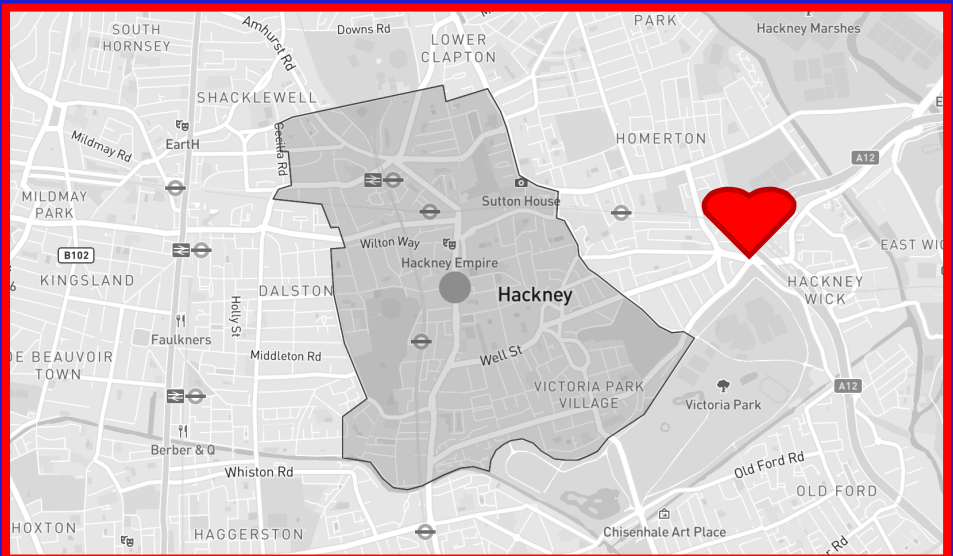


Hearts of Hackney Prayer Circle

We pray with open hearts for peace,
restoration and unity



We meet together to pray for the children of Hackney
and provide spiritual support through prayer to those
grieving following the murders and an increase in
violent crime in the area.

The Seed Project - Aleka Gutzmore, Pioneer
Trinity Saints United



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Note: You do not need a bible to use this booklet, the scriptures are provided. Different bible translations/versions are used throughout this booklet . Please feel free to use your preferred version and make notes.

Walk in the way of Love.

God,

Grant that the children of Hackney and
around the world would learn to live a life of
love, through the Spirit who lives in them.

Amen

Ephesians 5:2

Pioneer Foreword

“As a result of their injustice, the poor cried out to Him and as you ought to know well, He always hears the cries of the needy, of the oppressed peoples.”

Job 34:28 (voice version)

Welcome and thank you for joining this initiative.
Your prayers will not go in vain.

I hope we grow in faith and connect as a ‘village’. It’s an age-old saying ‘it takes a village to raise a child’. When we take responsibility to serve and protect one another and become keepers to our brothers and sisters, we unite in love and create an atmosphere conducive to progress—ultimately returning to the love God prescribes in his word.

My heart goes out to all those who are distressed by the increased violence and premature deaths in Hackney. Hackney is my home town; I was born and raised here and love the people and the area. I have also raised my son, now 21, in the area and am proud of his progress to date; however, the constant fear of violence never leaves.



I have friends and known community members who have lost their children to violence or watched others have their potential robbed with stints in prison.

We live in a multicultural and multi-faith environment; our differences make us unique and rich, rich in culture and love. However, the majority of people live in poverty and with socioeconomic disadvantages, which can fuel adverse behaviour and outcomes.

As the songwriter Whitney Houston wrote, "I believe children are the future. If we teach them well and let them lead the way, show all the beauty they possess inside and give them a sense of pride, life will become easier."

Praying together in this way will provide a spiritual covering and a shift in the atmosphere. I am hoping for a supernatural encounter and a sense of peace and purpose to stand as testimony to our faithful efforts.

As I embark on my role as the Family, youth and children's lead at Trinity Saints United in Haggerston, I fully embrace my pioneer ministry role to reach out into places where the church is not usually seen and create a catalyst for new community prosperous initiatives with a Christian core. This project is close to my heart; reaching those believers, people with faith who don't necessarily go or have a home church and bring the love of God into the community.

You are a vital part of developing this, and I thank you.

There are many examples in the Bible where women have led from the front with prayer, praise and prophecy to bring forth victory in war, adversity and crossings into new territories of promise and prosperity. The stories may be of biblical times long ago, but they serve as examples of what we can achieve today if we follow the calling of the Holy Spirit and trust God's word to be faithful and everlasting.

