



CROMERCHURCH

transforming lives with Jesus Christ

Prayer Diary - October 2020

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

This month's diary continues to reflect the changes caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Please check the Weekly Update for up-to-date news of what is happening.

Sunday worship continues in the Parish Church at 10.30am and at St Martin's at 3pm, with restricted numbers and with Covid-19 regulations in place (spacing, masks etc). The 10.30 service is streamed live over the Internet on the Cromer Church YouTube channel, accessed in the normal way. (Either use this link: www.youtube.com/channel/UC0ySrZRXcovTLvIL136AHuQ/ and click the "Subscribe" button to get to the CromerChurch channel, or go to YouTube and search for 'Cromer Church'.)

Morning Prayer continues to be streamed on the Cromer Church Facebook page at 9.30am on weekdays.

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS FOR OCTOBER

Please check weekly publicity for details and updates, especially if restrictions change. If events start happening, they will need prayer support.

This month's mission focus is the Prison Fellowship.

See below for all mission partner requests.

Thu 1 *For God's people to be filled with his love, joy, peace and patience during these difficult times*

Fri 2 *Medical staff throughout the world*

- Sat 3** *Tomorrow's worship and teaching; Prison Fellowship*
- Sun 4** Worship Theme: Ephesians 5:21-33 - A spotless bride
Preacher: Roger Billings (10:30 and 3:00)
Our church leaders; our church governing bodies (synods)
- Mon 5** *Mission Partner: Andrew and Maria Leake*
- Tue 6** *Businesses, charities and churches facing financial hardship*
- Wed 7** *Scientists investigating the pandemic and climate change*
- Thu 8** *Mission Partner: The Bible Society*
- Fri 9** *School children, their teachers, and other school staff.*
- Sat 10** *Tomorrow's worship and teaching; Prison Fellowship*
- Sun 11** Worship Theme: Ephesians 6:10-20 - A mighty army
Preacher: David Masters (10:30 and 3:00)
Our church leaders; other local church leaders
- Mon 12** *The persecuted church (see below)*
- Tue 13** *Mission Partner: Canaan*
- Wed 14** *Public transport workers and users*
- Thu 15** *Give thanks for the beauty we can see in our world*
- Fri 16** *Mission Partner: CPAS*
- Sat 17** *Tomorrow's worship and teaching; Prison Fellowship*
- Sun 18** Worship Theme: Revelation 15 and 16 - Seven plagues and seven bowls
Preacher: Will Warren (10:30 and 3:00)
Our church leaders; our small group leaders
- Mon 19** *Mission Partner: London City Mission*
- Tue 20** *Residents of our care homes and those needing care in their own homes - and all who provide care for them.*
- Wed 21** *Local government workers*
- Thu 22** *Mission Partner: Michelle Proctor*
- Fri 23** *School children and staff beginning half term*

- Sat 24** *Tomorrow's worship and teaching; Prison Fellowship*
- Sun 25** Worship Theme: Revelation 17 - A mystery woman
Preacher: Paul Rosier (10:30 and 3:00)
Our church leaders; our national church leaders
- Mon 26** *Mission Partner: Scripture Union*
- Tue 27** *Our government and members of parliament*
- Wed 28** *University students and staff*
- Thu 29** *Mission Partner: Tearfund*
- Fri 30** *People living in conflict areas.*
- Sat 31** *Tomorrow's worship and teaching; Prison Fellowship*

The persecuted church: Armenia (Contact: Ken Nash)

Edgar Karapetyan was fired from his position as a decorated police officer because he refused to renounce his faith. He challenged his dismissal on the grounds that a ban on religious membership for police officers was unconstitutional. He won his case, and the court ruled that his dismissal was invalid, that he should be reinstated, and must be compensated. Praise the Lord.

ADF International

MISSION PARTNER PRAYER REQUESTS

Andrew Leake (CMS/Compassion International) (Contact: David Leake)

Andrew writes:

- Compassion has asked me to lead an initiative for them to embrace creation care and develop a strategic response to the issue of climate change. That's has had me occupied. While there is nothing official as yet, if this does work out, it will be a tremendous platform for us to spread the word on creation care.
- COVID-wise, things are getting more complicated by the day. Most if not all our immediate circle of friends/contacts have been infected. Most seem to have come through it OK, so far.
- We are as well as can be under these strange circumstances. We are able to go out and do the basics, but we limit ourselves. Thankfully, a large garden (and vegetable plot) means we do not feel confined.
- Carolina continues her last semester (vet) online, from home. Ceci is

working and teaching from home. Tomas has ventured back to Cordoba but is still waiting for his work to resume (no planes moving here at the moment).

