

Prayer Diary – October 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
10.00 am 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
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 OCTOBER

See below for prayer requests from Mission Partners and others

- Tue 1** Big Parenting Questions, organised by Care for the Family
- Wed 2** Our Mission Partner: Mission Without Borders
- Thu 3** People suffering from cancer
- Fri 4** Rachael and Toni who are organising Sea View Support Group open day tomorrow
- Sat 5** Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Psalm 126).
Speakers: Will Warren (Parish Church), Tim Britton (St Martin's)
Pray for this month's Mission Partner: Christians Against Poverty
- Sun 6** Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; our children's and youth group leaders
- Mon 7** Our Mission Partner: Michelle Proctor
- Tue 8** Climate change scientists
- Wed 9** World leaders, that they act to alleviate global warming
- Thu 10** Our local schools
- Fri 11** Our Mission Partner: Open Doors
- Sat 12** Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Isaiah 32v1-20 – The reign of righteousness). Speakers: David Masters (Parish Church), Julia Chamberlain (St Martin's)
Pray for this month's Mission Partner: Christians Against Poverty
- Sun 13** Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; our small group leaders
- Mon 14** Mustard Seed
- Tue 15** Mothers' Union and our Church group
- Wed 16** Political prisoners
- Thu 17** Our Mission partner: Hope into Action
- Fri 18** People living in substandard housing
- Sat 19** Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Isaiah 33v1-24 – The devouring fire). Speakers: Will Warren (Parish Church), Paul Rosier (St Martin's)
Pray for this month's Mission Partner: Christians Against Poverty
- Sun 20** Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; national church leaders
- Mon 21** People in war zones – too many to list individually
- Tue 22** Our Mission Partner: Bible Society

- Wed 23** Our hospitals and those who work in them
- Thu 24** Work of the United Nations (United Nations Day)
- Fri 25** Our Mission Partner: London City Mission
- Sat 26** Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: 2 Timothy 3v14-4v5 – Bible Sunday). Speakers: Joanna Haywood (Parish Church), David Masters (St Martin's)
Pray for this month's Mission Partner: Christians Against Poverty
- Sun 27** Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; other local church leaders
- Mon 28** The persecuted church
- Tue 29** Our Mission Partner: CPAS
- Wed 30** People suffering from depression and anxiety, those who see no hope
- Thu 31** Our Mission Partner: Good News for Everyone

PRAYER REQUEST DETAILS

The persecuted church: Eritrea (Contact: Ken Nash)

Persecution of Christians has worsened in Eritrea with 218 arbitrary arrests in 12 months, including children. It means that around 400 Christians are now in prison for their faith, with no prospect of a trial. Most were taken from their homes – some at 3am; some children have been arrested with their parents – in some cases the whole family is in prison. There is great concern for the physical and mental wellbeing of the children, some of whom are only two years old.

In 2002 the regime, headed by Isaias Afwerki outlawed most Christian churches and began making arrests. Some believers have been incarcerated for over 20 years. Some were held in steel shipping containers in the hot desert, others have been tortured, while others have died from abuse and untreated illness.

Heart / Release International

To find out more about Christians in Eritrea, read the autobiography "*Brother, I Have Come to Arrest You*" by Dr Berhane Asmelash.

Michelle Proctor (SIM) (Contact: Tim Britton)

Michelle writes:

Please pray for safe travel as I will be out of Zambia for most of October attending meetings and having a holiday as well.

Pray for the hospital in October as they will be very short of doctors. Give thanks that more help is coming in November and pray that a long-term solution could be found to the need for more doctors.

We are currently only getting 3 hours of mains electricity a day. Pray that the situation would improve, and that the hospital will be able to continue to provide good care and have the funds to run generators.

Pray for good rains this year and an end to the drought.

London City Mission (Contact: Elizabeth Bridger)

Elizabeth writes:

We had a wonderfully inspiring weekend with 2 fine young women missionaries speaking in both our churches, Johanna and Rebecca, both so passionate for the ministry of the Gospel across London.

These are some of their prayer needs:

Rebecca works among the young people of Hackney, where gangs and knife crime are rife. LCM is rolling out Operation Forgiveness in schools to encourage pupils to forgive their attackers and break the cycle of revenge. They also offer a knife Amnesty. The programme is having considerable effect. A mum whose son was stabbed to death speaks movingly in schools about how she learned to bury hatred and forgive his murderers. Rebecca asks for prayer to persevere despite weariness and discouragement.

