

Heavenly Father, as your people in New Haw we bring our community before you and seek your blessing.

We pray for family life; that marriages would be strong and whole, marked by love, forgiveness, mercy and encouragement. We pray for every intergenerational relationship within each household that there may be peace, love and understanding flowing between each one. Where family relationships are fractured, we pray for reconciliation, where they are strained, we pray you will show the way forward.

We pray for people to be blessed with good health, that they may be physically strong, emotionally stable, spiritually enlightened and full of your peace. We pray to become a community where nobody feels rejected or lonely, where all feel supported and where your hope abounds. In Jesus' name we bless every network of wholesome and supportive friendships, every organisation, every community group, our local council and councillors who seek to serve others.

We pray that this community would know the blessing of peace. Where mutual care and respect for one another will bring an end to crime, vandalism and bullying. Bless each person with plenty to replace poverty, that all may have enough to live and enough to give.

We pray for businesses in this area, that you would bless each enterprise which is wholesome and life-giving so their work may prosper and benefit society.

We pray for our schools, nurseries and for Brooklands college, that they may be safe secure places for students and teachers alike. Bless the children's capacity to learn and the teachers' vocations to inform young minds, so that the young people will develop a good understanding of your world and the potential they bring to it. We pray they would be places that nurture the spirit as well as the mind, open to the message of Jesus.

We pray for ourselves. Bless us with unity in the Gospel, and with renewed faith and fresh vision to serve our community together. Fill us with the knowledge of your sovereignty in all things, empower us as churches together by your Holy Spirit to reveal your kingdom rule here in New Haw, inspire us daily to see your name honoured and glory given to you for all that is good.

Amen

New Haw Prayer for Community Blessing (developed from the input of members from Heathervale Baptist Church and All Saints New Haw at the Midsummer Event worship 2014)