Pray Your Way Up Fishergate Hill

This is a short prayer walk guide through our community giving some pointers towards local issues and organisations that need our intercessions. You can use it while walking up to town or as a reminder while sitting down to pray. Take Jesus with you on the journey, and try to see things through His eyes.

Before you start read and think about Psalm 15

1 LORD, who may dwell in your sacred tent?
Who may live on your holy hill?
2 The one whose walk is blameless,
who does what is righteous,
who speaks the truth from their heart;
3 whose tongue utters no slander,
who does no wrong to a neighbour,
and casts no slur on others;
4 who despises a vile person
but honours those who fear the LORD;
who keeps an oath even when it hurts,
and does not change their mind;
5 who lends money to the poor without interest;
who does not accept a bribe against the innocent.

Whoever does these things will never be shaken.

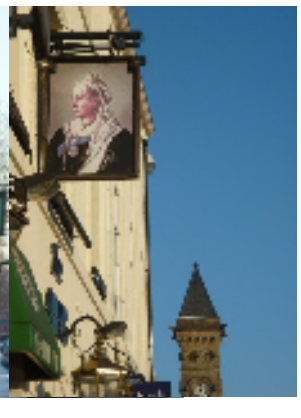
1 Health: Health statistics in Preston are awful, people die younger than average and infant mortality is 8.6 per 1000 compared to the average for England of 5.1 Pray for better health and for those who work in the NHS

2. Wealth and Poverty: Though we have Bankers operating in our neighbourhood doing multi-million pound deals we are one of the 20% most deprived parishes in the country. Pray for greater equality in society and for help for the poorest. Pray for the opportunities for ministry and mission through Christians Against Poverty.

3. Homes Who can afford to buy a home these days? Or rent one? And with housing benefit cuts it will get worse. There are empty houses, but also people living on the streets or in hostels like Merriweather on Fishergate Hill. Homelessness is often linked with family break-up, mental health problems and addictions. Pray for homeless people and those in insecure housing. Pray for organisations within Preston Homeless Forum that try to help, and for Christian and other volunteers in drop in centres and resettlement work.

4 : Employment and business Unemployment in Preston is already bad, and lots of local businesses are failing. As the recession and the public sector cuts come in things are likely to get worse. Pray for those who are fighting to keep their jobs, and for those who become unemployed. At the moment the churches in Preston appear to be doing little or nothing to help the unemployed. Pray that Christians will be challenged and resourced to respond in appropriate and helpful ways.

5) Our diverse community: We live in a mixed community with many neighbours of Hindu, Muslim and other religious backgrounds. Western invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan and support for Israel has not helped as many Muslims see this as normal Christian behaviour. Pray for growing friendships with individuals of different faiths and positive relationships with leaders of mosques and temples. Pray that we can show they have nothing to fear from disciples of Jesus, and that we can explain clearly what our faith in him is all about.



7 Alcoholism: Men in Preston have the highest proportion of alcohol related deaths anywhere in England. Although many local pubs are closing down problem drinking is probably as bad as when the Temperance movement began in Preston in the 1830's. Pray that as Christians we will give a good witness in our attitudes around drink. Pray for Christian programmes like Celebrate Recovery and for the many A.A. groups that meet on local church premises.

8 Local Politics: County Hall at the top of the hill and the City Council are being forced to make huge budget cuts in the coming year. Pray that they will work with justice and wisdom to make sure that vital services for the poorest people suffer minimal damage. Pray that there will be stronger Christian involvement in local politics.

The Hill of Hope:

God revealed through the prophet Isaiah that problems like these are not the way God wants the world to be and that one day he will bring a new kingdom. (PTO for the Bible passages about the mountain of the Lord)

Jesus taught us to Pray "your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven."

Micah 4:1 also Isaiah 2

. [2] In the last days
the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established
as the highest of the mountains;
it will be exalted above the hills,
and all nations will stream to it.
[3] Many peoples will come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the temple of the God of Jacob.
He will teach us his ways,
so that we may walk in his paths."
The law will go out from Zion,
the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
[4] He will judge between the nations
and will settle disputes for many peoples.
They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.

Isaiah 11

[6] The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling[a] together;
and a little child will lead them.
[7] The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.
[8] The infant will play near the cobra's den,
the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.
[9] They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

Isaiah 25

You have been a refuge for the poor,
a refuge for the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the storm
and a shade from the heat.
For the breath of the ruthless
is like a storm driving against a wall
[5] and like the heat of the desert.
You silence the uproar of foreigners;
as heat is reduced by the shadow of a cloud,
so the song of the ruthless is stilled.
[6] On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare
a feast of rich food for all peoples,
a banquet of aged wine—
the best of meats and the finest of wines.
[7] On this mountain he will destroy
the shroud that enfolds all peoples,
the sheet that covers all nations;
[8] he will swallow up death forever.
The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears
from all faces;
he will remove his people's disgrace
from all the earth.
The LORD has spoken.