

Prayer Diary – August 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)
10 am-4 pm Cornerstone Café
7.15 pm CC Community Choir rehearsal in St Martin's

Wednesdays Small groups meet morning, afternoon and evening

- 10.00 am Holy Communion
10 am-4 pm Cornerstone Café
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
10 am-4 pm Cornerstone Café
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 AUGUST

See below for prayer requests from Mission Partners and others

- Thu 1** Beachfest. Fishermen and women
- Fri 2** Beachfest. Seasonal workers
- Sat 3** Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Mark 12v28-34 – Champion...over us). Preachers: Will Warren (Parish Church), Paul Neale (St Martin's)
Pray for our own opportunities for mission
- Sun 4** Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; our children's and youth group leaders
- Mon 5** Our Mission partner: Hope into Action
- Tue 6** Our newly elected MPs
- Wed 7** Our Mission Partner: Michelle Proctor
- Thu 8** People suffering from long-term debilitating illness
- Fri 9** Our Mission Partner: CPAS
- Sat 10** Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Luke 8v4-15 – The God who speaks to us). Preachers: Tim Britton (Parish Church), Joanna Haywood (St Martin's)
Pray for our own opportunities for mission
- Sun 11** Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; our small group leaders
- Mon 12** Our Mission Partner: London City Mission
- Tue 13** Peace and restoration in Gaza
- Wed 14** Local and global cooperation and action to combat climate change
- Thu 15** Our Mission Partner: Good News for Everyone
- Fri 16** Our doctors and nurses
- Sat 17** Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Luke 15v11-24 – The God who loves us). Preachers: Joanna Haywood (Parish Church), David Masters (St Martin's)
Pray for our own opportunities for mission
- Sun 18** Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; national church leaders
- Mon 19** The Anglican church at home and abroad
- Tue 20** Our Mission Partner: Open Doors
- Wed 21** People everywhere who do not have enough to eat.
- Thu 22** Our Mission Partner: Bible Society

- Fri 23** Peace and restoration in Ukraine
- Sat 24** Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Luke 11v1-13 – The God who listens to us). Preachers: Tim Britton (Parish Church), David Masters (St Martin's)
Pray for our own opportunities for mission
- Sun 25** Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; other local church leaders
- Mon 26** Safety for travellers
- Tue 27** Our Mission Partner: Mission Without Borders
- Wed 28** The persecuted church
- Thu 29** Young people embarking on a new phase of their life story
- Fri 30** Our Mission Partner: Christians Against Poverty
- Sat 31** Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Luke 19v1-10 – The God who saves us). Preachers: Will Warren (Parish Church), Tim Britton (St Martin's)
Pray for our own opportunities for mission

PRAYER REQUEST DETAILS

The persecuted church: Sudan (Contact: Ken Nash)

An estimated five-and-a-half percent of Sudan's 50 million people are Christians. Our brothers and sisters there share in the suffering that has afflicted all the population as a result of the civil war that erupted in April 2023. It is reported that both the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces have targeted Christians, with more than 165 churches forced to close. Christians have previously endured decades of severe persecution under the Islamist government of Omar al-Bashir before he was ousted in 2019.

Please pray that the Lord will sustain our brothers and sisters in the Republic of Sudan, as well as those who have fled into neighbouring countries. Ask that He will especially protect His people and restore peace to Sudan.

Barnabas Aid

Michelle Proctor (SIM) (Contact: Tim Britton)

Michelle writes:

Please pray for the new SIM Zambia director as he learns the role and takes over. Pray too for the outgoing director and his wife as they say their goodbyes and retire.

The hospital has been extra busy recently. Give thanks that four new
Zambian doctors have been appointed and pray they arrive soon.

Give thanks for a new surgeon and family arriving from USA. Pray as they
settle in to life here and learn the language.

Pray for me for wisdom as I try to help and care for our team in my member
care role.

London City Mission (Contact: Elizabeth Bridger)

- Please pray for the children's camps and holiday clubs run by LCM
taking place in August. Pray for safety, wisdom for the leaders and
clarity in presenting the Gospel to the children and hearts open to the
love of Jesus.
- Pray especially for children from dysfunctional and unhappy
backgrounds to be able to respond to God's love as they hear the
Gospel.
- Pray for lifelong commitments to Christ to be made.

