

## Prayer Focus 12th May 2019

**“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” James 4:6**

Merciful Father, Your truth runs counter to our self-exalting world:

humble service is the path to kingdom greatness.

This truth isn't weak or foolish as the world would think,  
but is a blessed and honorable gospel garment donned by those who fear You,  
the One who exalts the humble and brings down the proud.

Oh, that the entire world would live in humility before You and each other!  
While I aspire a life of godly humility, the pull of pride seems too strong to overcome.

I so often desire to sit on your throne instead of bowing before You.

I think highly of myself and my accomplishments and forget I am made of dust  
and at best can be called a servant of a great God.

I even diminish the offense of pride by holding it lightly; forgetting that pride cast Satan from Your presence.

Oh, Lord, rescue me from foolish pride and help me learn from Your gentle and humble heart!

Gracious Father, reprogram my soul with your Word to remember it's all about Jesus and not myself.

Help me not think more highly of myself than I ought, but to delight in regarding others as more important.

In my battle against pride, keep me from a false humility that fails to recognize Your gracious gifts.

Rather, help me steward what you have given me as a faithful servant—  
a servant ready to wear the garment of humility and serve you in whatever way  
would most help Your Kingdom and bring praise to Your Name. AMEN.

**EBC & Local Focus:-** Pray for the churches together prayer meeting on Wednesday. Give thanks for Bob Foster and the work of the Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust, pray that their vision for making a real difference to people in Swanage is blessed. Give thanks for granting the permission for the Herston fun day. Pray for the planning able to go ahead.

**Street of the Week :-** Hillsea Road

**Community Prayer Diary:-** St Mark's Herston - Anne Roper and Margaret Chinchen (churchwardens)

**National & World Prayer Points:-** Pray for all Christian demoninations, especially the Church of England as an interim report about Child Sexual Abuse is published. Pray that the climate of secrecy and a desire to protect reputations identified in the report are address so that vulnerable people are truly safeguarded. Pray for all those who seek to use a position in a church for abusive purposes.

Things are bad for the Christian family in Pakistan but it has been confirmed that Asia Bibi has reached Canada safely.

PLEASE PRAY: For Asia and her family, that God would heal them and protect them as they adjust to a new life together after being apart for so long.

For Pakistani believers who are unjustly imprisoned, that God would sustain them and fill them with His peace.

That God would protect the 3.9 million Christians in Pakistan - pray that there would not be any backlash against them.