

# The Very British Prayer Zone

This idea looks at creating a separate 'space' within your venue dedicated to praying for the nation. It could be done at any point during the weekend - or even the whole time, and works for all ages; children, youth & adults. Using one or more gazebos strapped together and lined with drapes or flags, national costumes and embellished with Union Jack bunting (left over from the Jubilee) there's no such thing as over board for this Very British Prayer Zone! The idea is to create a 'WOW' when people walk in and are faced with a number of creative prayer activities, and a chance to really hear God's voice for the UK. Listed below are the British-themed activities - you can use all or some to create your VBPZ!

## **More Tea Vicar!**

The British drink a lot of tea!! We drink it when things go well, or when things have gone a bit 'pear shaped' and we need some moral or liquid support!

This multi-sensory activity uses real tea leaves on a tray to create an 'etch-a-sketch' style drawing/writing board. Children can touch and smell the tea - what does it remind them of? Who do they know that likes a nice cup of tea? Then they can draw or write a prayer for a situation or person in the tea, before shaking it away as a sign that God's heard and taken the prayer.

## **In Someone Else's Shoes**

There are many people from all walks of life in Britain. This prayer activity involves getting a range of shoes (large sizes so everyone can fit them on) to represent the following people groups:

- Business Men/Women (Smart shoes)
- Farmer (Wellies - you might need a smallish adult or older youth pair for smaller children to be able to put them on)
- Homeless (a really old, hole-y pair of shoes)
- Youth People (Large youth-style trainers)
- Sports people (Running shoes)
- Immigrants from other countries (Beautiful ornate slippers)

The prayer activity involves stepping into someone else's shoes and imagining what life must be like for them and praying - thank you's, pleases - whatever comes to mind! You could make a prayer card for each pair with suggestions on.

### **Ma'am like 'ham', not Ma'am like 'Palm'**

The idea for this prayer activity is to spend some time praying for our royal family, and to use up any royal memorabilia left from the Jubilee! Gather a number of tiaras or crowns (there is a popular fast food chain that may oblige) and throw in any masks of the royal family you can lay your hands on.

Have each person put on either a crown, tiara or mask (or combination!) and then pray for the royal family. Some of the things you could pray for include:

- Work (that they do - e.g. William as a rescue helicopter pilot)
- Charity (for the different charities they support/head up and the work they do)
- Relationships (for good relationships with each other, with governments)
- Marriages (pray for protection and stability, for support and encouragement)
- Family (for the wider family and the relationships within, for unity)
- Faith (for them to know Jesus personally and to thank God for the example the Queen is to many)

### **I've Got A Brand New Combine Harvester....**

Farming is an important part of our British history, culture and life today. We want to make sure we pray for those in rural areas, and those who are involved in or rely on farming in some way. Potatoes (taties!) and carrots are grown by farmers in Britain so we thought we'd better include them in our prayer activity!

Cut some potatoes ready for paint stamping (You could make wheel tread patterns) before burying them and come carrots in buckets of soil or compost. We used the flexible rubber buckets and simple black buckets (which I got for £1) which worked really well. Then have a few little trowels and gardening utensils which can be used to dig up the potatoes and carrots. The potatoes can be rinsed before being touched onto the paint and used as a stamper to add to a prayer collage. You could do tyre tracks, or something like weather symbols. Depending on the age of the children you could pray for the weather or chat about some more complex issues that farmers sometimes face including dropping prices due to imports, disease etc. Don't assume they won't be able to grasp some concept of the needs and pray some very powerful prayers!

## **Umbrellas**

RAIN RAIN RAIN! Britain is known for having lots of rain. But in the Bible rain often symbolises favour and blessing of the Lord. This idea is to pray prayers of blessing over the UK.

To start, hang umbrellas from the 'ceiling' of the gazebo. (with handles down). The umbrellas can be any shape, size and colour, in fact, the more variety the better - you may need a second gazebo just for this!)

Hang a piece of string from each 'spoke' of each umbrella and cut out some blue rain drop shaped pieces of paper that prayers can be written on. Once the blessings have been written or drawn, stick them on the strings, you can have them at different heights and more than one on each string - the more blessings the better!

## **We're Surrounded!**

We are surrounded by water! The waters too have played a big part in our country's history, it's brought wealth and treasures from lands afar, it's brought raiders in battle and it's protected us from some! Many people today still work in the seas in one way or another and rely on them for their livelihood. The seas are also changing with the effects of global warming, and as an island, changing sea levels have knock on effects!

This prayer activity includes a paddling pool, water and boats... these could be paper boats with prayers drawn or written on, or they could be plastic toy boats with messages in - the choice is yours!

## **Oh I do like to be beside the seaside!**

They say that you are never more than 40 miles away from the coast in the UK, a vast amount of which is beaches! We have some beautiful beaches - pebbles, shells, starfish, seals. We suggest making an indoor beach (using another cheap paddling pool works well) and have a few beachy things in it. Find some large pebbles and write Bible references to blessings on one side (tip-ex and nail polish works well for this). The prayer activity can be writing in the sand, or picking a stone, looking up the blessing and praying it over the UK.