A message from Margaret, our Anna Chaplain to Older People in Lordshill: During this time of change and uncertainty in our Nation let’s spend a few moments each day praying for older people living in Lordshill:

* Pray that those who are **living independently** but are facing a time of uncertainty or isolation would know God walking with them through the valley, and would be comforted and reassured by His presence. That fear, anxiety, not seeing family, worry about shopping and having enough to eat – or maybe not being able to get to the Post Office to draw their pension to pay for food etc. would give way to God’s peace. **Pray that they will know the abiding presence of God and that they will receive practical help. That their every need shall be met. They shall have food to eat, have the delivery of their medication on time etc.**
* Pray for those **living on their own who may be in the early stages of dementia** and already not coping too well at home; who may be confused or suffering other health issues. **Pray they will be identified and that the right support is put in place and managed for them. Pray God’s protection over them, His provision and peace.**
* Pray for those **caring for a partner with dementia** and dealing with the added stress of the COVID virus. **Pray for those with dementia** who may be out of their normal routine and unable to receive their usual support through groups and programmes. **Let’s pray wisdom, peace, practical support and strength.**
* **Pray for those in Residential Care**: residents feeling anxious about not seeing their usual visitors, friends or family. For the Care and Support Staff, and Managers within the Care Homes and Nursing Homes having to deal with staff shortages causing an increase in work load whilst feeling worried about their own health and families. For those unable to visit loved ones in Residential Care. **Let’s pray God’s peace. Sheltered Housing Blocks:** Let’s pray for the Managers, wardens and staff in Sheltered Housing Blocks and retirement housing complexes and the increase in their work load as they care for older people unable to leave their homes. **For all these carers let’s pray Isaiah 40 v. 28 – 31 that they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint. That they will rise up with God’s strength flowing through their bodies with His song in their hearts today. That they will know His presence.**
* **Let’s pray for all the voluntary organisations**, for Communicare, Southampton City Council and small groups being mobilised. That they shall be effective in caring for the needs of our older people in Southampton that no older person will fall through the net, and go without, or go hungry. That they all will have the opportunity to receive help at this time of national crisis. Let’s pray for meals on wheels that the number of volunteers delivering the meals shall increase and not decrease. **Let’s pray for unity throughout all the caring professions and support agencies and volunteers. Let’s ask our Heavenly Father to grant them wisdom to offer the right support and to those who so desperately need it. Also that the vulnerability of those in need shall be protected.**
* **Let’s pray for God to speak into the hearts of His children, showing them where each of the older people in crisis are, so that not one shall be uncared for. To mobilise His Church.**
* **Let’s declare during this time, God’s overcoming Grace and unfailing Love to every older person in Lordshill: Romans 8 v 31 - 39: What then shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?** **He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also, along with Him, freely give us all things?** **…. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?** **As it is written: “For Your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”** **No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.** **For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor principalities, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, (*the coronavirus*) nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**
* **Heavenly Father, we declare your abiding love, your full provision, your healing virtue, your strength and the protection of your angels to those in caring positions and to every older person in our neighbourhood. We speak revelation to each of their hearts of your unfailing love, causing them to arise above every situation they face. In Jesus Name, Amen.**