Alecia Guthrie.

Who are Trinity Saints United Church, Haggerston?

We are Trinity Saints – two churches, one parish, united to love God and one another. Our growing congregation is characterised by a commitment to Christ in compassion, companionship, creativity and collective action.

Hearts of Hackney Prayer Circle

Calling for Prayer Warriors to join their hearts and minds to turn Hackney's tears from mourning to joy and the restoration of our children and community.

The Cry of Rachel

Hearts of Hackney follows with the spirit of Rachel. Rachel was a woman in biblical times known for her powerful intercession, weeping and time of lamentation. Her two sons were two of the twelve tribes of Israel.

Rachel was Jacob's wife, Joseph and Benjamin's mother. Her legacy is the 'Mother of Nations', her cry was heard for centuries and answered by God, as noted in the book of Jeremiah. From this, we believe a mother's prayers are from the heart and heard for generations, providing comfort, correction and good counsel to the young mind.

We want to meet together with local people to pray for the children of Hackney and provide spiritual support through prayer to those grieving following the recent murders in the area, multiple stabbings, and an increase in violent crime. Not only are lives being taken by death, but they are also lost through sentences in jail, trauma and fear among the innocent.

Why has this come about?

At the end of the last year, Dec 2023, Hackney experienced tragedy with four murders in the area. This has led to an outpour of pain and heartache and no doubt will have long-lasting effects on the families and community members. At the same time, young people's mental health services are experiencing overwhelming referrals for anxiety and depression related issues; waiting times have increased by four.

Violent Crime in London

Across London, it is reported that 43 Knife Crime incidents are reported PER DAY amid a Gang Violence surge in the capital*.

Trinity Saints United is situated in the London Borough of Hackney; in 2023, the borough appeared in the top five most dangerous areas to live in, with a 14% higher than regional crime rate and 30% higher than the national crime rate.

Anti-social behaviour, burglary, robbery, vehicle crime and violence and sexual offences are reported highest across the crime categories. *data gathered from ONS and Mayor of London office

What can be done?

It is unclear if there is a single solution to the problems deprived communities face. Various socioeconomic barriers fuel the underlying issues and must be addressed simultaneously. We appreciate the continuous efforts of grassroots organisations and government-led committees who work tirelessly together to bring about change. Progress may be slow, but it is progressive. However, every year, we continue to hear of the tragedy.

More people are needed to support the cause; the few community members alone are not enough. However, if we all contribute a little, it will eventually add up to a lot.

What can we do collectively as believers?

As believers and people of Faith, we have two powerful weapons: the word of God, and prayer. We often forget the power of prayer, but we also know that when we join together, God will hear and answer our prayers.

Once we've prayed, we must remember that 'prayer without action is dead' (James 2:14-26), and we need to join together to create lasting change, become beacons of light in the community and sit in positions of influence for the youth and their future.

The NEED for PRAYER is NOW

Will you join us in forming a prayer circle around Hackney's families and children?

Ways You Can Join

1 – Download the booklet and pray on Thursday at 8 pm wherever you are.

2 – Join the monthly group prayer session and coffee morning in person with us at Trinity Saints.

3 – Use the prayer prompts and send in your requests and testimonials.

4 - Unity in love and peace, become a role model and continually pray for change, locally and nationally.



Community Prayer and Reflection

Dear God,

We come before you with open hearts and pray for peace, restoration, and unity in Hackney. We ask for an end to violence and gang culture.

We pray collectively as one, knowing that you can guide, protect, and restore the children and families in our borough and throughout our nation.

We ask that all trauma and heartache be removed and that your peace transcends all understanding, restoring love amongst your people.

We pray with the hope that:

HEARTS will be softened to receive the love found in each other as God intended.

Spiritual **EYES & EARS** will be opened to receive & apply the truth God speaks.

ATTITUDES will be adjusted to see sin as God sees sin.

Children and Families be **RELEASED** from stronghold, foothold and snares of the enemy.

Lives are **TRANSFORMED** to live as true followers of Christ

That Hackney **STANDS** United, as one body of Christ.

AMEN

Lead Scriptures:

Matthew 2:17-18

¹⁷ Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ "A voice is heard in Ramah,
weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children.
and refusing to be comforted,
because they are no more."