Johanna works in Haringey where her team is urgently seeking a suitable replacement to fill a gap in the team to share the burden of work. She also has several health needs after a spell in hospital and some on-going medical problems.

As single women living alone in difficult parts of London, they often feel lonely and vulnerable with colleagues living some distance away. Also, it's difficult to socialise. Please pray for them!

LCM are planning many pre-Christmas events across the schools and churches with whom they partner, sharing the message of Christmas in many creative ways. Thank you for your prayers!

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

Work in North Norfolk

We are starting to contact the local secondary schools to offer Youth Testaments for year 7 students. Cromer Academy has just received 137 Testaments. Sidestrand Hall, Stalham High, North Walsham schools have received a school pack. Beeston Hall School has requested that I take an assembly and offer year 7 students a Youth Testament.

- At the Aylsham Show in August, we were able to distribute 292 specially designed scriptures & 100 Explore Magazines. Please pray for those who accepted a Testament that they will read them and come to know the Saviour.
- Praise God that we were able to present visitors on Carnival day with 72 New Testaments and 30 Explore booklets. We had many good conversations, one couple new to the area said that they would like to come to the church, another lady from Trimmingham said she would love to come. I was surprised at the number of young people who were keen to accept the scriptures. A Chinese lady, from a persecuted church in China, was thrilled on our being able to her give her a Chinese/English New Testament. Another Gentleman was pleased with his Spanish NT.

Please continue to pray that local Christians would be called by God to join our team, we are short of volunteers.

International Work – Kenya

Following the trip to Kenya in March this year by GNfE volunteers to churches in Maasailand, 1,100 Bibles were provided to communities of Maasai believers that had no Bibles. A letter was recently received by the National office from Bishop Koinet in Kenya. In it, he thanked GNfE for supplying the scriptures saying that many lives had been touched and transformed by the gift.

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

With winter fuel payments set to be cut, please pray for those who will struggle to pay for their energy bills. Maybe they are eligible for Pension Credit but they have not applied for it. Pray that they will be given the help they need, to apply for credit, to manage their budget or to receive help to better insulate their homes so that they do not have to be cold this winter.

22% of adults in the UK are living with a budget deficit. This means that they do not earn enough to pay for essential items. Pray that a recent letter signed by CAP and others urging ministers to address this issue will yield results.

Please pray that the helpfulness and friendliness of the debt counsellors will lead to rich spiritual conversations that will help the client find hope in Jesus

CPAS (Contact: Vivienne Benford)

- CPAS are very sad to announce the tragic death of Kathy and Steve Burch who were struck by a car in August while walking along Beaumaris Pier in the Isle of Anglesey. Kathy served as PA to the CPAS

Patronage Secretary for over 17 years and had just retired at Christmas and Steve served as a vicar in the Diocese of Coventry for over 35 years. Please pray for their family and friends and especially for their three children, David, Jonathan, Sarah and their families as they try to come to terms with such a tragedy.

- As Joanna leads a prayer course here in Cromer during the Autumn using “Like Monks, Living like fools”, recommended by CPAS, please pray that all who will be participating will be blessed by this resource.

Hope into Action (Contact: Katharine Checketts)

The 2023-24 Impact Report has been published. You can read it on the Hope into Action website. The charity continues to grow, as does the need to house the homeless and those in temporary accommodation. 17 new homes were opened, the most there has ever been in one financial year. But more than that, the figures for improvement in the lives of tenants are impressive. Supporting tenants holistically lies at the heart of HIA. As we have heard in the news, more people are being released from prison early, and this is leading to an increase in the already acute housing needs.

Let's pray that HIA will continue to be a restorer of hope to homeless people through the power of Christian faith.

Bible Society (Contact: David Anderson)

Bible studies barely exist in China because there's nobody to lead them. That is why the Chinese Church needs discipleship groups.

Small-group study among Chinese Christians is widely desired for its transformative impact. They start as Bible studies but become life-changing discipleship groups, and that's down to the training and resources that your support provides.

