

Prayer Diary – December 2023

*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 Cornerstone Café

10.00 am Holy Communion in the Parish Church

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 DECEMBER

See below for prayer requests from Mission Partners and others

Fri 1 Mission Partner: Michelle Proctor (SIM)

Sat 2 Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: 1 Thessalonians 4v13-18: The comfort of his coming).
Preachers: Paul Neale (Parish Church), Will Warren (St Martin's))

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

Mon 4 Mustard Seed

Tue 5 Mission Partner: Canaan Christian Centre

Wed 6	All children
Thu 7	Mission Partner: Tearfund
Fri 8	Our environment
Sat 9	Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: 1 Thessalonians 5v1-11: The day of the Lord). Preachers: Will Warren (Parish Church). No 10.30 service at St Martin's, Family Christmas Celebration at 4pm (St Martin's)
Sun 10	Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; our small group leaders
Mon 11	Mission Partner: Hope into Action
Tue 12	Those who find it difficult to make ends meet
Wed 13	The persecuted Church
Thu 14	Open the Book
Fri 15	Mission Partner: Christians Against Poverty
Sat 16	Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: 1 Thessalonians 5v12-28: Life together). Preachers: Paul Neale (Parish Church), Paul Rosier (St Martin's)
Sun 17	Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; national church leaders
Mon 18	Mission Partner: CPAS
Tue 19	Those suffering from loneliness and isolation
Wed 20	The NHS and emergency services
Thu 21	Victims of domestic abuse
Fri 22	Mission Partner: Mission Without Borders (MWB)
Sat 23	Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Luke 1v26-38: Good news for Mary).
Sun 24	Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; other local church leaders

- Mon 25** Christmas Day. (Theme: Good news for some shepherds).
Preachers: David Masters (Parish Church), Will Warren (St Martin's)
- Tue 26** Mission Partner: Open Doors
- Wed 27** The homeless
- Thu 28** Mission Partner: Andrew and Maria Leake
- Fri 29** Those suffering from depression or anxiety
- Sat 30** Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Matthew 1v18-25: Good news for Joseph). Preachers: David Loades (Parish Church), tbc (St Martin's)
- Sun 31** Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; our new curate and associate vicar

PRAYER REQUEST DETAILS

The persecuted church: Armenia (Contact: Ken Nash)

"There are reports of mass killings, raping and torture A scene of war crimes is unfolding".

These were the words of Bishop Hovakim Manukyan, Primate of the Armenian Church of the UK and Ireland, in the days following an invasion of the Armenian Christian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh by Muslim-majority Azerbaijan. More than 100,000 people – almost the entire Karabakh population – have fled into Armenia itself to escape the violence. Armenia PM Nikol Pashinyan said there was a real fear of ethnic cleansing.

The enclave had been under a blockade by Azerbaijan since December 2022, causing widespread shortages of food, medicine and fuel. This seems to have escaped the attention of the world's media, probably because of the war in Ukraine.

Please pray that the international community will take these warnings seriously as Christians in Armenia itself remain vulnerable to future attack.

Barnabas Aid

Andrew and Maria Leake, Compassion and Land for Life

(Contact: David Leake)

Andrew writes:

- Please join us in prayer for Andrew and Maria as they contemplate the potential move closer to Buenos Aires.
- We are excited to share that Tomas, the son of Andrew and Maria, has secured a new job. Let's express our gratitude for a wonderful outcome after a lengthy search.
- As we navigate through the uncertain landscape of a new president and anticipate a period of political turbulence in Argentina, let's come together in prayer for the country.

Canaan Christian Centre (Contact: Evelyn Smith)

This month:

December comes with great opportunities to reach people with the tree festival lights switching on etc., and we have Marilyn Baker coming to our ALL-AGE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION at 3 pm on Sunday 3rd December at Canaan.

Wonderful answers to prayer over November, with aid being taken to Ukraine, Hungarian students enjoying their time at Canaan and taking gifts back to Hungary and learning more about faith and following Jesus.

New people are attending the Canaan monthly lunch, we would ask your prayers for Christmas lunch and new opportunities to share our faith with others on 21st December.

Praise God for our volunteers, cooking, cleaning, teaching, driving etc. On 31st December we have a large house party who come each year so volunteers will be very busy. Please pray for them.

Praise for God's supply of our needs. This is the last month of Canaan's current term as a Mission Partner. Thank you for your continued support.

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

"My name is Thomas, and as a Debt Coach, every day I meet people who are preparing for a Christmas in poverty, and it breaks my heart. People try not to cry in front of me, and I know they are feeling completely beaten down. Many can't afford to put the heating on or put food on the table.

I know how it feels to experience poverty and debt at Christmas, and it's devastating. Years ago, I was in exactly the same position. Christmas Day in poverty was the loneliest moment of my life. Cold in my bones. Alone in an empty room. Instant noodles my only meal. Christmas is really tough, and so many people need help.

It was the compassion shown by people like you that led me to faith in Jesus. The support I received from CAP and my local church got me out of debt. God put me back together again, showed me I wasn't alone, and now I get to show others they're not alone either."

