

Prayer Diary – March 2024

*Lord, pour your Holy Spirit on Cromer.
Lord, pour your Holy Spirit on the Church.
Lord, pour your Holy Spirit on me. Amen*

Please check the Weekly Update for up-to-date news.

USUAL WEEKLY SERVICES AND EVENTS

Please note that services are held in the Parish Hall while the church is closed.

Sundays

8.45 am Traditional Holy Communion at the Parish Hall.

10.30 am Informal service at the Parish Hall, with CCKids

Refreshments after both services.

Both Parish Church services will be streamed on the Cromer Church YouTube channel. (Go to YouTube and search for 'Cromer Church')

10.30 am Service at St Martin's with refreshments.

Mondays

2.00-5.00 pm Free Mustard Seed meals at St Martin's

Tuesdays

Small groups meet in the afternoon and evening.

9.30 am CC Toddlers in the Parish Hall (term time)

7.15 pm CC Community Choir rehearsal in St Martin's

Wednesdays

Small groups meet morning, afternoon and evening

10.00 am No Holy Communion while the church is closed

2.45 pm Open the Book at the Junior School (term time)

Thursdays

Small groups meet afternoon and evening

9.00 am Mustard Seed at St Martin's

2.30 pm Meeting Point in the Parish Hall (term time)

2.45 pm Open the Book at the Infant School (fortnightly in term time).

Fridays

6.45 pm Choir Practice in the Parish Church

2.00 pm Table tennis group at St Martin's

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS FOR MARCH

See below for prayer requests from Mission Partners and others

Fri 1 World Day of Prayer - Palestine

Sat 2 Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Matthew 10v1-25: Facing hostility). Preachers: Will Warren (Parish Hall), Paul Neale (St Martin's).
Pray for this month's mission partner: Good News for Everyone

Sun 3 Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; our children's and youth group leaders

Mon 4 Our Mission Partner: Bible Society

Tue 5 Ukraine

- Wed 6** Global cooperation in combating climate change
- Thu 7** Our Mission Partner: Hope into Action; annual conference
- Fri 8** International Women's Day
- Sat 9** Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Matthew 10v34-42: Who do we love the most?). Preachers: Joanna Haywood (Parish Hall), Julia Chamberlin (St Martin's). Pray for this month's mission partner: Good News for Everyone
- Sun 10** Mothering Sunday. Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; our small group leaders
- Mon 11** The persecuted church
- Tue 12** Mustard Seed
- Wed 13** Judges, magistrates and all who work in our law courts
- Thu 14** The NHS
- Fri 15** Our Mission Partner: Christians Against Poverty
- Sat 16** Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Romans 5v12-21: Grace abounding). Preachers: Will Warren (Parish Hall), Tim Britton (St Martin's). Pray for this month's mission partner: Good News for Everyone
- Sun 17** Passion Sunday. Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; national church leaders
- Mon 18** Northern Ireland – its people and its government
- Tue 19** Mothers' Union
- Wed 20** Our Mission Partner: CPAS
- Thu 21** The sick in body and mind
- Fri 22** Our Mission Partner: Mission Without Borders (MWB)
- Sat 23** Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Mark 11v1-11: The triumphal entry). Preachers: Will Warren (Parish Hall), Paul Rosier (St Martin's).

Pray for this month's mission partner: Good News for Everyone

Sun 24 Palm Sunday. Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; other local church leaders

Mon 25 Those who are grieving

Tue 26 Our Mission Partner: Open Doors

Wed 27 Care homes, care visitors and home carers

Thu 28 Our Mission Partner: London City Mission

Fri 29 Prisons – prisoners, officers, governors, chaplains

Sat 30 Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Mark 16v1-8: He has risen!). Preachers: Julia Chamberlin (Parish Hall), John Chandler (St Martin's).

Pray for this month's mission partner: Good News for Everyone

Sun 31 Easter Day. Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; our bishops

PRAYER REQUEST DETAILS

The persecuted church: Sudan (Contact: Ken Nash)

A Sudanese couple who were threatened with death because of their Christian faith have found safety in the United States.

After Nada and her husband Hamouda were convicted of converting to Christianity, they faced 100 lashes each and a year in exile. Some of their family were also threatening to kill them.

Changing religion was decriminalized in 2020, yet people still face attacks and arrest. Nada and Hamouda were accused of "criminal adultery" as a Sharia (Islamic law) court ruled that their marriage had become illegal after Hamouda converted to Christianity.

Religious freedom group ADF International supported Nada and Hamouda in their court case, but helped evacuate them to the USA after the court decision and death threats. The couple and their children are overjoyed to be free.

However, elsewhere in Sudan a Coptic monastery was attacked by rebels fighting the Sudanese government. Christian Solidarity Worldwide reports that the Rapid Support Forces attacked the monastery in Wad Madani, Gezira State, on 16 December and are now using it as a military base.

