

In the winter of 1990 the Society was in deep financial need, and a call went out to each home and auxiliary to set aside a Day of Prayer, over a period of a month. An article in the winter issue of the Quarterly Record 1990 was devoted to the shortfall in funds. The situation was critical. Former Vice Chairman, John Denman, remembers that the Lord answered prayer and over the next few months the situation changed completely.

2010 Day of Prayer

Once again the Society is facing critical challenges. Chief Executive Andrew Jessop has written to members, homes and supporters calling again for a Day of Prayer. The day was set for 25th June, and supporters were invited to go along to the local home or our London offices; or arrange to pray with a group at church, or meet with others in an individual's home, or simply by oneself at home. Following is a summary of the Points of Prayer. For a fuller document, email info@pilgrimsfriend.org.uk, or contact us through our website.

First – the blessings

Let's thank God for His blessing on the work over so many years, and for the expansion of our work in the Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire areas recently. (We will shortly be talking with church fellowships and Christians in these areas as we consider further provision.)

Second – needs

For residents, that they may know the Lord's healing presence ● For home and scheme managers for wisdom and patience and for favour as they negotiate residents' fees and support needs with Social Services ● For funding authorities that they would be fair ● For grace and a good testimony for Christian staff, that those who do not know Him

may see Him in them ● For wisdom for trustees, especially in planning for present and future provision, always maintaining our Christian ethos ● For wisdom, strength and clarity of vision each day for the Chief Executive, the Directors' team and senior managers ● For the Head Office team coping with the integration of the 'new' works ● For the significant financial need we have to carry out some quite substantial improvements on our sites ● For efficient re-registrations of our schemes with the new body, the Care Quality Commission ● For all the resources we need to continue this great ministry to our older brothers and sisters in Christ ● For the Lord's continual presence with us, in all our schemes and in all our works.

Challenges

For wisdom in dealing with contemporary challenges, for example, worldly pressures to abandon our Christian principles ● Also that our schemes will prosper and be fully occupied, and again, for the Lord's provision as government and local authority funding continues to fall ● For our faithful Home Visitors facing increasing difficulties as dementia affects ever greater numbers of residents.

Opportunities

God is good! Pray for His wisdom and understanding as other smaller charitable works approach us for help ● For His clear leading as we plan future provision for His beloved older saints particularly where there are unfulfilled needs ● For good support from the Lord's people and local churches and that the current trend of decline will reverse ● For more, new-found support, and for younger Christians to become interested ● That more believers across the country will engage with our work ● and finally, for God's guidance in meeting the growing needs for care for Christians with dementia, including support for their families and caregivers.

*'The effective,
fervent prayer of
a righteous man
avails much.'* James
5:16