

Prayer Reflection for July

Sharing our Faith, just where we are.

Walking around your community within a Church boundary, you have a particular relationship with people and a responsibility to pray for those people within; workers, home carers, parents, civil servants, medical staff, volunteers, refugees, homeless ones and many, many others. While you walk you will be surprised who you discover and your prayer will become grounded. You will have stories to tell, prayers to pray, not yours but theirs.

Two examples from our weekly prayer walks in an urban area, it was pouring with rain; but we went anyway. Clad in weatherproofs and with umbrellas aloft, we were calling in at units on our industrial estate. We almost fell into one foyer area, tripping over the door frame, dripping wet, we smiled at the receptionist, and linking arms I spontaneously led a verse of "We are singing in the rain....." and approaching the desk I said, "We are from St. Chad's Church" You could see the response building, "What a motley crew...we do not sponsor....." but was cut short when I continued, "We have come to ask if there are any concerns you would like us to pray for; business concerns, personal issues, any requests, and could we leave our prayer with you to place in your staff room.....The response was immediate, "Oh. ...Yes...Please could you pray for..."

On another occasion, two of our prayer walkers returned a little down hearted, they had visited some of our local shops and had not received any prayer requests, but they had left our prayer card. Later in that afternoon we received two faxed pages of prayer requests from the local pharmacist; personal and for people he knew who were struggling with illness.

This prayer ministry, over many years, began following an industrial chaplaincy conference when a business manager said, "No-one ever prays for me in Church, only the carers in my community get prayed for. I care for my staff, but I have to make difficult budget decisions that affect their lives. No-one prays for me; it is a lonely place."

When prayer-walking, keep safe, use the Jesus' model and go out in two's and three's and have on your hearts the Mary Sumner Prayer and have in your mind the image of Jesus' arms reaching out and his words, "How I long to gather these people, as a mother hen gathers her chicks under her wings" Matt 23:36

We have church members unable to walk but partnered with our walkers they pray with a map, prayerfully tracing our route. Then, welcoming us with a cuppa at the end, we pray together for those we had met. The prayer

requests are then left in church and included in our daily offices and communion services that week.

Remember, the Mothers' Union is a world-wide community, so every day you can join us for midday prayers when we pray together, not just for ourselves but for all who need our prayers.

Feet to record your own prayers