- Maria is well, she is halfway through her Christian Rural and Environmental Studies program with the John Ray Initiative (A Rocha). She has extra work around the house as a result of our once-a-week home-help not being able to come in due to the COVID situation. We all try and chip in, but that does not always go far enough!!
- Church-wise things are slow here, again due to COVID. We understand there are now cases amongst the indigenous peoples. That scenario does not bear thinking about, as health care up north is bad at the best of times.
- We have chosen to pause any further building work at the diocesan retreat centre (La Caldera). It's in a usable state, and we have offered it as a place for isolating COVID cases if needed by the local authorities.
- My work with Compassion continues, but all based from home - of course. It's interesting to see how this experience is forcing us to see how much travel is REALLY needed and what we can do just as well from far away.

Bible Society (Contact: David Orsborne)

Learn more about Bible Society at www.youtube.com/watch?v=H-Br9p4AovE, find prayer resources at www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/pray-with-us or get *Prayer in Action* from www.biblesociety.org.uk/content/get-involved/word-in-action/files/2020/pia_summary_2020.pdf.

This month, please give thanks and pray for the work of Bible Society.

- Please pray for the work of Open the Book - especially our local teams - that they will be able to find safe ways to resume their important work of sharing Bible stories with children (www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book);
- This year, Bible Sunday falls on 25th October, and Bible Society has produced a range of free resources to support churches and individuals, and to help them make the most of the opportunities that Bible Sunday provides. Please pray that these may be widely taken up and well used (www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/bible-sunday-2020).
- Bible Society estimates that their work is at risk in 88 countries because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The prayers and financial support offered by churches like ours are key to some incredible work bringing the Bible to people in these difficult days and challenging circumstances, but much of it could come to a halt due to the devastating economic impact and

other effects of the pandemic. In particular, plummeting income in 88 countries has meant that people there face the prospect of no Bible distribution, no vital translation work, no Scripture-based literacy classes, no Bible-based trauma healing. Bible Society work is at risk of having to close down permanently in these countries, so please pray and, if you can, make a donation to help keep this work alive (www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/donate/appeals/bible-work-at-risk-in-88-nations).

Canaan Christian Centre (Contact: Evelyn Smith)

This month:

- We started Kids Club last month and are looking forward to seeing all the children again each time. When we started it was very hard not to sing as we did actions for the songs, so in the end we went outside and sang in the garden after burning our fears on the barbeque! At the time of writing we expect two new children to come from East Runton.
- Pray for the team and for safety for us all.
- We had a successful car boot sale last month and raised £140 for Christmas for the Hungarian orphanage we support. Hopefully we will have had another in East Runton on 3rd October.

CPAS (Contact: Jane Loades)

This month, again:

- praise God that churches have seen an increased engagement through their online services. Pray that this may result in many people coming to faith in Christ Jesus as their Saviour;
- pray for our church leaders to be equipped to lead healthy growing churches;
- as the situation with COVID-19 evolves, ask God to bless CPAS staff with insight and discernment into how they can serve and equip Christian leaders.

Psalm 40 v3

He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in Him.

London City Mission (Contact: Elizabeth Bridger)

This month:

- Jean-Louis at Webber Street Centre for the homeless reports that since the Government scheme to re-house thousands of London's homeless

ended in July, a great many are back on the streets and the centre has had over 50% more people turning up for food and clothes each day. They can only be given food and clothes at the door - no in-house catering is permitted due to Covid.

Jean-Louis has family in Beirut and many of them live very close to the city centre where the recent explosion happened. Thank God none of them were injured but their homes were very badly damaged, and they have lost most of their possessions. Please pray for them as the suffering continues and people are trying to rebuild their homes and lives. There is much anger against the Beirut government.

Jean-Louis has opened a fund to help the people who have suffered. Gifts towards the 'Beirut Lebanon Appeal' could be sent to him at London City Mission headquarters at 175 Tower Bridge Road, London, SE1 2AH.

