

Prayer Diary – May 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

Sundays

- 8.45 am Traditional Holy Communion at the Parish Church.
10.30 am Informal service at the Parish Church, 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 Holy Communion
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 MAY

This month's mission focus is CPAS

See below for prayer requests from Mission Partners and others

- Wed 1** Local children
- Thu 2** Local council elections
- Fri 3** Ukraine
- Sat 4** Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Colossians 3v1-17 – Church: Jesus' family). Preachers: Will Warren (Parish Church), John Chandler (St Martin's)
Pray for this month's Mission Partner: CPAS
- Sun 5** Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; our children's and youth group leaders
- Mon 6** The persecuted Church
- Tue 7** The work of Tearfund
- Wed 8** Our congregation
- Thu 9** Our Mission Partner: London City Mission
- Fri 10** The future of our planet
- Sat 11** Tomorrow's worship and teaching. Theme: Romans 8v12-16 – Obedience: a new lifestyle). Preachers: Will Warren (Parish Church), Julia Chamberlin (St Martin's)
Pray for this month's Mission Partner: CPAS
- Sun 12** Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; our small group leaders
- Mon 13** Mustard seed
- Tue 14** Our PCC
- Wed 15** Our Mission Partner: Christians Against Poverty
- Thu 16** Israel and Palestine
- Fri 17** Our Mission Partner: Michelle Proctor
- Sat 18** Tomorrow's worship and teaching. Pentecost. Theme: John 15v1-17; v26-27 – Union: a new power). Preachers: Joanna Haywood (Parish Church), Will Warren (St Martin's)
Pray for this month's Mission Partner: CPAS

- Sun 19** Our services, children’s groups and youth group. Our church leaders; national church leaders
- Mon 20** Refugees and asylum seekers
- Tue 21** Our health service
- Wed 22** Our Mission Partner: Mission Without Borders (MWB)
- Thu 23** People struggling with health problems
- Fri 24** Our Mission partner: Good News for Everyone
- Sat 25** Tomorrow’s worship and teaching. Theme: Romans 8v17-30 – Suffering: a new hope). Preachers: Julia Chamberlin (Parish Church), Will Warren (St Martin’s)
Pray for this month’s Mission Partner: CPAS
- Sun 26** Our services, children’s groups and youth group. Our church leaders; other local church leaders
- Mon 27** Local businesses
- Tue 28** Our families
- Wed 29** Conflicts around the world
- Thu 30** Our Mission Partner: Open Doors
- Fri 31** “Headlight” youth group at Glide Surf School

PRAYER REQUEST DETAILS

The persecuted church: Women (Contact: Ken Nash)

Christian women are especially vulnerable in places where the Church is persecuted. Widows and women whose husbands are in prison have little or no income to support themselves and their children. They also have no man to protect them, which is very significant in many contexts.

Women and girls who have left another religion to follow Jesus are in great danger of violence from zealous relatives, more than male converts would be. They are under pressure to reconvert. Muslims consider all Christian women as “immoral”, and therefore automatically deserve abuse. In some places young Christian women and girls are routinely kidnapped and forced to reconvert and marry a Muslim. One woman had acid thrown in her face in Pakistan; in India two Christian women were forced to parade naked down the street – one was gang-raped.

In Nigeria over 100 of the 'Chibok' schoolgirls – abducted by Boko Haram Islamists in 2014 – still remain in captivity.

Pray for Christian women and girls who are marginalised, despised, and persecuted. Ask the Lord to be their protector and strength.

Barnabas Aid

Michelle Proctor (SIM) (Contact: Tim Britton)

Michelle writes:

- Continue to pray for those effected by drought in Zambia, that people would have enough food to last the year.
- Give thanks for extra anaesthesia help at Mukinge hospital that allows me to take a break and work again on the paediatric ward.
- Give thanks for a good team retreat and safe travel.
- We are entering a time where several doctors are out during May. Pray for good health and stamina for those remaining.

London City Mission (Contact: Elizabeth Bridger)

London City Mission are celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Pioneer Programme. For a decade, the Pioneer Programme has provided people from diverse, often underprivileged backgrounds with access to ministry training, to learn more about God's Word and equip them for urban mission. This has given the mission a far wider reach than formerly, praise God!

"We identify diamonds in the rough, who have been saved by Jesus Christ, but not had access to training" says Field Director Rob. This was the way of the early church and the first disciples. See Acts 4:13.

"After two years of being with Jesus, the way God develops and polishes these diamonds is breathtaking!" says Rob. "A life transformed within a community is a powerful witness." They receive Bible lectures, mentoring, hands-on training out in the streets with experienced missionaries and are supported to pioneer a project in their local church, sharing the good news of Jesus. Many of them are from other ethnic groups and can reach people of other nationalities, and are able to build friendships, which in time can bear fruit for Eternity!

Please pray for them as they witness for Christ in their communities.

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

International Work

Thanks to the generosity of members, Friends and churches, £75,000 had been raised for the purchase and distribution of Bibles in India, copies of

God's Word that will be given to those who cannot afford to buy their own, Praise God that there is less persecution than normal in the Deccan Plateau where there are five major cities – Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Pune, Aurangabad and Mysore. The money was used to provide 40,500 magazines and 12,670 Bibles (Kannada and Telugu) and distributed to 500 Churches in that area.

Work in North Norfolk

- Locally Youth New Testaments were delivered to Sheringham High and Aylsham High for year 7 students.
- An assembly was taken by GNfE at Alderman Peel Wells to also present Youth Testaments to year 7 students.
- This month another assembly will be taken by GNfE at Beeston Hall School and Youth Testaments distributed.

Please pray that these young people will be interested enough to open the scriptures and read them or at least keep them until inspired to do so.