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

Work in North Norfolk

- Early in September we will start contacting the local secondary schools
to offer to take an assembly and offer Youth Testaments to year 7
students.
- We are joining with Christian Farmers link at the Aylsham Show in
August. Please pray that we are able to present the specially printed
GNfE 200 New Testaments to those passing the stand.
- During Carnival Week we intend also offering visitors to the church a
New Testament, a Hope magazine and Explore booklet. Please pray
that we will have a good response and that visitors will be interested
enough to open the scriptures and read them.
- Please pray that more local Christians would join our team, we are short
of volunteers.

International Work

The team who travelled to Belgrade last month would like to thank you all
for your prayers. Despite flooding, and even fires, many establishments
gave them a warm welcome and copies of God's Word were distributed all
around the city. Hotels, hospitals, prisons, the armed forces and emergency
services were some of the places to accept Scriptures as well as plenty of
opportunities for Personal Worker Testaments to be shared.

The local people all shared their thanks to members in the United Kingdom for your support in providing God's Word to the people of Serbia.

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

Debt can creep up on us slowly or wipe us out overnight. Either way, the consequences are debilitating. We would like to take time to reflect on how debt came about for Simon and others like him, as well as the pressures faced as a result. Daily prayer suggestions from CAP:

Monday

Simon told us he always had a relaxed attitude towards money. As he was working, it was always 'easy come, easy go'. Pray for financial education to be readily available to those who need it. CAP provides free, expert money coaching through hundreds of churches UK-wide, and we pray that those who need help are able to grow their skills with the support of CAP's trained money coaches.

Tuesday

In 2006, Simon was tragically struck by the loss of his wife. As she had acted as the main manager of their finances, Simon had to contend with both his grief and the start of his spiral into debt. Please pray for those who find themselves bereaved, that they're able to lean on God and find support from communities like the local church. We pray that those affected by loss would not be pulled deeper into financial turmoil.

Wednesday

Like so many others, Simon found himself relying on credit cards to survive. Today, please pray for those who have no alternative but to turn to credit as a lifeline. May borrowing act as a useful and temporary tool, rather than a necessity.

Thursday

Simon's money worries only got worse over time. Despite being in employment, he was off sick with depression due to increasing debt repayment demands. He was in rent arrears, threatened with eviction. We pray for those struggling with mental ill-health to take the time and treatment they need to heal – and that this period of rest would not come at a financial cost.

Friday

With debt collectors pursuing him, he grew too afraid to answer his own front door. The outside world brought panic, forcing him into greater isolation. Please pray for the thousands CAP sees each year who live in fear of a knock at the door or a telephone call. We pray that they would lean on the strength of God to acknowledge their financial situation and seek help as soon as they can.

Saturday

In February 2016, Simon had reached his limit and attempted suicide. In what he thought were his last hours, he said a quiet goodbye to his grandkids and the world. Please pray for those who are considering suicide as a result of unmanageable debt. May God protect them from harm.

Sunday

Heavenly Father, we thank you that Simon is still with us today. We're blessed that he has chosen to share his story so that others might find hope and freedom. Please be with those who silently struggle in the grip of debt and poverty. May they feel your closeness in their darkest hours and be guided by your loving hand to seek the help they need. Amen.

CPAS (Contact: Vivienne Benford)

- Throughout July and August, at different venues throughout the country, CPAS will be running Ventures and Falcons Christian Residential Holidays for 8 to 18-year-olds. Please pray for all concerned in the organisation, teaching and catering and especially for the young people attending, that they will encounter Christ and begin a life time journey of faith.
- As Patron, CPAS shares the responsibility for the continuity of the spiritual life of the Parish, and finding the right leader is utterly crucial to this. Please pray for all Parishes at this moment in time seeking a new leader, that God's hand will be at work in that appointment.

Hope into Action (Contact: Katharine Checketts)

Great news! HIA has won one of five coveted awards at Homeless Link's 2024 excellence awards. The award shows recognition of the value of the Hope into Action model.

