

AVONSIDE MISSION AREA

Avonmouth - Lawrence Weston - Sea Mills - Shirehampton - Stoke Bishop

Bringing about *social, cultural and spiritual* transformation in Avonside

A prayer of blessing for the Avonside Mission Area

Heavenly Father we thank you that you love to bless your children and your whole creation¹. We understand that to be blessed by you does not remove all trace of difficulty and suffering in our lives².

We know that to experience your closeness, comfort and delight is the greatest blessing, and that our salvation has been won for us through Jesus' sacrificial death and glorious resurrection³.

We ask Lord God for your blessing to rest upon the Avonside Mission Area – the communities of Shirehampton, Sea Mills, Coombe Dingle, Lawrence Weston, Avonmouth and Stoke Bishop.

We pray for the blessing of salvation. That all those living and working in the Mission Area would have the opportunity to hear and respond to the Good News about Jesus. We pray for all Christian churches, that they would be bold and humble in their witness.

We pray for the blessing of reconciliation. That every human relationship would be marked out by love and service. We bless every marriage, all parent-child relationships, friendships and family bonds. We pray for all who feel lonely and for those suffering because relationships are broken.

We pray for the blessing of strength for those who serve. We bless the caring charities and organisations across the Mission Area; nursing homes, medical services, the Foodbank, Debt counselling services, children's centres and all who are carers of any kind. We pray that those who give so much to others would also have their own needs met.

We pray for the blessing of wisdom for all who teach, learn and lead. We bless all schools, students, University and college staff, MPs and church leaders across the Mission Area. We pray for integrity for those who lead others and for a spirit of learning and creativity within these institutions.

We pray for the blessings of unity and interdependence. We pray that all conflict would be healthy and quickly resolved. We pray that all Christians in the Mission Area would model how to love one another despite differences or disagreements. We pray that together both grace and truth would be our highest priority.

We pray for the blessings of peace and rest. That the land we have been entrusted to care for would flourish, and that we would live lightly upon it. We pray for the blessings of joy, laughter and generosity to be experienced by all people in the Mission Area.

We pray for the blessing of comfort for all who suffer. That the sick, dying, bereaved, troubled, hungry and lonely would encounter God's love and provision. We pray that Christians across the Mission Area would continue to go out of their way to come alongside those who are suffering.

We pray all this humbly, knowing that you Lord God both give and take away⁴. We pray Your will be done in us and across the Avonside Mission Area. Amen.

¹ Isaiah 41:10

² Romans 5:3-4

³ Ephesians 2:8-9

⁴ Job 1:21