



NATIONAL & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

INTRODUCTION

The “**Spiritual Stronghold**” for **March 2014** is “**Local & National Government**” and we invite Churches throughout Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin to make this a focus for corporate prayer during services on **Sunday 2nd March 2014**.

In addition, below you will find some “**Points to Ponder**” with additional information and topics for which to pray plus details of **resources** that you may wish to research.

INTRODUCTION

It is probably fair to say that the general public’s view of those who serve in Government, either local or national, is not a positive one. A succession of scandals and examples of poor conduct and self-interest regrettably give the impression that all those who offer themselves in public service (for that indeed is what it is) have a hidden agenda. However, the truth is that the majority serve with dedication and self-sacrifice, working tremendously hard in the best interests of country, county, and local communities.

It is therefore so important that we pray for our MP’s, MEP’s, County Councillors and Town Councillors that God will grant them wisdom when decisions need to be made, and also fill them with a heart for justice and compassion, particularly for the most vulnerable in our society. It is rare for such people to be publicly thanked for their service, but we also offer prayers of thanks for their service in pursuit of policies that work for the good of all.

CORPORATE PRAYER

“Lord Jesus,

We pray today for all who govern us, both nationally and locally as well as in Europe.

For our national government, we pray that it would govern with integrity, fairness and justice, appreciating all needs within our society when making laws and decisions. As those with responsibility manage the country through this period of economic crisis and austerity, we pray that they would prioritise help for the vulnerable and needy, and that the essential services - healthcare, education and welfare - would be maintained.

We pray for our local authorities and town councils, that on a local level they may manage local resources and services in the best way possible.

We pray for our MEPs – that in the discussions at the European Parliament there will be a balance between protecting national interests and working for the good of all the people within the EU.

We thank you for the individuals who offer their lives in public service - for our MP’s, MEPs, county, town and parish councillors.

We pray that they would serve with caring hearts for the many people who are affected by the decisions they make.

We pray that they remain strong in their beliefs and convictions and endeavour to do the right thing for the good of all and not be swayed by political pressure, self-interest, or by the desire to remain popular.

And we especially ask for Your favour on those in local, national and international government who profess to be Christians – regardless of their political views and affiliations. Strengthen and uphold them and enable them to stand for righteousness, justice and equality.

In Your name we pray, Amen.”

1 TIMOTHY 2:1-4 (NIVUK)

“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”

It’s interesting to note these verses link praying for those in authority with people coming to faith in Jesus. When we pray in accordance with God’s will, He acts in sovereign power!

SHROPSHIRE

Shropshire Hope 2014

SPECIFIC PRAYER TOPICS & POINTS TO PONDER

- Our MPs and MEPs - for their health, wellbeing and that they would be open to guidance from the Holy Spirit.

Members of Parliament

Philip Dunne MP (Ludlow)
 Owen Paterson MP (North Shropshire)
 Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
 Daniel Kawczynski MP (Shrewsbury & Atcham)
 Mark Pritchard MP (The Wrekin)
 David Wright MP (Telford)

European Members of Parliament

Phil Bennion MEP
 Philip Bradbourn OBE, MEP
 Michael Cashman MEP
 Malcolm Harbour MEP
 Anthea McIntyre MEP
 Mike Nattrass MEP
 Nikki Sinclair MEP

- Shropshire Council & Telford & Wrekin Council are both Unitary Authorities with responsibility for a wide range of public services
- Provision of essential services including Healthcare, Welfare, Children's Services and Highways and Transport.
- Pray for wisdom as austerity measures continue
- Pray for those in our county who have been affected by the recent floods and storms.
- Pray that our Government would turn back to the Christian values on which our country was built.

Organisation	Overview	Website
Shropshire Council	For information about local council services; local councillors and council tax	www.shropshire.gov.uk
Telford & Wrekin Council	Many town and parish councils also have websites for information on their responsibilities and services	www.telford.gov.uk
Local Government Association	The LGA is the national voice of local government and works with councils to support, promote and improve local government	www.local.gov.uk
GovUK	Government services and information website (formerly DirectGov) Access to various Government Department websites and the Prime Minister's (Number 10) website All political parties will have their own websites	www.gov.uk
European Parliament	Provides information on elected members and the workings of the EU	www.europarl.europa.eu

If you are aware of other organisations that you feel could be included please email us:

admin@shropshirehope.co.uk



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