

PRAYER RESOURCES

RESPONDING TO THE IMPACTS OF
CORONAVIRUS ON PEOPLE FACING
ACUTE POVERTY IN THE UK

trusselltrust.org



WELCOME

The Trussell Trust supports a nationwide network of food banks and together we provide emergency food and support to people locked in poverty and campaign for change to end the need for food banks in the UK.

In the UK, more than 14 million people are living in poverty - including 4.5 million children. We support more than 1,200 emergency food bank centres in the UK to provide a minimum of three days' emergency food to people who have been referred in crisis, as well as support to help people resolve the crises they face.

Between April 2018 and March 2019, food banks in our network provided a record 1.6 million food supplies to people in crisis, a 19% increase on the previous year.

These food banks will continue to support people in financial crisis throughout the coronavirus pandemic and beyond. We are already seeing significantly increased demand for emergency food.

Churches across the UK play a major part in our food bank network, providing venues, volunteers, leadership, food donations and more.

The Trussell Trust team, like the dedicated teams of staff and volunteers who make food banks happen across the country, is made up of people from a variety of faith and non-faith backgrounds.

Our work is based on, shaped and guided by Christian principles, and for many food bank staff and volunteers, prayer is an important way of seeking guidance, being resourced for action and bringing about change.

If you would like to pray or lead others in prayer for our work, we would really appreciate your support in this way. We hope this short guide is a useful tool to help you do this, whether you use it alone, share it with a small group or incorporate it as part of an online service.

If you would like to receive updates as we develop further resources for churches, please sign up at: www.trusselltrust.org.uk/church-resources.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING US IN PRAYER.

A PRAYER IN RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS

Loving God,

Help us to see clearly in this time of fast-paced change,
To see our inter-dependence on one another,
To see one another's courage, resilience and creativity,
To see one another's sorrows, fragility and humanity.
Remind us that these reflect your image.

Help us to respond to suffering and poverty as they unfold,
To discern how to grieve, to comfort and to connect,
To discern in what ways to give, encourage or serve,
To discern where our task is to tell our story, to influence or to give
others space to play their parts.
Remind us that this reflects your wisdom.

Help us to acknowledge the injustices made manifest by this crisis,
To meet them with a thirst for justice,
To meet them with an awareness of grace,
To meet them with a commitment to change.
Remind us that this reflects your heart.

Help us to see the hope dawning even in the darkness,
To nurture empathy,
To reject greed,
To embrace compassion.
Remind us that this reflects your love.

Amen.

Scripture references: Genesis 1:27; Isaiah 53:4; Isaiah 58:6; Romans 12:15; 1 Peter 5:10; John 1:5.

PRAYER POINTS

Here are some ways you can pray at this time:

For people experiencing acute poverty, both people newly affected as a result of the impacts of coronavirus, and people for whom the pandemic struck at a time when they were already in financial crisis:

- For the courage to reach out for support where it is needed.
- For timely access to the right social security benefits and for new employment opportunities for those in a position to work.
- For hope, and for opportunities to develop or maintain supportive relationships in safe ways.

For people running and supporting food banks:

- For wisdom and clarity in decision-making that results in the best support for people in crisis.
- For good relationships among staff and volunteers, and in local partnerships.
- For energy, good health and opportunities to rest and be refreshed.

For the work of the Trussell Trust team:

- For wisdom and insight as we work to serve and resource our food bank network.
- For our data and voice to influence public policy constructively, in a way that increasingly protects people from destitution.

For government, business, church charity and statutory sector leaders:

- For clarity and guidance as they navigate difficult decisions about how to protect and provide for people, including regarding money and food, in a fast-changing environment.

Give thanks with us too for the extraordinary generosity, dedication and partnership we have seen at this time, and for the compassion and concern that this reflects.