

Prayer Diary – April 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 APRIL

See below for prayer requests from Mission Partners and others

Mon 1	Haiti
Tue 2	Our Mission Partner: CPAS
Wed 3	Our music groups
Thu 4	Our Mission Partner: Bible Society
Fri 5	The work of the United Nations and its leaders
Sat 6	Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: John 20v24-29: Seeing and believing). Preachers: Tim Britton (Parish Church), David Masters (St Martin's). Pray for our own opportunities for mission
Sun 7	Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; our children's and youth group leaders
Mon 8	Children in care
Tue 9	Our Mission Partner: London City Mission
Wed 10	Our schools
Thu 11	Our Mission Partner: Hope into Action
Fri 12	Youth workers
Sat 13	Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Luke 24v36-49: Opened eyes and opened minds). Preachers: Joanna Haywood (Parish Church), Jess Stubenbord (St Martin's). Pray for our own opportunities for mission
Sun 14	Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; our small group leaders
Mon 15	Our Mission Partner: Christians Against Poverty
Tue 16	Farmers trying to balance earning a living and caring for nature
Wed 17	Our Mission Partner: Michelle Proctor
Thu 18	Our local councils
Fri 19	The persecuted church
Sat 20	Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Colossians 1v15-23: Gospel: Jesus' victory). Preachers: Tim Britton (Parish Church),

Paul Rosier (St Martin's).
Pray for our own opportunities for mission

- Sun 21** Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; national church leaders
- Mon 22** Our Mission Partner: Mission Without Borders (MWB)
- Tue 23** Victims of wars
- Wed 24** Our Mission partner: Good News for Everyone
- Thu 25** Open the Book
- Fri 26** Opponents of authoritarian governments
- Sat 27** Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Ephesians 2v1-10: Grace: Jesus' welcome). Preachers: Will Warren (Parish Church), Julia Chamberlin (St Martin's).
Pray for our own opportunities for mission
- Sun 28** Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; other local church leaders
- Mon 29** Countries in South America suffering through drug trafficking
- Tue 30** Our Mission Partner: Open Doors

PRAYER REQUEST DETAILS

The persecuted church: Martyrs (Contact: Ken Nash)

"They did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death." (Rev. 12:11)

Christians throughout the world are called to give up their lives to follow their Lord, and many pay the ultimate price.

Converts from Islam risk being officially executed for apostasy.

Communist governments such as North Korea identify Christians as a threat and execute believers or torture them to death.

Hundreds of Christians in Northern and Middle Belt Nigeria are killed by Islamist extremists every year. The persecution of Christian-majority ethnic groups in Myanmar by the armed forces has been labelled as genocide.

In Western Uganda 42 Christians – mainly school pupils – were slaughtered by jihadists crossing from the DRC.

When jihadists abducted two fishermen in northern Mozambique, they allowed one to go free because he was a Muslim, but beheaded the other because was a Christian.

Pray that the example of these martyrs will be an encouragement to other Christians, and a witness to their persecutors.

Barnabas Aid

Michelle Proctor (SIM) (Contact: Tim Britton)

Michelle writes:

- There is currently a drought in Zambia. Please pray for needed rain and for people whose crops are failing, that they would have enough food for the coming year.
- Pray for the hospital chaplains as they see patients, that they would be able to share the Gospel and that hearts would be opened to receive it.
- Pray for me working on the children's ward, that I would have wisdom as I see patients.
- Pray for safety in travel and a time of refreshment, as our SIM Zambia team meet for our annual retreat.

London City Mission (Contact: Elizabeth Bridger)

London - a safe place of refuge? Or a place of rejection?

Thousands come to London from all over the world, fleeing from persecution and danger in war-torn countries. Many have lost their homes and possessions and often their loved ones too.

They are desperate, yet too many meet with a hostile reception from immigration authorities, who just want to deport them back to their countries.

The welcome they longed for is an illusion - all they find is rejection.

London City Missionaries seek out these desperate people and show them hospitality and practical help and share the saving Gospel of Jesus with them. Pray that they will be open to the Good News and will become followers of Jesus.

Charlotte is one of many missionaries who work in London Churches and offer help and loving practical support to those that come to the churches in their destitution. But the hidden majority live lives of 'quiet desperation'. Pray that missionaries such as Charlotte will be led to these people as they visit door to door or in the hostels or at Webber Street centre for the homeless in Waterloo, where they receive free meals and clothing. and the opportunity to see a gospel video and receive unconditional love and friendship.

Many are finding Christ, and their sorrow is turned to joy! Pray that many more will come to Him through their witness!

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

This month:

- Iain Mair, our GNfE Executive Director, travelled on a ShareWord Global trip to Uganda and Kenya in March, where Iain met and participated in a conference for pastors, spoke at church meetings, undertook outreach with local believers and met mission partner organisations. Please pray this will have encouraged the Christians there.
- Locally the meeting in the Church Parish Hall on the 16th March went well with a good attendance. Thank you for your prayers.
- At this meeting we heard of the warm reception that the Chilean people gave to the team of volunteers that went to South Chile to distribute Bibles and Chispa (Spark) magazines. The Chispa contains pictures, puzzles and the Gospel of John especially designed for the children. These were very popular. Please pray that these children and those who received the Scriptures may come to saving faith.
- An update of the local work in North Norfolk was also given with a display of the new types of Bibles, New Testaments, and magazines containing scripture. Please pray that many in our county might receive God's Word and come to know and love the Saviour.
- Not long ago we delivered New Testaments to prisoners in Bure and Norwich Prison. We heard of a new GNfE A5 sized illustrated magazine of Scripture to be produced especially for those serving prison sentences. Please pray that we may be able to distribute these too.
- God answered our prayers, and we now have a new volunteer willing to join our small team. We praise and thank God for that.

