

24/7 Prayer & Community Prayer

Pete Hay, Marian Hay, Andy Wright. BCCs

Basingstoke Community Churches have run some 24-7 prayer weeks and found the people and resources at 24/7 Prayer of great help. Their passion and enthusiasm about prayer is infectious and inspiring. For more details see

- <https://www.24-7prayer.com/prayer> (lots of resources to help set up prayer rooms and help individuals and churches pray)
- <https://www.prayercourse.org/>

The books written by Pete Greig and Brian Heasley are incredibly inspiring and helpful

- <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Red-Moon-Rising-Generation-Chronicles/dp/143470890X/>
- <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Dirty-Glory-Where-Prayers-Chronicles/dp/147363170X/>
- <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Gatecrashing-Story-24-7-Prayer-Ibiza/dp/1910012092/>

They have helped develop the resources www.thykingdomcome.global/prayerresources

The following provides some pointers to how we have approached running a 24-7 prayer week.

1. **Decide to do it! Go for it!** Believe that people will sign up.
2. **Paint the vision** about being part of an exciting UK/global event that will make a difference and that we are joining something that God has initiated.
3. **Preach on prayer** running up to the week of prayer. We want God to inspire people to pray and inspire their prayers to be aligned with His heart and will.
4. **Offer people the opportunity to sign up**
 - a. For 1hr or 1/2 hr slots.
 - b. Remind them that they can do more than one slot and that more than one person can sign up to a slot.
 - c. Encourage leaders to sign up early and take early hour slots. Showing an example matters.
 - d. One of our congregation took the sign up sheet and went around encouraging others - "come on let's do this! How can we not after the message we've heard!"
 - e. Remind people of the times they've signed up
5. **Provide times to meet and gather for corporate prayer.**
 - a. Include plenty of variety in the ways people can engage with prayer: worship, prayer stations, triplets ...
6. **Encourage throughout the 9 days**, to not just do their own day but see it as a giving of ourselves to 9 days of prayer and to join other gatherings.
7. **Help people know how to pray**
 - a. Teach it: use the 24-7 Prayer Course... Spend time on Biblical prayers - they help us know and feel God's heart and will. It makes such a difference when we encounter God in prayer, when His truth is revealed to us and impacts us.

- b. Set up a prayer room
 - c. Provide ideas and resources - make it easy. Let them customise it for their own use
 - d. Encourage variety: prayer room, home, with others, prayer walking ...
8. **Tell the stories of answered prayer:** drug dealers caught, housing estate built with integrity, starting to see a number of people praying sinners prayer...

Here are some additional things we are looking to do this time round:

- **Prayer walking using Ward Profiles.** These give us more insight in to community issues.
 - <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/ward-and-borough-profiles>
- **Ask the community what they would like prayer for,** let them know that the nation will be praying and we believe God answers prayer. God is real, He is love, He answers prayer ...
 - We were inspired by the National Prayer Weekend initiative:
<http://www.national-prayer-weekend.com/connecting-with-your-community>
 - It could link well to the Who Cares initiative.
 - Neighbours, schools, council / local government, businesses
- **More ecumenical prayer.**

Finally, let's pray that we will become a church that prays. Not just as individual churches, but as one church together.