- Many families are struggling to feed their children and can't cope with home schooling.
- The Mission is asking every missionary to re-apply for their posts or take voluntary redundancy, due to the financial constraints caused by the pandemic - a step they are very reluctant to ask the missionaries to take as they restructure the work of the mission.
- Please pray that the Lord will prompt Christians to give generously at this challenging time. The need to get the good news of Jesus to London's neediest is as great as ever!
- Lonely people are lonelier than ever before due to the requirement for many to self-isolate. Missionaries are trying to keep in touch with as many as possible, but many may be slipping through the net, sadly.
- Please pray for wisdom to overcome these obstacles to the gospel and for each missionary to keep close to Jesus as they seek to share His love with London's neediest and least reached.

Michelle Proctor (SIM) (Contact: Tim Britton)

This month:

- Continue to pray for us as the number of COVID-19 cases in Zambia rises. Give thanks that we have not yet had to use our isolation ward.
- Pray for our student nurses as our school of nursing reopens, that they would be protected from COVID.
- Give thanks that our new operating theatre is almost complete. Pray that there will be no problems as they install the solar power system and that it would work well.

Prison Fellowship (Contact: Janet Rosier)

This month:

- On July 31st, Prison Fellowship launched PRAYER LINE in prisons across England and Wales - a unique service for those in prison to leave a confidential prayer request as a voicemail. This is then prayed for by Prison Fellowship volunteers that day and in the month to follow. Give thanks for the first month of PRAYER LINE: that many in prison have used it, and that the Prayer Fellowship volunteers have received the anonymous requests and have faithfully prayed for them for a month.
- Give thanks for DAILY HOPE, a Church of England initiative that was launched in April. It offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services and from September was also available in prisons.
- Pray that the above may be well advertised and talked about and that the Holy Spirit will prompt those in prison to want to access either or both these initiatives.
- Give thanks for the religious liberty we have in this country to broadcast and to own Bibles. May these have a great impact on many lives.
- Pray for chaplains as they connect with prisoners and staff, that they will have wisdom and the right words to explain the Christian faith to any who have been touched by what they have heard.

Scripture Union (Contact: David Orsborne)

This month, please give thanks and pray for the work of Scripture Union.

- COVID-19 has hit many people hard, but perhaps hardest hit are children and young people. At a time when they need the support, love and confidence that only Jesus brings, the vast majority have little or no contact with the church. SU's new 'Revealing Jesus' mission framework aims to help churches make those connections and provide these children and young people with opportunities to respond to the gospel and grow in a personal relationship with Jesus. The online launch of 'Revealing Jesus' takes place on Wednesday 14th October. Please pray for the success of this new way to reach 'the 95' (www.vimeo.com/274854630 and content.scriptureunion.org.uk/95-campaign).
- SU's 'lockdown' resources are still available to help churches take their first steps into socially distanced mission (content.scriptureunion.org.uk/leavinglockdown). They are grouped into three categories: 'In the yard' (ideas for missional 'making' activities within church grounds), 'On the trail' (ideas for sharing the good news in the public spaces of the community) and 'On the field' (ideas for mission

through sport activities in outdoor spaces). Please pray that these resources will be well used and have a big impact.

- Scripture Union's INspire videos have been so popular with young people and youth leaders during lockdown that they are continuing with the series and introducing new leader's resources to help churches and families with young people to get the most out of each video. There's a brand new INspire video each week, complete with a leader's guide. Please pray that they will be widely taken up and well used (content.scriptureunion.org.uk/inspire).
- 'Connecting You' is SU's supporter and prayer magazine. It has the latest news on their mission to share the good news of Jesus with the next generation, and daily prayer requests to support this exciting work. Contact David Osborne for a copy or get it and other prayer resources at content.scriptureunion.org.uk/support-us/prayer.

Tearfund (Contacts: Judith Anderson and Lynda Brown)

This month:

- Tearfund local partners are still working with the most vulnerable in Beirut where the devastating explosion has destroyed the city. Pray for the bereaved, wounded and the tens of thousands now homeless. Pray for those giving physical and emotional support and for those giving financially.
- It is difficult to know where to begin when praying for a crisis as large as this Pandemic. Tearfund have put together a Coronavirus Prayer Guide based on the acronym PRAY. (Praise, Reflect, Ask, Yield)
 - * Praise: listen to a song of worship
 - * Reflect: reflect on God's nature. eg Psalm 34:18
 - * Ask: pray for families, healthcare, the government and society, the Church
 - * Yield: how might God want to use you as an answer to your prayers?
- For more help, go to www.tearfund.org and follow the link to "Latest", and "Coronavirus response".

Please send prayer requests for November to Tim Britton
by Monday 26th October.