



Seeds of Prayer

Seeds of prayer is a resource for prayer for individuals, groups, church services and other meetings. If you would like to feed back your own insights and prayers then we would be very happy to hear from you.

Land, food and thanksgiving

The Psalms and prophetic texts proclaim that fruitfulness from the land is a clear sign of God's blessing on the people and something for which to be grateful. His withholding of crops is a sign of our sin and His displeasure (Psalm 65:9-13; Psalm 107:33-38; Hosea 2:8-9,22). Yet, notwithstanding the rhetoric and celebration of country life, the UK still seems to fail to appreciate or grasp the value of the land entrusted to us and the harvest it yields. We remain heavily reliant on imported food, whilst some of our own farmers are ceasing to produce food as costs escalate. Growers cannot make a living, consumers cannot afford the food in the shops and, despite clear evidence from our supermarket shelves, there are still no assurances that government is taking domestic food security seriously. *Please pray for an awakening to the reality of the situation, humility, and a turning to the Lord for wisdom and understanding, amongst policy makers, business and church leaders and retailers. Pray for mercy on those struggling and divine provision for those in need. Give thanks for the generosity and creativity of many helping to feed their neighbours.*

Farming and the land

We thank God for our farmers who, in the words quoted from the recent National Farmers Union conference, need to be recognised and valued first and foremost as food producers. In a time of volatility, uncertainty and instability, the farmers and growers of Britain continue to bring in the harvest and feed the nation. The vision shared by NFU leadership for a prosperous farming sector is threefold: boosting productivity, protecting the environment and managing volatility. As believers, we know that none is achievable without the favour of God. May we farm this land in faith and the fear of the Lord. *Pray, as the prophet wrote: "Let us fear the Lord our God, who gives the rain in its season, the autumn rain and the spring rain, and keeps for us the weeks appointed for the harvest." (Jeremiah 5:24).*

Tabernacles in the wilderness

Israel's tabernacle in the wilderness was set apart as place of worship and prayer, where the Lord met with His people, where Heaven met Earth. It recapitulated the Garden of Eden (bit.ly/bpedentab) and anticipated the Incarnation (John 1:14), Golgotha & the Resurrection garden (John 19:17 - 20:18) and the holy city to come (Revelation 21:2-3). Since Jesus' coming, we can worship God anywhere (John 4:21-24) and He is present wherever His people are gathered (Matthew 18:20). Yet, across the centuries, the Lord has set apart particular places for worship and prayer, for building up believers and "equipping the saints for the work of ministry" (Ephesians 4:12) and for seekers to come aside and encounter the Lord. Some of these have been in hidden, out-of-the-way places, in deserts or on islands. Today also, such centres are springing up in the countryside, in villages and on farms. They seem to be a special provision for our present times. *Pray for the Lord to bless and prosper these 'tabernacles' and to raise up new ones across rural Britain. Pray that they will offer right worship (Malachi 1:11; Hebrews 13:15) and effective prayer, and draw many closer to Him.*

Hope Countryside (originally Hope for the Countryside) is a partnership including Agricultural Christian Fellowship, Village Hope, the World Prayer Centre, Top Barn Trust and others. 'Hope Countryside' expresses our growing vision of beacons of prayer lighting up across rural Britain, bringing hope both to the countryside and from the countryside to the whole of the nation. Our aim is to promote understanding of, and prayer for, rural life and communities, church and mission, and farming and the land.

Spring

As spring begins, once again, we see, hear and smell the signs of new life in field and hedgerow. *Give thanks for this annual reminder of God's eternal goodness and of our resurrection, and for the eternal 'joy of spring' we have in Him.*

For lo, the winter is past... The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come (Song of Solomon 2:11-12).

Lent

Observing Lent prompts us to "consider our ways" (Haggai 1:5-7) and turn back to God's ways (2 Chronicles 7:14). Abstinence without godly sorrow (2 Corinthians 7:10), contrition and repentance (Joel 2: 12-17), and putting things right, is not 'God's chosen fast' (Isaiah 58:1-14). Church and nation have strayed far from truth, righteousness and justice (Isaiah 59:1-15), 'moved ancient boundaries' (Proverbs 22:28) and become enamoured of the spirit of the age (1 John 2:15-17). *Pray for the Lord to pour the Spirit of grace and supplication (Zechariah 12:10) on His people, and that the Spirit will convict many in the nation of sin, righteousness and judgement (John 16:7-11). As did Daniel, 'pray to the Lord and make confession', on behalf of the people, entreating Him to 'hear, forgive and act' (Daniel 9:3-19).*

Events coming up

Online Prayer Gathering

9.00 - 10.30 am, Saturday 1 April 2023

Link: <https://web.zoom.us/join>

Meeting ID: 899 6041 2676

Passcode: 757693

A 'Day on the Farm'

10 am - 6 pm, Saturday 1 July 2023

Southfields Farm, Coleshill, B46 3EJ

A date for your diary; details to follow.