Jeremiah 31:13-15,

¹³ Then young women will dance and be glad,
young men and old as well.
I will turn their mourning into gladness;
I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow.

¹⁴ I will satisfy the priests with abundance,
and my people will be filled with my bounty,"
declares the LORD.

¹⁵ This is what the LORD says:
"A voice is heard in Ramah,
mourning and great weeping,
Rachel weeping for her children.
and refusing to be comforted,
because they are no more."

Our Prayer Circle Instruction and Promise:

Jeremiah 16-17

¹⁶ This is what the LORD says:
"Restrain your voice from weeping
and your eyes from tears,
for your work will be rewarded,"
declares the LORD.
"They will return from the land of the enemy.

¹⁷ So there is hope for your descendants,"
declares the LORD.
"Your children will return to their own land.



Scriptures to support **H - E - A - R - T - S** The Hearts Prayer Model.

HEARTS

Ezekiel 36:26

²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

Luke 8:5-15

⁵ "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. ⁶ Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture.

⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown." When he said this, he called out, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

⁹ His disciples asked him what this parable meant.

¹⁰ He said, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that, " 'though seeing, they may not see; though hearing, they may not understand.'

¹¹ "This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God.

¹² Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³ Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away.

¹⁴ The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. ¹⁵ But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

EARS AND EYES

Acts 26:18

¹⁸ to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

Matthew 13:15

¹⁵ For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.' ^(a)

ATTITUDES

Luke 15:7

⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

James 2:10

¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

RELEASED

2 Corinthians 10:3-4

³ For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. ⁴ The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

2 Timothy 2:25-26

²⁵ Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

TRANSFORMED

John 8:31-32

³¹ To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

STAND

1 Corinthians 1:10

¹⁰ I appeal to you, brothers and sisters,[Ⓜ] in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.

Colossians 3:13-14

¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

John 17:23

²³ I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.



*You can use these prayers and themes as guidance for your prayer time.
The corresponding verses are provided.*

Prayers for Children

I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you've received it, it will be yours. Mark 11:24

RESPECT

God, help my children to show respect to everyone as Your word commands. 1 Peter 2:17

COURAGE

God, may my children always be strong and courageous in their character and actions. Deuteronomy 31:6



SELF ESTEEM

God, help my children develop a strong self-esteem rooted in the realisation that they are Your masterpiece. Help them to do the good things you have planned. Ephesians 2:10

JUSTICE

God, help my children to walk humbly, love justice and have mercy as you do. Micah 6:8

KINDNESS

God, I pray that the children will be kind to each other and everyone else. 1 Thessalonians 5:15

COMPASSION

God, I pray that You would clothe my children with the virtue of compassion. Colossians 3:12

JOY

God, grant that my children would be filled with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. 1 Thessalonians 1:6

May God hear and answer your prayers.
Restore your hope and bring peace and calm in to your life
in Jesus name. Amen

Use this page for your notes and personal prayers.

We encourage you to send in your prayer requests,
we will unite in your heartfelt request to God.



That's the eye of the Mother that cries.

Forty weeks spent of nurture and care.
40 weeks of wondering,
Pondering, for this precious child
To live, and preparing what will they wear.

To bring a young life so precious
and dear. Why do I bother,
It's not that you care

To think it took you a measly
40 seconds to take,
Yes, TAKE - rob, steal and destroy
that very precious life,
Oh, God I cry, WHY

From the hands, grasp and touch.
Can you imagine that poor Mother?
Oh God help her,
It must be all too much.

Your knife brings strife,
nothing more than a signature
to your bitter plight

Tears and everlasting fear
but you don't seem to even care
for the precious life you took,
Oh dear, Oh dear

When you kill, you don't take just that
one, you steal from the cradle of hope
And set yourself a bloody' long rope.

You think we don't give a damn
So you put yourself in a gang
only to hear your name, used as
derogatory slang.

Can't you hear the roaring flames
from hell? Don't worry, if you can't
they'll be waiting in your cell.
Weeping and wailing is that what you
want, another bitter slope with no
bloody hope.

I'm a Mother, so full of hope,
but right now, I can not cope.
I'm begging, pleading
Please, no more bleeding!

Come to the Lord
Come back as a seedling.
And maybe my fears and tears
can be put to your keeping.

Aleka Gutzmore 27.06.2019

Dialogue of mother, with God and perpetrator

Prayerfully Produced by Aleka Gutzmore
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The SEED Project.

Planting seeds of HOPE

January 2024