses and infrastructure.

Pray for clear and timely communication from the companies doing the work into the local communities.

Pray that a good percentage of the jobs go to local people.

Pray that the new residential areas will become genuine communities with vibrant Christian worshipping groups embedded in their life.

Pray for Believers in North Woolwich to hear God for their own situations and to see real changes occurring.

Overturing disconnection, isolation and alienation.

Scripture. You, Lord, set people into families Psalm 68: 6a.

Family units come in all shapes and sizes, many with 'blood connections' and many without, in nuclear households and in wider friendships.

We all need to belong, to give into something greater than ourselves, to have purpose and meaning.

Give thanks that God cares for you individually, and for all of us in our different communities.

Pray for more people to connect with each other, to find a common cause in order to make a difference in the borough by serving other people, caring for the environment, taking up civic responsibilities.

Women have so often been the spiritual and social leaders. Pray for this still to be so in our generation. Pray for strength for three women you know, both in their 'family unit' and their wider voluntary activities.

Pray for three men whom you know, to be strengthened in Godly ways of living, and to walk in more of what God has for them, to make a difference, to follow the adventure of their callings bravely.

Pray for Believers in Forest Gate to know the all-embracing perfect love that is the Father-heart of God.

Outreach

Scripture. Go into all the world (inc Newham!) and make disciples ...

Matthew 28:19.

It is easy to end up relating only to 'People Who Are Like Us'. However, if you like chatting cross-culturally or want to know how to engage your muslim friend, there is an informal training opportunity to hear from local practitioners and learn some cultural keys to aid communication. 9.30am to 3pm, Saturday 16th November 2013, Manor Park Christian Centre, 454 High Street North, E12 6RH. There will be other opportunities in the future as well.

Pray to make a friend in your street, your workplace or college who is from a different background or religion to you.

Can you offer a helping hand, a friendly ear, a prayer in a time of difficulty?



Pray that Newham becomes a place where neighbours help each other.

What is your church planning to do in terms of outreach and impact into its local community during the next Christian festival time? Pray for that.

Pray for Believers in Custom House that they know a season of fruitfulness in their work and ministry.

The Gentle Fire of God's Transforming Presence.

“Come Holy Ghost our souls inspire and lighten with celestial fire”

c. 800 AD. Rhabanus Maurus, Benedictine monk.

“We call upon Blood and Fire”

Salvation Army, founded in the East End during the Nineteenth Century by William and Catherine Booth & their family.



Pray for a greater desire to pray!

Pray for your existing prayer meetings and other group gatherings to be suffused with the Presence of God.

Who can you link with to continue praying into the things that have grabbed using this diary? Ask God, and wait for the answer.

Pray for Believers in South Canning Town and West Silvertown, that they know the peace and Presence of God in their lives.

A Foretaste.

I was 8 o'clock on Monday morning. I was standing on some steps in Stratford and I saw a New London coming down from the heavens.

I saw elders skipping to the shops on the High Street and kids going to paddle in the park. The playground had climbing frames that weren't rusty where children threw themselves in the air without fear of harm and where the teenagers helped the little ones up to the heights.

I saw a football match starting and the teams were mixed races from every people group - asylum seekers and taxi drivers, policemen and prisoners, pensioners and politicians - people from every race and class.

I saw a street party and a local festival where people were eating and dancing because there was hope again.

I looked across East London and saw a community of grace, a community of warmth. In the clearness of the morning I could see for miles and there was no more chronic sickness, no more unwanted pregnancies, no more debt, no more violence, no more overcrowding, no more rubbish.

Our rivers Thames, Lea and Roding flowed with crystal-clear water.

There were no more needles and condoms in the alleyways, no more discrimination, no more threats or fears, no more sadness and tears - only joy and laughter.

No more poverty - but real and useful employment complemented by caring and ethical entrepreneurs.

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Families were restored. Neighbours shared favours and returned them without pressure or obligation. I saw homes without locks on the doors where a welcome was guaranteed.

I saw a London where hearts were unbroken, I saw a London where tears were wiped away.

Adapted from 'The New Glasgow' in Baker and Gay, *Alternative Worship* (SPCK 2003).

Transform Newham is a network of churches, ministries, groups and individuals. As one very varied family in Christ we promote the values of working and praying across all denominations, languages and ethnicities.

We are various people across all sorts of walks of life seeking more of the reality associated with these words

“Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth, in Newham, as it is in Heaven.”



Got any queries, follow-ups or problems with the things you have been reading? Want to comment confidentially? Email mariana.samuel@transformnewham.com, or contact the small TN team at the office on 0208 472 6363.