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

C.A.P. Prayer Points

CAP asks: "Join us in praying for lasting change for those experiencing poverty. Join us in praying for those we support to experience freedom in Jesus. We pray because we believe that God answers prayer. Prayer is the foundation of everything we do. It's a part of our culture. Every morning our staff join together to pray for those we serve and issues relating to poverty."

1. More than 1 in 5 people in the UK were living in poverty before the cost-of-living crisis hit. That's 14.5 million people. At Christians Against Poverty, we get to know the real people behind this statistic. People who can't afford

basic necessities like a cooker, a bed or even something as essential as food for their families. Please pray for these individuals and families.

2. CAP's Debt Help service and community support groups in hundreds of churches across the country are working hard to meet the needs of as many people as possible. "We want to see people living with faith in Jesus and hope for the future." Please pray for the churches linked with CAP.

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 continue to pray for the children making the decision to enrol and for leaders to volunteer.

Hope into Action (Contact: Katharine Checketts)

The message of the conference day on 7 March was "Empowerment".

Hope into Action empowers the church to house people who have been homeless.

And in turn, this empowers them to transform their lives.

Give thanks, that over 430 people came to hear this message, to meet in friendship and worship and enjoy the day together.

This year the charity is partnering with four new franchises across the UK, at a cost of £6,000 each, to enable local churches to house those affected by homelessness in their community. *Let's pray*, that the funds can be raised.

Bible Society (Contact: David Anderson)

Where would you be without the Bible? What would it be like if God's word was incomprehensible to you? Pastors like Ruben in Togo are having a hard time teaching Scripture to Kabiye people without a Bible in their language. 'It has been difficult to transmit the Bible's message in Kabiye,' Ruben says. It's very complicated. But with translation, it will be easy. For example, it can be difficult to explain what funerals are and why as Christians we shouldn't do certain things.'

Pray for this work and other examples, such as for a remote area of China. Firstly, after a request, a Bible Society team has to visit the region to investigate the situation. Where there is a need for a Bible translation, the

Society has to get permission from the local authorities to work in the area and then, thanks to the kind giving of Bible Society supporters and the church partner's local translation team, the Bible Society can provide support. After a successful translation, Bibles are distributed, and follow-up support is given to see whole communities engage with the Scriptures.

Pray also for the Bible Society to fill vacancies for a Director of People and Culture, a Web Development Manager and a Senior Executive Assistant to the Society's CEO.

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

Jos Downey, head of engagement at MWB, asks us to pray that everyone whom the mission serves and ministers to, in all six countries, would come to faith in Christ and that John 17 v 3 would become a reality for them.

Ukraine.

Give thanks that the energy network has remained stable this winter in spite of the war. Give thanks that despite continuous rocket strikes causing destruction in many areas, Rivne 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.

Albania.

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. Rejoice with MWB's staff for every individual who has come to faith in Christ and that 33 of MWB's sponsored families reached self-sufficiency in 2023 plus another 21 families received projects to help them. Pray for these families that God will bless their efforts to support their families.

Moldova

Pray for job opportunities for families struggling financially. Pray for the 107 scholarship students in MWB's programmes that they will be responsible, finish 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 Yunal, a homeless man from the mission's Street Mercy programme. God answered prayers and Yunal now has a job and somewhere to sleep. Pray for those in MWB's care programme who have been bereaved recently, that God will comfort and

strengthen them. Particularly pray for Boyka who lost her sister and grandson and Villy who lost her daughter and granddaughter.

Open Doors (Contact: Judith Anderson)

Ramadan

Christians in Islamic countries often find persecution increases during Ramadan, as Muslims resent the freedom enjoyed by Christians. They are often bad-tempered because of their fasting.

Muslims during Ramadan seek Allah, but often find Jesus through dreams and visions.

Please pray that Jesus will reveal Himself to many Muslims during this Ramadan.

Nigeria

Over 400 women and children have been abducted in 2 separate attacks by Boko Haram in NE Nigeria in recent days.

More than 100 Chibok girls remain in captivity 10 years after they were kidnapped.

Please pray that God will comfort and strengthen all these captives, and their families, and bring about their release.

Pray that God will convict these extremists, and cause them to repent, and release their captives.

India

Many Christians have been injured after an attack on a Methodist church, in the state of Telangana. The church was due to be demolished to widen a road, despite other buildings being spared. When the congregation protested, a mob of 200 stormed the church, severely beating the congregation, and smashing everything inside the church. It is thought that this was a pre-planned attack.

The police were called, but they sided with the attackers, and arrested several church members, accusing them of attempted murder!

Please pray that these unjust charges will be dropped.

Please pray also for the physical and emotional healing of those injured, and those traumatised by this attack.

Please send prayer requests for May to Katharine
Checketts by **Monday 22nd April**