

# Petersfield and Liss URC

## 'In Touch'



Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2021

prayer

## Hello and Welcome

**16 'Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.' 1 Thessalonians 5 v 16-18 NIV**

In July 17, 1887 Augustus Strong and John D. Rockefeller visited Charles Spurgeon at his home in London.

After two hours, the leading Baptist theologian and the wealthy U.S. tycoon uncovered the secret of Spurgeon's ministry: "He seemed to be a man of prayer" (Crerar Douglas, Autobiography of Augustus Hopkins Strong, 300). Spurgeon once said, "Prayer has become as essential to me as the heaving of my lungs, and the beating of my pulse." Here are 2 ways how Charles Spurgeon prays.

### 1. Ask boldly! You are beloved!

"Our God not only hears prayer but also loves to hear it"

"Do not let us go to God as though we were strangers, or as though he were unwilling to give—we are greatly beloved"

"It would be of no use to knock at a wall, but you may wisely knock at a door, for it is arranged for opening"

"God keeps a file for our prayers—they are not blown away by the wind, they are treasured in the King's archives"

### 2. Hold God to His promises

"He can reverse nature, but he cannot reverse his own nature, and he must do this before he forebear to hear and answer prayer"

"The Spirit of God leads us to desire exactly what God has decreed"

"The best praying man is the man most believingly familiar with the promises of God. After all, prayer which is not based on a promise has no true foundation"

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**If you are in need of any assistance during this time, we are more than happy to help out, whether you need some items of shopping or just a chat, please do call one of us on the numbers listed below.**

Josh – 01720 263433, Carol – 01730 893489, Jo – 01730 301377, Esmé – 01730 266475

## Notice

**Until further notice please forward any items for which you would like prayer to Brian Blogg, telephone 01730 710565, email [brianaudrevb@gmail.com](mailto:brianaudrevb@gmail.com)**

## I Prayed for Thee Today

**I prayed for thee today,  
To the God Who has all power  
That He would keep thee close to Him  
And strengthen Thee this hour,  
And that thou be conformed to Christ  
In Whom thy life is hid  
And reflect to all the Father's love  
As Christ our Saviour did.**

**I prayed that thou might know Him well**

**And delight thyself in Him  
Who sacrificed Himself for thee  
And cleansed thee of thy sin  
I prayed thy eyes be lifted high  
To Him enthroned above  
Until He brings us home to Him  
Upon His beams of love.**

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<https://www.spurgeongems.org/poem>

# Thank GOD For The NHS

*This article was originally published in the Autumn 2018 issue of the Plain Truth Magazine.*

***'The NHS will last as long as there are folk left with the faith to fight for it.' – Aneurin Bevan***

There aren't many British institutions that evoke a sense of wellbeing, even love. The BBC is sometimes known as 'Aunty' but how should we refer to the National Health Service (NHS)? Mum, dad, grandma? For many people reading this article, the NHS was present at our birth, cares for us throughout our lives and will witness our death in some way or another. Nigel Lawson, a former Conservative Chancellor of the Exchequer once famously remarked that the NHS is 'the closest thing the English have to a religion'. And this year the NHS is 70 years old. A stately age, commanding respect and even love. Earlier in the summer, a special service of thanksgiving was held at Westminster Abbey to celebrate the NHS. Religion was indeed lauding this venerable institution.

The Chief Executive of NHS England, Simon Stevens, quoted from the Archbishop of Canterbury's book Reimagining Britain: Foundations for hope where he says that the NHS was 'the most powerful and visible expression of our Christian heritage' because it 'sprang out of a concern that the poor should be able to be treated as well as the rich'.

A recent healthcare initiative in the UK, sees churches reaching into their communities through so-called 'parish nurses'. Parish Nursing Ministries UK (PNMUK)<sup>4</sup> was set up by Dr Helen Wordsworth, a Baptist Minister. Inspired by the work of parish nurses in the USA, this organisation seeks to integrate basic nursing into a church's pastoral care. Through employing qualified nurses, an increasing number of churches are making contact with people who would otherwise not attend church but are happy to come to clinics and talk about their health and associated anxieties.

In this environment, prayer is offered and readily accepted. Follow up is referred back to the NHS system but the church as a therapeutic community of friends is making its mark. Health is an important issue in the Bible and the Church has a long tradition in medicine, nursing and seeking the common good of everyone, of all faiths and none. Thank God for the NHS.

*You can read this article in full by clicking on the link below.*

<https://plain-truth.org.uk/thank-god-for-the-nhs>

## PRAYER BY SAINT FRANCIS

Lord, make me an instrument of  
your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow  
love;  
Where there is error, truth;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master grant that I may  
not so much seek  
To be consoled as to console;  
To be understood as to  
understand;  
To be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
It is in pardoning that we are  
pardoned;  
It is in self-forgetting that we find;  
And it is in dying to ourselves that  
we are born to eternal life.  
Amen.

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