

A photograph of two young men laughing joyfully outdoors. The man on the left is wearing a light blue t-shirt and has his arm around the shoulder of the man on the right. The man on the right is wearing a maroon t-shirt and is seated in a wheelchair. They are both smiling broadly, showing their teeth. The background is slightly blurred, showing some greenery and a building.

It all adds up to

Livability Prayer diary

**Every unique
voice**

May/Aug 2023



**Now you are
the body of
Christ, and
each one
of you is a
part of it.**

1 Cor. 12:27

Welcome to our prayer diary



Dear friends

At Livability, we don't just tick boxes about engagement or collaboration. This edition's theme of Every Unique Voice highlights how, as an organisation, we strive to make this a reality. We pay full attention to what the people we support want for their lives and from their Livability service.

You can read about some of the ways we put this into practice in this edition's 'real life story' section each month. We gain tremendous insights from the experience and opinions

of the people we support, who may have to overcome daunting challenges with communication to express themselves. We long to see society be more willing to learn from disabled people, who in our experience have so much to share.

My sincere thanks as ever for your prayer support,

Sally Chivers
CEO

P.S. We're encouraging our readers to receive the Prayer Diary online, making valuable savings for the charity. This will also give you access to our video prayers feature. Please sign up today at www.livability.org.uk/contact-us/forms/sign-up-for-the-prayer-diary/

Dear God,

We thank you for the new spring season and the reminders it brings of new life and new hope. We ask for your help in all areas of our work, that you will enable the charity to provide the best possible care for everyone we support, and overcome challenges we face. Amen

May

Let's pray

Lord, we thank you that we go into the next few months knowing that you go ahead of us and are present in the big and small things of life. We ask that your peace and joy would be tangible in all our services. Amen



Week 1

Dear God, we thank you for all the people we support who have jobs or volunteer posts. We thank you for the huge difference this makes to individuals' lives and pray for many more opportunities to open up for people with disabilities. Amen

Week 2

From Forum Champion Debbie (see p7): 'We pray for everyone who has a job at Livability and is committed to their work. We thank you we can pray for new friends and to gain confidence in each other and also welcome new staff to our Livability service, and also volunteers who come to work in the best place ever! Amen'

Week 3

Lord, we pray for staff who are seeking training or new work opportunities for the people they support. Please guide them to find new openings and give them favour in their community. Amen



Real life story

The Changes for the Future Forum currently has 23 'champion' members, people we support, who together represent 20 Livability services. The forum meets once a month and over this year has chosen to look at issues including safeguarding awareness, accessing employment, fundraising and staff recruitment.

Says Forum Champion Debbie: 'It's important to be part of the forum because it's all about us with disabilities that can change the future. It's an opportunity to help people and talk to others about the forum and get feedback. In the meetings, it's important to have ground rules and respect each other. We also learn new skills.'

Support

Listening to the people we support, whether through the forum or on a day-to-day basis in our services, with individuals we care for, is essential to providing excellent care. We need to provide appropriate levels of staff who can give the extra time needed to do this properly. Your support helps us to do this.

Please donate online at www.livability.org.uk/get-involved/donate/

Week 4

We pray that more employers would recognise the many benefits that an employee with disabilities can bring to an organisation, and we ask for an end to prejudice that creates barriers to people finding work. Amen



Why our work is needed

When a person with disabilities gains employment, it is beneficial for both the person concerned and for the employer. Nearly 80% of people want to purchase goods and services from businesses that provide easy access for disabled people at their physical locations. Multiple studies have shown that workers with disabilities are more punctual, reliable and loyal than non-disabled employees. Finally, it has been found that having disabled members of staff improves your workplace culture, morale and overall staff retention rate.

www.careerswithdisabilities.com/employers/benefits/

June

Let's pray

Dear God, we thank you for all the work that went into Archbishop Justin's recent report on improving social care. We pray that this will produce real change and ask for open minds and hearts for those who make decisions at national policy level. Amen



Week 1

We pray that Livability's reputation spreads further and our services will be available to more children, young people and adults with disabilities, so we can enable them to live life to the full. Amen