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

CAP is so good at showing God's love "in deed and also in word."

The debt counsellors seek to help those who are in debt for whatever reason and then seek to point them to Jesus.

Here are a few case studies from CAP's national file:

- After responding positively to prayer on the three visits and feeling her life had changed as a result, Client R went to Church with her Befriender and her husband, for the first time in her life on Easter Sunday. She was so warmly welcomed and gave her life to God during the service. What a day she had. Our hearts are bursting with joy and hopes for a wonderful walk with God.

- Please pray for a former debt free Client X in Scotland. She is being evicted through no fault of her own. Her two kids (one of whom is autistic) will be forced to move schools. She has become a Christian and is part of a local church, which she will be forced to move miles away from. Please pray she isn't evicted or that God provides a local home for her in time.

- Please pray for Client E who is struggling with severe mental health problems. She allowed us to pray for her and is now going to come to our Community Café.

Isn't it great to see folk being set free financially and spiritually!

CPAS (Contact: Vivienne Benford)

CPAS is the UK's largest evangelical patron with nearly 700 parishes and every year they appoint mission-minded clergy to around 100 vacant posts and offer support and prayer to those in post. Please pray for this important work, for parishes seeking a new incumbent and for clergy seeking God's guidance as to their future.

Pray for leaders and members as they prepare for the 60 Summer Ventures and Falcons Residential Holidays to take place from July to August.

Good leadership is crucial for vibrant, growing churches. Each year, CPAS invest in over 3,000 Christian leaders with training events and resources. Please pray that God would use these events and resources to equip local churches to reach men, women and children with the wonderful news of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Hope into Action (Contact: Katharine Checketts)

So much to thank God for!

- for the work of all HIA employees, for their faith and dedication.
- for the new franchise being established in the North East. You can read their story on the HIA website, a blog "Building a Franchise in the North East".
- for the work of the local offices, especially for our local office in Norwich and also in Peterborough, where HIA currently have 19 homes.
- for the informative and inspiring talk that Debs and Rach gave us in April, setting out in more detail how churches can get involved.

Let's pray:

- for ex-offenders, many of whom find themselves homeless after being released from prison. Among those housed by HIA, 92% have not reoffended. The national average is 66%. You can read about it on the HIA website, a blog "From prison to the streets".
- for the new franchises, for hope, encouragement and inspiration for all those involved in their work.

Bible Society (Contact: David Anderson)

Please pray for:

- People who have difficulty reading the Bible.
People with dyslexia can struggle to read and write easily because they don't deal well with text on a page. Around 6 million people in the UK –

one in ten of the population – are thought to have the condition. The Bible Society has now made the whole Bible available in a dyslexia friendly format.

- With the ongoing work for translations in minority languages, particularly in China, there is more work in the pipeline for producing a Study Bible. Pray for this, the people preparing it and those that will receive it.
- The continued success of the Bible Society's *The Romans Course*. How this course, particularly for new Christians, has revealed a helpful understanding of the Romans and linking in our times with them as a people.

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

Ukraine.

Please pray that God will uphold, protect and guide Mykola and the MWB team in Ukraine and Volodymyr Brychuk, Ukraine's programme manager, as the war continues. They are faced with many people suffering from trauma, who need counselling. Thank God for the help of Christian counsellors from the Bible Society, leading training sessions for them.

Give thanks that despite continuous rocket strikes causing destruction in many areas, Rivne, Sarny, in the west of Ukraine where MWB's offices are, has stayed relatively safe. Pray for the protection of all in the airforce defending cities and that God would intervene and guide Russia towards peace and reconciliation.

Pray too for volunteers at MWB's After School programme as they support children affected by the conflict.

Albania.

Continue to pray for God's blessing on MWB's Soup Kitchen staff as they serve all who come for a daily meal and emotional and spiritual support.

Continue to pray for those who have come to faith in Christ and that the sponsored families who are now self-sufficient and the families who have received projects to help them, will be transformed by the mission's impact and that God will bless their efforts to support their families.

Moldova

Pray for job opportunities for families struggling financially and for the MWB team. Inflation is very high and financial tension often causes family breakdowns, where one parent seeks employment elsewhere.

Continue to pray for the 107 scholarship students in MWB's programmes that they will complete their studies and find good jobs.

Pray for support for pastors and churches and MWB's partnership with them, that this year will bring spiritual fruit and families will receive Jesus as their Saviour.

Bulgaria

Praise God that many children in MWB's Bible correspondence course are responding to the Good News.

Pray for the homeless being helped by MWB's 'Street Mercy' programme.

Open Doors (Contact: Judith Anderson)

Safe houses in China.

Open Doors run a number of safe houses in China for North Korean believers who escape to China. Please give thanks for these houses, and pray for their protection, that the Lord will 'hide' them. Brother Andrew used to pray "Lord, make seeing eyes blind".

Please pray too for the fieldworkers to have strength, wisdom, and courage in their ministry.

India.

Much prayer is needed for the current elections that take place over 6 weeks during April and May in this vast country. Please pray that the elections are peaceful and fair, and voters are not intimidated to vote a particular way.

Please pray that the rights of Christians and other minority faiths are protected.

Please pray that the government of God's choice will be elected.

Currently Christian NGOs are being labelled as agencies of religious conversion and are having their licenses revoked.

Please pray that the Indian Home Office would be focused on justice for all.

Bangladesh.

A Sunday School for Christian children has been shut down, following an aggressive protest by local Muslim women.

Please pray for the Open Doors staff who are helping this church to find a new location where the class can safely meet without hindrance.

Please pray that the Lord will encourage the church leaders, and that they will not despair.

Please send prayer requests for June to
Katharine Checketts by **Monday 20th May**