First, will you let someone know that they're cared for this Christmas...?

Secondly, please pray:

For the practical debt relief work of CAP,

That the love of Jesus will be made known in word and deed by all the staff and volunteers.

CPAS (Contact: Vivienne Benford)

This month:

- Please pray for all the children and young people who attended the Ventures and Falcons Residential Holidays and School Ventures this summer, that seeds sewn will grow into a full faith relationship with Jesus.
- The CPAS was founded in 1836 with a vision to equip church leaders for a changing world and now they are launching a “Vision Renewal” to seek God’s direction for the future. This is being carried out by seeking the views of interested parties and prayer. So please pray that God will guide those in CPAS leadership to see what activities should cease and what new ventures should be taken up.
- Following such an amazing response last year “The Big Give” Christmas Challenge will be held once again between the 28th November and the 5th December. Please pray for another generous response to this appeal.

Hope into Action (Contact: Katharine Checketts)

Please pray:

For the “ins” and “outs” – for tenants who are about to move into a new Hope into Action home and for those who are moving on to independent accommodation.

Give thanks:

For the inspiring presentation from the Hope into Action team in Norwich to our churches, which has given us an introduction to their work. May we be guided regarding next steps.

Michelle Proctor (SIM) (Contact: Tim Britton)

This month:

Tim Britton writes:

This month is the last of Michelle's current term as one of our Mission Partners. Give thanks to God for the many years' connection we have had with Michelle, and for the privilege of supporting her and the work of Mukinge hospital through our prayer and giving.

Michelle is continuing to work as a paediatric nurse, anaesthetist, and SIM mission partner at Mukinge hospital. We pray for wisdom in her different roles, for energy, for good conversations with patients and staff, for a growing relationship with God and for fruitfulness in her service of the Lord Jesus, to the glory of God.

Michelle is having a well-deserved break in January, when she has been given the opportunity to visit friends in New Zealand. Pray for safe travel, a great experience, and that she would return refreshed.

SIM mission partners 'live by faith' - they depend on God for their needs, especially for their financial support. Pray that God would provide for all Michelle's needs.

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

Pray that there will be a generous response to the appeal for money to cover the cost of MWB's Christmas love boxes which are filled with food, treats and the gospel message. MWB hope to give these to 40,000 children, families and vulnerable people in need across the poorest countries in Eastern Europe where they work in partnership with churches.

Pray that God will provide for people living in poverty, particularly in Moldova, so that they will be able to stay warm this winter.

The level of poverty in Ukraine has risen greatly. MWB's national director in Ukraine writes: " Due to the war and continuous dire needs, our ministry for the refugees, displaced and poor, has been very challenging but much blessed." Please continue to pray for MWB's

work in Ukraine, remembering two of their staff members whose brothers have died on the front line.

Please continue to pray for the team in the UK office and the family of John Chamberlain, MWB's UK National Director, as they mourn his unexpected death after a heart attack, thanking God for all John did for the Lord in his leadership role.

Open Doors (Contact: Judith Anderson)

Please pray for:

Sudan

The country is currently caught up in a violent power struggle within the military leadership. Hundreds have been killed, and thousands displaced. This conflict is making life even harder for persecuted Christians there.

Open Doors suggest this prayer for Sudan.

Father God, we lift up Sudan, and pray for stability in the region. May those who covet power, and those who choose to fight, choose instead to walk the path of peace.

Bring justice and healing to this divided land, we pray. Out of this darkness, we pray that light will come.

We pray for a government that respects equality and religious freedom.

May your church in this land reflect Your humility, forgiveness, and love. Bring hope to those who feel helpless, healing for the wounded, comfort for the bereaved, and safety for all who feel afraid. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Israel and Gaza

The following prayer is one suggested by Open Doors:

“ Sovereign God, we pray for peace in Israel and Gaza — for an end to hostilities and for the peacemakers on both sides.

Comfort all who mourn, all who are waiting to hear news of missing loved ones, and all who are injured and traumatised.

Give boldness and compassion to Christians on both sides to shine

the light of Christ in their communities, and equip national and international leaders with wisdom.

May Your will be done, and Your loving kindness be evident to all. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Tearfund (Contact: Lynda Brown and Judith Anderson)

Prayer

This month is the last of Tearfund's current term as one of our mission partners. Please may we ask you to continue to pray for world situations and those living in terrible poverty and hardship, and for the ongoing work of Tearfund. We are hoping that we will be successful in being voted back as a mission partner after our year's break.

Middle East conflict

Tearfund work with partners in Lebanon, and much of their work involves working with young people and enabling them to be peacemakers in their community. Please pray for these young people and those in the Middle East caught up in this conflict. There is a prayer guide on the Tearfund website to help us pray for the Israeli - Gaza conflict. Pray for PEACE, SAFETY, STRENGTH, HOPE & HEALING. 'With God, all things are possible' Matthew 19:26

Praise

We praise God for answered prayer & for the many positive steps forward that have been taken at the UN plastic treaty talks in Nairobi in November.

Please send prayer requests for December to Katharine Checketts by Monday 18th December