Week 2

Thank you that so many of the people we support tell us what a positive difference using a Livability service makes to their life. We pray for fulfilment for each staff member working 'on the ground' with people with disabilities. Amen

Week 3

We pray for the Livability staff team responsible for finding opportunities to open new care services in our hub areas. We pray you would give them wisdom, perseverance and success. Amen

Week 4

We ask that policy makers at national level would commit to prioritising and adequately funding social care provision and staff recruitment. Amen

Why our work is needed

There is simply not enough social care provision to meet demand in England: only 43% of people who approach their local authority for adult social care support receive some form of service. A further 27% receive advice or signposting. We want more people to have access to excellent social care.

www.kingsfund.org.uk/audio-video/key-facts-figures-adult-social-care



Support

We are committed to building a society that makes life more livable for children, young people and adults with disabilities. Often the people we care for need support to meaningfully take part in campaigns and initiatives, which staff at their service work hard to provide.

Help Livability to provide the very best, enabling care. Please donate by phone: call 020 7452 2121

Real life story

Members of our Changes for the Future Forum were invited to contribute to Archbishop Justin's Care and Support Reimagined report. Tom, Sharon, Michelle and Debbie speak on video about their experience of care, shown at the launch event – watch on Youtube @LivabilityUK.

Tom commented: 'What care means to me, on a personal level, is that the person being provided [with] the care is listened to, then they are more comfortable.'

'What support gives me is [the ability] to go out and about, doing things I do in life like go out, meet friends ... and live the life that I know to the full,' says Sharon.



Week 1

We thank you for our staff whose experience enables them to push for better outcomes for the people they support, in areas including medical intervention and equipment needed. We pray that you will further the cases of those in our care who are waiting for what they need. Amen

Week 2

Lord, we thank you for the local authorities we partner with who are willing to try new approaches in social care. We thank you that this is proving to increase independence and wellbeing for the people we support, in those services. Amen

Week 3

From Forum Champion Irvine: 'I pray that dignity should be respected, in social care. I hope that it will help that the staff put posters about dignity around the homes so that the people they support can understand this better. It's good to help each other out with dignity and at my church prayer meeting, we keep looking up to God and hope he will answer our prayer that everyone is treated with dignity, whoever they are. Amen'

July

Let's pray

We pray that our local communities will be more willing to make changes that make life better for people with disabilities. We ask for significant change with challenges such as accessible town centres and services, and disability-friendly transport. Amen



Support

Livability's history goes back over 180 years. Over this time, we've pioneered a change of approach on disability issues including age-appropriate care for children with disabilities and within brain injury rehabilitation services.

Help us to be effective agents for change in the years to come. Call Michelle on 020 7452 2099 to find out how you can remember Livability's work in your will.

Real life story

Catherine and Daniel, both wheelchair users living in a Livability service, took part in the Disabled Citizens' Enquiry, which aims to make places and streets more usable for disabled people. Catherine appeared in a recent TV news story, which highlighted just how difficult it can be using a wheelchair on pavements cluttered with café chairs, signage and other obstacles. Both Catherine and Daniel have also trained with sustainable transport group Sustrans.



Week 4

From Forum Champion Catherine: 'Dear Lord our Father, we pray for all those who use and work in Livability services. We get strength from each other to improve things that will help our lives in Livability. We thank you for the forum so we can continue to improve on the topics we have decided to address. Livability helps to improve our lives by helping us to be more independent. Amen'

Why our work is needed

Over 40% of people with disabilities report experiencing problems reaching their destination on a typical walking or wheelchair journey. We support people who use our services to try to bring change for the better.





