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Newsletter Update

Friday 15th March 2013

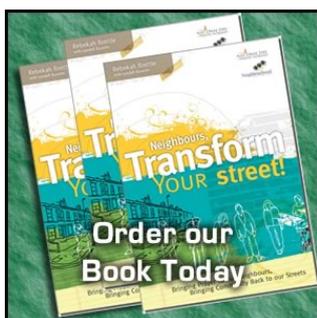


Neighbourhood
PRAYER.NET

Stats

1,240 Streets being prayed for [See Map](#)
125,240 Houses on those streets (101 per street)
297,600 People living there (240 per street)

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



Dear Carl,

This week two articles have appeared in the media about loneliness and neighbours. Here is a summary of some of the statistics these articles shared and why each of us has the capacity to make a significant difference in our own street. Imagine if all of us made an effort to get to know our neighbours...we might see people starting to feel less lonely and safer, we might see a sense of community return in areas where it has been lost. Some people have also written to me to say that they are still unsure how to start praying for and caring for their neighbours. We have written some suggested first steps, below. [Please write to us](#) to share your suggestions



There are hundreds more ideas in our resource, "[Neighbours Transform Your Street](#)" which also helps fund our work. We would be very grateful if you could help us spread this resource which has contributions from Jonathan Oloyede, Rev Canon J. John, Debra Green, Matt Wilson, Rev David Carr, Rev Les Isaacs, Jean Black, Wendy Thomas, Paul Blakey and many many more, as well as testimonies from around the UK to encourage you. It also has several prayer guides included. The book should have originally been priced at £15, but we reduced the cost to £10 plus postage to make it more accessible. It is full colour throughout. Please [click here to order your book](#). Churches can buy 14 for the price of 12 with free postage for £120. A great offer for Easter, and I sign any copies purchased through our website.

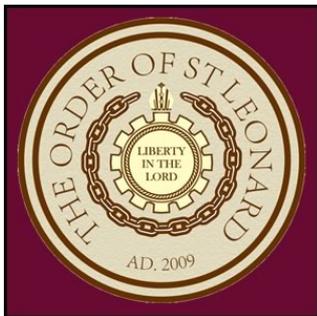


Newspaper Review

Only one in three of us introduce ourselves to our neighbours when we move because we are too busy, [10th March 2013, Daily Mail](#)

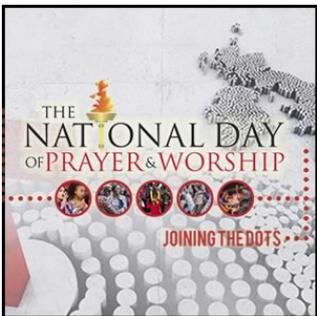


- *1 in 4 people do not know the names of the people living next door*
- *Researchers discovered that a large percentage of us are too busy to make ourselves known to those living nearest us.*
- *50% of us don't know our neighbours*
- *75% of people wanted there to be more community spirit in their area, 52% saying it would make their*



- neighbourhood feel safer and 53% just wanted to make friends*
- *over half of us who have knocked on a neighbours door have sparked a relationship such as a new friendship, help in a time of trouble or started a new hobby.*

Pensioners in loneliness epidemic, [March 11th 2013, Express](#)



**Survey conducted for the associated Retirement Community Operators (ARCO) found that 1 in 4 over 65s (24%) felt lonely, some or most of the time. 1 in 5 over 75s sometimes go a full weekend without seeing or speaking to another person.*

First Steps to getting to know your neighbours

Pray for your neighbours

If you can pray for a lot of people, fantastic, but if this is overwhelming, ask God to tell you which three houses to start praying for. Ask God for opportunities to get to know your neighbours.



Use our [prayer guides](#) to help you pray found in our book, Neighbours, Transform Your Street, or at www.neighbourhoodprayer.net/prayer

Care for Your neighbours

Get to know their names when you see them leaving the house.



As Easter is approaching consider giving out some hot crossed buns or Easter eggs on your street and an Easter card.

If you see your neighbours, when coming home or going to work, always try to say hello and strike up a conversation. Over a long period of time, you will find it easier to become friends with your neighbours. However, ask God to lead you in this! Each week we also try to provide some suggestions as part of Neighbour Friday.



SAFETY: We do not recommend these suggestions for children or vulnerable adults because of the emphasis on getting to know neighbours. While the vast majority of people living on our streets would not harm a child or vulnerable adult, we are concerned about the growing issues surrounding abuse. We would ask you to be vigilant to this risk when interacting with neighbours.

We strongly advise that, in getting to know your neighbours, you don't put yourself in a position where you are on your own with a child, vulnerable adult or someone of the opposite sex. If you invite someone into your home, it would be best if someone else was there with you.

Every Blessing



Rebekah Brettle

P.S. Don't forget to click on the block advert links to some of our great partners (on the left).

Today is Neighbour Friday

PRAYER

Mark 9:35

Lord, surround and protect all the children living on our street. Help me to respect the children I meet, and show me how to be a good role model for them. Bless the parents on your street as they seek to bring their children up well.

Plan an Easter party for the families on your street. (Under no circumstances be on your own with a child)

CARE:

#do1nicething, in partnership with Love Your Streets. Please tweet the daily #do1nicething each day over lent.

Friday 15th March: Give away a book you think is worth reading #do1nicething

Saturday 16th March: Pay for the drink of the person behind you in a coffee shop #do1nicething

Sunday 17th March: Write some inspiration messages on Post-It notes and randomly leave on chairs at church or on people's doors! #do1nicething

Monday 18th March: Help someone down the stairs with a pram #do1nicething

Tuesday 19th March: Sit in a coffee shop and chat to some strangers #do1nicething

Wednesday 20th March: Offer your skills to someone else for free #do1nicething

Thursday 21st March: Write a letter to the boss of someone who has given excellent customer service to tell them so

#do1nicething

SHARE

Could you consider ordering copies of the Father's love letter from [UCB](#) (our partner), to give out to your neighbours on Valentine's day, Father's day or over the Lent/Easter period? See pages 218-220 in "Neighbour's, Transform Your Street" for more details. Phone 0845 6040401, to order your free copies from UCB, you will have to pay postage costs only.

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