

## Prayer for Ballymena's churches



Is that the church of Jesus Christ in Ballymena would together represent the characteristics of Jesus in their town:

**Loving, compassionate, full of grace and mercy, kind, humble, forgiving and passionate**

### Uniting

- Prayer for unity within our own church families, for there to be no divisiveness between members but for eyes to be focused on their common aim.
- That our church families will be a **supportive, comforting, encouraging**, haven where we feel people are interested in our cares and anxieties and can openly discuss them with other Christians.
- Unity across **ages, races, social classes** within our churches.
- That all peoples talents, gifts and abilities will come together to enable the church to work for God's glory to the best of it's ability.
- That Churches across Ballymena will see **our common aim, to seek unity** in seeing lives won for Christ as the only way forward.
- That sectarianism within churches would be unheard of.

How do we compare to the rest of the world?

Country	% of adults who claim church attendance 1 or 2 times a week
#1 Nigeria	89
#2 Ireland	84
#11 United states	44
#22 United kingdom	27

### Loving

- The church would be a loving environment where people are welcome and made to feel at ease.
- That we would be constantly ready to help within our communities in whatever way we are needed.
- We won't be seen as hypocrites but we show becoming a disciple of Jesus in a true light, that there are highs and lows but that we are trying our hardest.
- Let people see that church doesn't just happen on a Sunday, that becoming a disciple is a way of life. That Christians show love to one another outside the four walls on a Sunday.
- Show the world that **the church cares about the world today** and what is going on within it.

### Being

- A **real** church family, where everyone is involved in serving each other and the community surrounding the church.

- An **integral part of society**, the church is somewhere where people come to meet with friends, to discuss their problems, to get help cutting their grass!! You know what I mean!
- That **all** the Christians in our town wouldn't be satisfied with just turning up on a Sunday.
- That the people of our churches would increasingly **become more like Jesus**.

### Some facts,

"One in four of the UK adult population say they go to church at least once a year. [...] 59% never or practically never go to church." Tearfund (2007)

"Between 1998 and 2005, half a million people stopped going to church on Sunday"

Christian charity Tearfund's survey of 7,000 people puts the UK among Europe's four least observant countries. Two-thirds of those polled had not been to church in the last year, except for baptisms, weddings or funerals - but 53% identified themselves as Christian. Tearfund said nearly three million more people would attend regularly if given the "right invitation".

Most of the churches and their ministers to remember in prayer,

Ballee Presbyterian-Darren McCorrison  
 High Kirk Presbyterian—Rev Norman Cameron  
 Assemblies of God, Ballykeel- Pastor McCourt  
 Church of Ireland- Canon Lloyd  
 West Church Presbyterian- Rev. Norman Kane  
 Ballymena Methodist- Rev.Trevor Jameison  
 1st Ballymena Presbyterian-Rev. William Sinclair  
 Hillstreet Baptist- pastor Freddie McClaughlin  
 Ballymena Elim-Pastor Johnathan Law  
 All Saints-Father Sean Connolly  
 Lantara Baptist-Pastor Lowrie  
 Ballykeel Presbyterian- Rev. Martin Neilly  
 Victory Praise-Willis McDowell  
 Living Rivers- Pastor Paul and Karen  
 Green Pastures-Pastor Jeff Wright  
 Hillside Community  
 Ballyloughan Presbyterian-Rev. Joseph Andrews  
 Wellington Street Presbyterian-Rev. Norman Brown  
 Gospel Hall  
 Harryville Presbyterian-Rev. John Finley  
 Ballymena Free Presbyterian-Rev. John Greer  
 Ballee Baptist- Pastor Kennedy

Next month we join to pray in All Saints Church Halls on Sat 26<sup>th</sup> April.

Also we've now got the Spark website up and running so keep checking it for updates.-

[www.sparkballymena.com](http://www.sparkballymena.com)