At least five priests, five novices and four workers have been missing since the attack.

Sudan has recently experienced tumultuous political changes. Until recently, the government criminalised apostasy and adultery charges have been used to punish converts.

Heart Newspaper

Michelle Proctor (SIM) (Contact: Tim Britton)

Michelle writes:

We have very little rain for the last month. Please pray that we would get more rain so that people's crops would grow and ripen and there would be enough harvest to last the coming year.

I am back working on the children's ward again, pray for wisdom as I see children. Pray that families would be drawn closer to God while they are on the ward. Pray for the mothers of children with malnutrition, who are often on the ward for a long time, that they would be willing and able to stay long enough for us to help their children.

London City Mission (Contact: Elizabeth Bridger)

Evangelism Behind bars!

Missionaries Olly and Scott have been running an evangelistic course in Pentonville Prison chapel. Most of the guys have no hope or self-esteem. Olly and Scott teach that God accepts sinners and offers to all His forgiveness and free gift of Grace. At the end of the course, 4 prisoners accepted Christ!

Scott says Sunday is his best day because he loves to share the good news of Jesus. For some it is the first time they have heard of Jesus!

LCM's involvement with churches in Gospel outreach.

Many churches such as St Cuthberts seek to equip Christians to reach out to their communities with the Good News of Jesus. St Cuthbert's and LCM distribute Luke's Gospels round the parish and one man started coming after reading the gospel and was hungry to know more. Many languages are spoken at St Cuthberts. This church is reaching the most marginalised and least reached people in Britain.

Holy Trinity Hounslow regularly set up a Christian book table where 3 missionaries 'gossip the Gospel' with passers-by who stop to browse. One Friday 7 people prayed a prayer of commitment following conversations at the book table!

Rough sleepers.

In Tower Hamlets alone there are 460 every night. Many are alcoholics or drug addicts. LCM has started a Bible study at a hostel for people battling addiction. They report a tremendous thirst among people for God's Word, especially Muslims during Ramadan (starts 10th March) when many have visions and dreams about Jesus. Pray that many will turn to Him at this time!

It is very exciting that so many that LCM witness come from countries closed to the Gospel. London is full of such people. What an opportunity!

Good News for Everyone (Contact: Jenny Jacquier and Jenny Syder)

This month:

- Please pray that we have a good attendance of local Christians from local Churches to hear about the work in North Norfolk on Saturday the 16th in the Parish Hall at 2.30pm.
- Our membership is very small, only four. Please pray that more may join us in the work of offering scriptures to local schools, hotels and residential homes.

There is also other evangelist work such as the Aylsham Show with the Christian organisation called Farming Link. Last year we could not take up the offer of the work because we had too few members. All of our work is not onerous and can be done fitting it within one's schedule. The only qualification is - being a committed Christian who loves God's word.

- We hope to contact over 80 hotel and bed and breakfast establishments in the next few weeks. Please pray that they will accept the free gift of God's word.
- Thank God that the first hotel contacted this year, Beechwood, North Walsham now has a Hotel Bible in each room. Please pray that visitors to the area may take the opportunity to read one.

CAP – Christians Against Poverty (Contact: Jess and Anne Mary Stubenbord)

C.A.P. Prayer Points

Recently the gap between the richest and poorest, the powerful and the powerless has been shown to be widening more in the UK than in most affluent countries, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies. So, may we encourage you to pray as CAP and other organisations direct us?

1. Prayer for those in poverty

- Pray for those trapped in poverty to find the right help and to find Jesus, who can help them now and in the future.
- Pray for those who are without food, shelter, family, etc. James declares that we should look after orphans and widows in need, as that please the Lord (1:27)

- Pray for those who are in areas of deprivation where the odds are often stacked against them from birth.
- Pray for those who urgently need NHS medical and dental treatment.

Are there ways we can help those who suffer from deprivation in our community? Praise God for Mustard Seed, N. Norfolk Food Bank, etc. that our church members are running.

2. Prayer for those in power who can change things for the better
 - Pray for those in power to recognise their need of Jesus for all the things that money cannot buy.
 - Pray that those with money will give generously to social concerns.
 - Pray for those who make decisions and policy about the NHS that they would be motivated by compassion, channelling money to where it is most needed.
 - Pray for business owners and employers to give people a fair wage for their workers' labours.
 - Pray God will raise up more to speak out for those who have no or little voice and influence.

"Lord. help me to seek to influence our MP and others in power to show increased care for all those in need."

