



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

(A women led, global, ecumenical movement formerly known as Women's World Day of Prayer)

FRIDAY 5th MARCH 2021



Theme: BUILD ON A STRONG FOUNDATION

The World Day of Prayer Service, written by Christian women, is held on the first Friday of March each year in churches around the world. The service this year has the theme 'Build on a Strong Foundation' and has been written by the women of Vanuatu, (located in the South Pacific Ocean). The local service for Boldre, Brockenhurst, South Baddesley and Sway was due to be held in St. Anne's R.C. Church, Brockenhurst, but because of lockdown restrictions, this is not now possible. We are therefore inviting people to join together 'virtually' at **2.00pm on Friday 5 March** for an international service via the link on the World Day of Prayer website (wwdp.org.uk). Copies of the service sheet will be available for collection from church porches at St. Saviour's, Brockenhurst and St. Luke's, Sway and from St. John's, Boldre, from Sunday 28 February - please do take one and pray along with the on-line service.

Many world-wide Christian charities receive grants from collections taken at these annual services but as no collections will be able to be taken this year, people are encouraged to give donations individually: by post, online via the website or by text as per the following details.

- a. **By cheque**, made payable to WDP, sent to WDP, Commercial Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2RR
- b. **By online donation via the WWDP website** – www.wwdp.org.uk – minimum £10
- c. **By TEXT** message from your mobile phone. TEXT 2021WDP 5 to 70085 to donate £5. Any amount can be donated up to £40 just add the sum after 2021WDP and your text will cost the amount plus one standard rate message.

For the charities to benefit in these difficult times, please be generous.

A little information about Vanuatu, an archipelago of 80 islands which lies on the other side of the world in the South Pacific, 2000 miles east of Australia. With black and white sandy beaches, beautiful coral reefs, tropical coloured fish, forests full of lovely birds, abundant flora and fauna, and spectacular cascades these are wonderful islands, but they are vulnerable to frequent tropical storms, earthquakes, cyclones, tsunamis and active volcanoes. Women, men and children of all ages are called to 'Build on a strong

foundation' and live in unity, love and peace in the context of ethnic and cultural diversity.

The people of Vanuatu are mostly Melanesian, with a Polynesian minority. The population is around 300,000 of whom nearly a fifth live in Port Vila, the largest city. The government is the largest employer. Vanuatu's economic growth is based on tourism, construction and offshore financial services but the proceeds from foreign-owned big hotels and resorts primarily leave the country. The current system has led to a huge gap between the haves and the have-nots.

Covid 19 - So far the total of Covid 19 cases in Vanuatu remains at just one but the indirect effects have been devastating to Vanuatu's economy. Tourism, a major source of income has disappeared.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 170 countries. It begins in Samoa, and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world – through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 39 hours later. If you haven't experienced one of these services, why not give it a try this year in the comfort of your own home?

For further information visit the WDP website: wwdp.org.uk