More good news! The Easter Appeal raised an incredible £27,000, which can support the four new franchises. Two further church partners have been assessed and offered franchises. This means that by the end of 2024 seven new franchises will have been opened.

Pray for tenants like Skye, who had a dysfunctional childhood and became homeless at the age of 16. Being a Hope into Action tenant helped her believe in herself, and she has now moved on to private rented accommodation. She says, "I'm ready to be independent. I'm ready for my own life, my start and this is my turn, and thanks to Hope into Action I'm here, at a place I thought was impossible to be."

Bible Society (Contact: David Anderson)

Give thanks that:

- More than 50% of the world's people have a whole Bible translation thanks to the Bible Society.
- 600m more people will have Scripture in the next 20 years, through new translations.
- 5.6bn people can read the Society's Bibles online through YouVersion.
- 100,000 people learn to read every year with the Society's Bible literacy classes.

Pray also for the 155 Bible Societies around the world.

The Bible Society is expanding their Bible engagement and outreach programmes here in England and Wales. Please pray for this Bible work on our shores because people in this country are in real need of the healing and saving power found only through Jesus.

Andrew Ollerton and his team have produced a new short Bible Society film, "*The Map and the Mountain*", that captures his journey with God summiting a 4,067m high peak in the Swiss Alps. Pray that people in the outdoors community will be touched by the gospel message and share it with others that don't know Jesus.

Website for news and bible study courses: biblesociety.org.uk

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

Ukraine

Please continue to pray for the families who have lost loved ones or who wait for news of missing family members and for the ongoing protection of the region where MWB works and for the safety and protection of the families in the Mission's care. Please continue to pray for the summer camps, for the safety and protection of the children and teams and that all would experience God's blessing.

Bulgaria

Please thank God with the team in Bulgaria who are celebrating answered prayers for children they support, who are recovering from illness and sickness. Praise God for the 300 children who attended summer camps in July that their time at camp will affect their daily lives.

Moldova

Pray for a soft summer with rain, so that families across Moldova will have a good harvest in the autumn. Please continue to pray God's protection over Moldova that the war will not spill over from Ukraine into Moldova and for the many parents who have lost their jobs because of the war that they will be provided for. Pray for Arthur aged 10, a boy from MWB's 'Children in

Community' programme who had an accident at home and has needed two surgeries on his leg and is still very weak.

Romania

Pray for MWB's 'Back to School' campaign as they buy all the supplies for the children's backpacks. Pray that they receive generous deals from the big stores. Thank God that Petri, aged 11, is back with his family after being treated for Leukaemia. Pray for his continued recovery. Pray too for Denis, aged 14, who needs special medical treatment that he will be able to access the best treatment the state offers. Thank God for the summer camps for about 1000 children across Romania. The children learnt about Joshua while at camp. Pray that they too will be bold and courageous.

Open Doors (Contact: Judith Anderson)

UK

We are encouraged in 1Tim 2v2 to pray for those in authority over us. Open Doors suggests that Christians across the nation pray for our new government, and boldly approach our new MPs, to inform them of the issues concerning the persecution of Christians across the world. It appears that this new government contains fewer Christians than ever before. Please pray that they act boldly in defence of religious freedom across the world. Open Doors Advocacy site frequently gives information suitable to share with our MPs.

Togo

Please pray for the family of Titok, who grew up as a Muslim, but gave his life to Christ 10 years ago. As a result, his funding for his studies ceased, his siblings refused him his share of their father's inheritance, his funding for his glaucoma eye care was stopped, and his failing sight cost him his job. Open Doors are helping this family with food, rental support, and a loan for his wife to start a small business to support the family. They are also providing funding for the ongoing treatment for Titok's glaucoma. The family are so grateful to Open Doors supporters who are providing this valuable support.

Pakistan

A young Christian man has been falsely accused of posting a photo of a damaged Koran on a social media site. This follows an attack in which 100 Christian homes and 25 churches were destroyed. Ehsan is accused of blasphemy, has been given a huge fine (he is a humble brick kiln worker) and 22 years imprisonment. Open Doors are supporting families there and will help finance Ehsan's defence. Please pray for Ehsan's successful appeal, and Christians in Pakistan.

Please send prayer requests for September to Katharine Checketts by Friday 16th August
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