Supporters of Bible Society with a passion to see lives changed in China are coming together right now to invest in this discipleship revolution.

Li Lei leads a small group in Eastern China, and she says it's a place where believers can encourage each other. The Bible Society has opened up the Bible for members of this group by providing a discipleship guide called “Abundant Life”.

‘We had a few young ladies in the group who shared their difficulties in doing daily devotion and prayer,’ Li said. ‘Since we started our study using the discipleship guide, they became enthusiastic about encouraging one another in prayer and study.’ As well as meeting regularly, they're reading the Bible daily, through reminders they're sharing on WeChat, a Chinese social network.

'Being in a discipleship group has made them realise that we are branches from the same vine, and therefore we should love and take care of one another.'

Abundant Life explains key biblical concepts through step-by-step teaching and follow-up questions. 'This format makes it easier for us to learn and understand fundamental truths,' Li said.

'After the lesson on prayer, we urge our members to follow the steps daily. Before we begin every meeting, we go round the group to share how they have applied what they learnt in previous lessons to respond to current challenges they have faced.'

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

This month the requests for prayer focus on the mission team in the UK office and the needs in Ukraine (**There are prayer diaries in both church buildings for people to take and use, with prayer requests from all six countries the mission supports.**)

Please pray for Tim Gray, the new UK Country director of MWB, who has joined the team after the unexpected death of his predecessor John, who was a much loved 'good and faithful servant'. Cathy Bruce and Jos Downey in the UK office thank people for the prayers for them and John's family in the last few difficult months. The mission seeks to invest all they have been given in a manner that brings glory to the Lord, to help those in need who have been entrusted to their care. He adds 'sadly the need is very great and the war in Ukraine has only increased this need.'

Ukraine

Please pray for the children of Ukraine. The war has impacted children's education in Ukraine. Many have had to leave their homes. Many have family members and friends fighting or who have been killed. More than 3,790 schools and educational facilities have been damaged or destroyed. Children live in stress and fear.

Pray for the young people in MWB's After School projects in Ukraine who regularly hear air raid warnings reminding them to shelter in the basements. Pray for their After School Club in Blahodatne in Western Ukraine which provides a safe place and where children are supported in their education, given nourishing meals, build friendships and learn about God. Pray for funds for teaching resources and learning materials needed in the After School Clubs. Some children coming from warzones have lost contact with their parents and are traumatised. Please pray for staff trained to provide emotional support, and for staff undertaking ongoing training. The UN says nearly 10 million people in Ukraine are at risk of developing serious mental health conditions, with children being particularly vulnerable.

Pray for guidance for the Mission in implementing its three-stage strategy to “RESPOND, RESTORE and REBUILD” the lives of those affected by the war - to provide for the immediate needs of families in the form of food, hygiene packages, and assistance with accommodation, and to provide long-term care to help people rebuild their lives. Thank God for the partnerships MWB has built with 192 churches in Ukraine enabling them to continue to support tens of thousands of people. Please hold Ukraine in your prayers.

Open Doors (Contact: Judith Anderson)

Burkina Faso

2 million people have been displaced, many of them Christians, due to repeated attacks by Islamic militants. Pastors and churches have been targeted on many occasions. Many pastors have had to flee for their lives, with their families. Open Doors is actively supporting these pastors and churches.

Please pray that the violence will cease, and that those who have had to flee their homes will be able to return in safety.

Ivory Coast

Many churches are in remote and isolated places which are hard to reach. Open Doors have been able to supply motorbikes to a number of pastors, enabling them to reach these isolated communities.

Please pray that God will prosper this ministry and be their source of wisdom and strength, and that many isolated believers will receive the gift of faith to follow Jesus, whatever their circumstances.

China

“God is not a God of disappointment, and everything happens according to His timing”

These are the words of the Open Doors partner in NW China, where the church is growing, despite persecution from the state. Local believers are actively equipping themselves to meet the needs of many suffering domestic abuse, and violence, which is prevalent in China.

Praise God that He is at work in China, despite the severe persecution.

Please pray that more and more people will hear and accept the good news of the gospel, and that the Chinese authorities would be thwarted in their attempts to stifle and silence the church.

Please send prayer requests for November to Katharine
Checketts by **Monday 21st October**