August

Let's pray

Dear God, thank you that each person you created is precious to you. We ask that society would increasingly see and value the worth of each person, whatever their ability, and people with disabilities will be truly included and their gifts appreciated. Amen



Week 1

We thank you for the vibrant children and young people at our education centres. We pray that each one will grow in confidence in all areas of life, especially in knowing the value of their unique voices and opinions. Amen

Week 2

We pray for everyone who has recently joined one of our services, that they might quickly feel safe and comfortable with staff who support them. We thank you that so many people we support tell us that Livability enables them to live well. Amen

Week 3

Lord, we ask that people with disabilities might be treated with respect when they are out in their neighbourhood. We pray for your care and protection over each person we support as they go about their daily lives. Amen

Real life story

The student voice is heard loud and clear at each of our education centres – Livability Nash College, Livability Victoria School and Livability Millie College. As Nash student Sean explains: ‘Student Council is like the MPs’ version of representing a community. [It’s] a place where we can raise issues, be a voice for other students, talk to the college leadership team and raise ideas for projects. Every voice matters and it is very important that the Student Council represents all views and ideas.’

Issues tabled by Victoria students recently include providing more menu choices for students on a puréed diet, and starting a wheelchair football club; at Millie, recent discussions explored equipping a music- or games-room.



Week 4

Lord, we pray for anyone we support who is experiencing difficulties accessing any equipment or medical intervention they need, especially as the NHS goes through challenging times. Please open up the way for their needs to be met. Amen

Why our work is needed

People with disabilities, of all ages, face stigma and discrimination in everyday life. Children with special educational needs (SEN) are twice as likely to be bullied regularly than children with no SEN (IoE London, 2014). Our student councils and Forum for Change train and enable people with disabilities to speak up confidently for themselves and demand change and fair treatment.

www.mencap.org.uk/learning-disability-explained/research-and-statistics/stigma-and-discrimination-research-and



Support

Livability is committed to ensuring the people we support make their own choices about their care and feel empowered to speak up if changes are needed.

Please support us so we can continue to provide the best possible services: donate online at www.livability.org.uk/get-involved/donate/



You can give the gift of independence

Only around 5% of adults with a learning disability are in paid employment in England. Yet working doesn't just mean earning money. It means feeling more independent, valued and fulfilled.

'Andrew has developed vocabulary, sociability and pride in what he does,' says David, his support worker. 'It has been wonderful to see Andrew find a role which he loves and he has really flourished,' adds his mum.



Please support our Independence Appeal today

Andrew is passionate about trains. A visit with his support worker to a heritage railway led to a dream job for Andrew. Now he works there and he loves his job. Your support today can make more dreams like Andrew's come true.

To support more people like Andrew to discover their potential and find greater independence, please make your gift today.

You can give by returning the enclosed donation form, calling us on 020 7452 2121 or visiting www.livability.org.uk/get-involved/appeals/spring-news-2023/

What's your life sum?

Livability has launched a series of wellbeing resources that can be downloaded for free. If you aren't already signed up to receive these, please visit: www.livabilityuk.org/landing/whats-your-lifsum/ to access them.

Globally and locally, we are living with many challenges that can rock our wellbeing. Most UK households are facing bigger bills for a wide range of everyday necessities and the media is filled with news of political and economic instability around the world. Often, especially in periods of transition or uncertainty, we can forget about ourselves in the process and as a result our mental wellbeing can fall by the wayside.

The resources published by Livability are designed to help you navigate your wellbeing in a way that suits you.



I want to know more about Livability

Visit www.livability.org.uk/enews-and-updates/ to find out more

Thank you for your support

Livability always endeavours to take great care with your personal data and we commit to protecting any personal information we obtain about you. We never sell or swap your details with any other organisation for marketing purposes. Our privacy policy explains how we collect, manage, use and protect your personal data, including how we work with third parties. For more information on this policy, please visit www.livability.org.uk/privacy/

If you do not want to be contacted by Livability or would like to change the way you hear from us, please call 020 7452 2121 or email supporterservices@livability.org.uk

About Livability

Livability is the disability charity that's committed to enabling children, young people and adults to live a life that adds up for them.

What makes life livable is never down to just one thing – it's the sum of many things. From friendship to fun; from companionship to community; from a great chat to a challenge overcome – it all adds up to Livability.

Through a wide range of disability care, special education, and rehabilitation services, we promote inclusion and wellbeing for all. Together, we work to see people take part, contribute and be valued. We put the elements in place that all add up to connected lives.

It all adds up to

Livability

livability.org.uk   LivabilityUK

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