CPAS (Contact: Vivienne Benford)

- There are three kinds of Residential Holidays offered by CPAS: Ventures for children and young people 8- to 18-year-old, Falcons for the same age group but would suit youngsters who may face disadvantage or are experiencing difficult circumstances in their lives and then School Ventures for primary pupils attending Church of England Schools. Bookings are now open, and leaders are to be recruited for this summer. Please pray for the children making the decision to enrol and pray for leaders to volunteer.
- In the past year CPAS has seen a number of changes in staff. Please pray for those who have moved on to new challenges and for the new colleagues who have already brought fresh ideas and insights that are making an impact.

Hope into Action (Contact: Katharine Checketts)

The annual conference day is on 7 March. Jon Kuhrt says: “Pray that the day will be used to reveal God’s love and empower us through his spirit to seek justice and compassion.” So far over 250 people have booked in to attend.

20 new houses were opened in 2023, including a first house in Belfast. In November, the church welcomed an Afghan family into their house. The family had never seen a toaster or microwave before. The church leader (Tanita) has a cousin who was involved in setting up the sponsorship scheme but is not yet part of the church. By seeing real love and the church’s heart, she has changed her thinking about Christians/the church – she has been impressed. Jonathan Wilson, Property and Investment Co-ordinator, says: “The Bible (James 2) says ‘Faith without works is dead’, so then the opposite is obvious – faith with works of love is very much alive.”

Bible Society (Contact: David Anderson)

Over the last few weeks, people have given enough to introduce the power of God’s word to thousands of prisoners.

Chaplains are telling us that God is moving powerfully among prisoners as they engage with the Bible. They say: ‘Prisoners walk through the valley of death, through the dark night of the soul, and God becomes their guide.’

Emmanuel escaped from a cult in Africa, went to Dubai as a migrant worker, and it was there that he found his calling as a Bible Storyteller. This is his story.

‘I am from Ghana in West Africa. My father comes from an animistic faith. I used to observe him doing all the rituals. But for some reason, he respected Christianity and would force me to attend the local church. I found the church boring, so I stopped going. When my father found out I had stopped going to church, he beat me hard.

'In a quest for the truth, I tried another religion which has a strong presence in Ghana. I accepted this faith and practised it faithfully for some time. Then I discovered this cult was bondage and God freed me from it. The turning point was street preaching. I witnessed a conversation between a street preacher from a local church and a passer-by. I was so intrigued by the preacher's answers that, there and then, I decided to attend that church.

'From there, God brought me from West Africa to the Evangelical Church in Dubai where there is a feast of God's word. After the church service, I would get free Bible story training, which your support of Bible Society in the Gulf makes possible.'

Mission Without Borders (MWB) (Contact: Anne Attfield)

Ukraine

The 24th February marked the second anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Please pray that the prayers of many Christians across the world who joined with Ukrainian Christians for a global call to prayer on 23rd February will bear fruit towards peace and will have been an encouragement and source of hope for our Ukrainian brothers and sisters.

Please continue to pray for Ukraine: for wisdom and strength for their leadership at all levels, for the president, the government and local authorities. Pray for God's protection for them.

Please pray for an end to the war, for the lives and health of all defenders and soldiers, for the widows and orphans of this war, for the brave volunteers risking their lives helping people in the war zones, for all displaced families and the protection of Ukraine's power grid. MWB staff in Ukraine give thanks to the Lord for his faithfulness. They ask for prayer for the spiritual and emotional wellbeing of children and prayer for their Soup Kitchen and Senior care members to be able to endure the winter and be comforted by God's love through the help and spiritual support they receive.

Open Doors (Contact: Judith Anderson)

Nigeria

Leah Sharibu was one of 100 girls kidnapped by Boko Haram from their school in 2018. Leah was 15 at the time. All the others have been released, but after 6 years, Leah remains in captivity, because she refuses to deny her faith in Jesus. Some of her friends say her courage has helped them to become stronger in their faith.

Please pray that Leah will be released very soon and returned to her family.

That God will comfort and sustain Leah, and her family.

Please pray for the many other Christians, many of them children, who have been abducted by Boko Haram in Nigeria.

Bangladesh

Life is very hard for Muslim-background believers. Many are attacked, and even young children are beaten. When they report these attacks, very often they find that they themselves end up in prison.

Please pray strength and perseverance for these families, and help for them to forgive their persecutors.

Open Doors are supporting many of these families, where the breadwinners have been jailed, and their dependents left with no means of income to survive.

North Korea

The hardest place in the world to be a Christian.

Praise God for Open Doors' secret networks supplying Christians with much needed food and aid.

Open Doors radio broadcasts are a huge blessing to believers. Please pray that these radios are not discovered when homes are searched.

Please pray for strength, encouragement, and joy for Christians, despite the persecution.

Please send prayer requests for April to Katharine
Checketts by **Monday 18th March**