

Newsletter Update

Friday 9th August 2013

Stats

1,739 Streets being prayed for [See Map](#)
 175,639 Houses on those streets (101 per street)
 417,360 People living there (240 per street)

****[Click here to see our research sources.](#)**

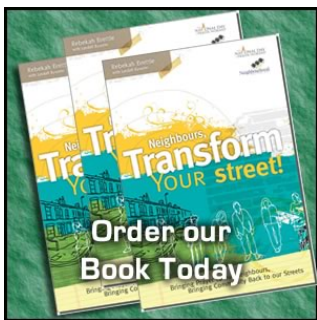


Dear Carl,

Sadly, some of you are living next to some neighbours, who are causing you some anxiety and or trouble. This week the Daily Mail ran an article about how many of us don't get on with our neighbours. Quite often this is through no fault of our own. We have produced a new prayer resource, specifically looking at this issue, available in this newsletter.

Difficulties with Neighbours

Problems range from a dispute over parking, planning permission for building work, to late night parties or arguments and rarely, damage to property and verbal abuse. We highlight this article this week.



New Prayer Resource

It is not too long and we hope that you find it helpful. We recognise that not everyone will need this resource, but hope it will be helpful to those of you experiencing problems or might be helpful for someone you know who is having problems. This resource has been produced at short notice and we are seeking to improve it. I felt an urgency this week to tackle this subject. We would therefore be grateful for your feedback as to whether you think it is useful. We recognise we do not always get everything right!



Neighbour Friday

Our regular "Neighbour Friday" can be found at the end of this newsletter. The Neighbour Friday prayers are also published in the UCB, Prayer for Today, which you can obtain free from UCB.



News article summary

"Hate thy neighbour! 60% don't get on with next door, with reasons including noisy children and late night parties," 5th August 2013, Daily Mail

A survey by Swinton Insurance where 2000 adults were surveyed stated :-

10% said neighbours were not an important part of everyday life



28% said they would never socialise with a neighbour

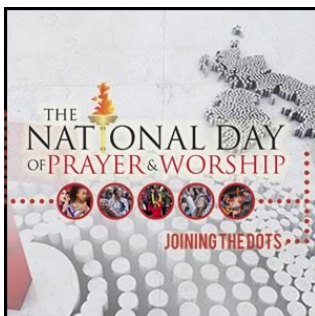
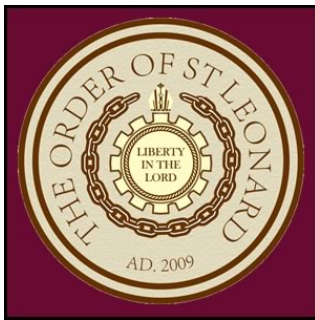
10% had a long running feud with a neighbour, 43% saying this was a big bust up.

30% said they had a poor relationship with 2 or more neighbours.



... AND HERE ARE TWENTY REASONS WHY

- 1) They block my drive
- 2) They park in my space
- 3) Their dog barks all day
- 4) Their garden is a tip
- 5) You can hear them swearing in the garden
- 6) They are always rowing
- 7) They host too many late night parties
- 8) Their cats do their business in my garden
- 9) Their children are loud when in the garden
- 10) I just can't be bothered to speak to them
- 11) They have let their house go to ruin
- 12) They light bonfires
- 13) They let their wheelie bins overflow
- 14) Their trees are blocking my light
- 15) The children kick a ball against my house
- 16) They are always showing off
- 17) Their children peer over my fence
- 18) I just don't like the look of them
- 19) They got annoyed when I had a party
- 20) They don't bring our parcels around



Prayer Guide: Neighbours we don't always get on with...

Love Your Neighbour as yourself

Matthew 22:37-40

37 Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."



Matt 5:43-45

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."

Pray...

*Lord help me to love all my neighbours as myself.

*Lord, Help me to bless those who curse me and do good to those who are less than pleasant towards me.



*Lord help me to be a good neighbour, even if I receive nothing in return.

No condemnation, dealing with guilt.

Romans 8:1-2

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

*Lord, forgive me if I have contributed in any way to a problem with my neighbour(s).

*Lord, help me to believe that I do not stand condemned before You, but that I can stand before You in confidence as Your child.

*Lord help me to reject thoughts of guilt or condemnation, and to move forward.

Pray a blessing over the home

Luke 10:5-6

5 But whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house.' 6 And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest on it; if not, it will return to you.

*Lord, I pray a blessing over the home of my neighbour. Please let peace reside in their home.

*Help me, when I see my neighbour to speak only words of peace and love

*Lord, if anger or resentment has come into my heart, please heal me of this and let me see my neighbour, the way You do!

Do not judge

Matthew 7:1-6

7 "Judge not, that you be not judged. 2 For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. 3 And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? 5 Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. 6 "Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.

*Lord, forgive me for the times that I have judged my neighbour.

*Lord, reveal my own failings as a neighbour and help me

to overcome them.

*Lord, give me opportunities, only as You lead, to show love and not judgement to my neighbour.

Faith Triumphs in Trouble

Romans 5:1-5

5 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

*Lord, help me to persevere in praying for my neighbours, wanting only what is best for them, acknowledging that I don't know what problems they are facing.

*Lord, as I go through this difficult period, please use it to mould my character to be more like You.

*Lord, help me, not to become disheartened with the situation I find myself in. Please give me wisdom to deal with the current problems I am facing.

Compassion

Mark 6:34

34 And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things.

*Lord, help me to love my neighbour, without reservation and to have the same compassion that You have for people.

*Lord help me to love others more

*Lord, show my neighbour, how much You love them and help them in all aspects of their life. Help them to come into a transforming relationship with You.

In our book, 'Neighbour's Transform Your Street,' the following articles may encourage and help you.

Adopt a Street/Street Pastors, page 56.

Ffald-Y-Brenin, page 58.

Ballymena House of Prayer, Northern Ireland, page 88.

Prayers of Bell Farm Christian Community Lead to Decline in Crime Wave, page 89.

Reviled Church Becomes the Fourth Emergency Service, page 91.

NEIGHBOUR FRIDAY

PRAYER

JONAH 4:10-11

Lord, give me your compassion for those living in my neighbourhood, especially those I feel I have little in common with. Forgive me when I have judged others, without knowing all the circumstances.

Pray for a family you have little in common with and ask God for opportunities to bless them.

Keep Praying and Bless, Prayer guides available here:

[You can download a PDF document by clicking here.](#)

[You can download a Word document by clicking here.](#)

CARE

Ask God to lead you in praying for a neighbour you do not feel you have anything in common with. Commit to praying for them regularly.

SHARE

Could you give out prayer request cards, to your neighbours as a wider home group or church activity? Over the coming weeks pray confidentially for any prayer requests. See page 169 of Neighbours, Transform Your Street.

Every Blessing



Rebekah Brettle

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