

Prayer Diary – November 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 NOVEMBER

This month's mission focus is Hope into Action

See below for prayer requests from Mission Partners and others

- Fri 1** Those we have recently lost, and those who mourn
- Sat 2** Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Isaiah 35v1-10 – Streams in the desert). Speakers: Will Warren and Pete Broadbent (Parish Church), Joanna Hayward (St Martin's)
Pray for this month's Mission Partner: Hope into Action
- Sun 3** All Saints. Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; our children's and youth group leaders
- Mon 4** Our Mission Partner: Good News for Everyone
- Tue 5** The United States election
- Wed 6** The United States
- Thu 7** Our Mission Partner: Michelle Proctor
- Fri 8** Staff and residents of care homes
- Sat 9** Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Isaiah 36-37 – When God steps in: a national crisis). Speakers: Paul Neale (Parish Church), Paul Rosier (St Martin's)
Pray for this month's Mission Partner: Hope into Action
- Sun 10** Remembrance Sunday. Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; our small group leaders
- Mon 11** Our Mission Partner: Open Doors
- Tue 12** Ukraine and Moldova
- Wed 13** Those who keep our streets clean
- Thu 14** Our Mission Partner: Mission Without Borders
- Fri 15** Sudan and Chad
- Sat 16** Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Isaiah 38-39 – When God steps in: a personal crisis). Speakers: Will Warren (Parish Church), Paul Neale (St Martin's)
Pray for this month's Mission Partner: Hope into Action
- Sun 17** Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; national church leaders
- Mon 18** Voluntary workers everywhere
- Tue 19** Lorry drivers
- Wed 20** Our Mission Partner: Christians Against Poverty
- Thu 21** Homeless people

- Fri 22** Our Mission Partner: Bible Society
- Sat 23** Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: 2 Thessalonians 1v1-12 – The glory of his power). Speakers: Julia Chamberlin (Parish Church), Will Warren (St Martin's)
Pray for this month's Mission Partner: Hope into Action
- Sun 24** Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; other local church leaders
- Mon 25** Our Mission Partner: London City Mission
- Tue 26** Our planet
- Wed 27** People who have been trafficked
- Thu 28** The persecuted church
- Fri 29** Our Mission Partner: CPAS
- Sat 30** Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: 2 Thessalonians 2v1-12 – The man of sin). Speakers: Will Warren (Parish Church), Tim Britton (St Martin's)
Pray for our own opportunities for mission

PRAYER REQUEST DETAILS

The persecuted church: France (Contact: Ken Nash)

Whilst the last three Olympic opening ceremonies have increasingly used pagan and occult imagery, the Paris event is notorious for having openly mocked Jesus. Attention has been focussed on the blasphemous mocking of Christ and His Apostles at the 'Last Supper'; the depiction of the event as painted by Leonardo da Vinci was preplaced showing the Lord with a fat lesbian who rejoiced in the name 'Barbara Butch'; the simple fare of meat, bread and wine was replaced with a 'meal' of a large near-naked man lounging on the table.

Earlier on, an enormous golden calf was displayed, echoing the pagan Egyptian practice of worship of the cow and calf. There was also a message on the internet: Yes! Yes! It's the Gay New Testament! Many of the mainstream media characterised those who felt deep sorrow at this tarnishing of Christ's sacrifice as 'the intolerant religious right' or 'Christian nationalists'.

The noted extreme left-wing commentator Whoopi Goldberg said "Well, if you're offended, just switch to another channel".

British Church Newspaper

Michelle Proctor (SIM) (Contact: Tim Britton)

Michelle writes:

Give thanks for safe travels in October and for a good time of rest as well as the opportunity to attend a member care conference.

Give thanks that the rainy season has started and we have had some rain. Pray for consistent and good rains after the drought.

Pray for the hospital as it continues to run with only 3 hours a day of mains electricity. Pray that our old generators would keep running and that we would have the funds to buy fuel for them. Give thanks for the Solar power we have in some areas of the hospital.

Thank you for praying.

London City Mission (Contact: Elizabeth Bridger)

Hope Church Newham is a London City Mission partner church.

Things are happening there at The Hub, especially on Tuesdays at 11 am. The doors are open for anyone.

Tom wanders in, fed up with life. LCM missionary Scott gets chatting with him.

Tom begins "I don't believe in God" and questions begin to flow. Others join in and soon they get onto the subject of relationships and sex and marriage. Scott explains what Christians believe about it.

They stay on for lunch with church volunteers and other guests. Tom says "I like coming here because people take time to listen".

Hope at the Hub is a lifeline for many homeless people who struggle to survive in a ruthless world. But many are beginning to find hope and meaning and friendship in this very harsh and hopeless part of London. People like Tom who need the love of Jesus more than anything

Please pray for the light of the gospel to shine in places like Newham and for Scott and other Christians working there.

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

- *Work in North Norfolk*
At the beginning of December, we hope to offer New Testaments and Explore Magazines to visitors to Cromer for the Christmas Festivities.
- Praise God we have been able to offer a Bible, New Testament & Explore Magazine for the Library at Paston College, North Walsham.
- We continue to offer local secondary schools Youth Testaments for year 7 pupils or present the school with a Bible Pack.

- Please continue to pray that local Christians would join our team and help in the distribution of God's word, we are short of volunteers.

Work in the Westminster branch

The following encouragement was received from Neil Bourne:

"Yesterday a beautiful Iranian couple, both architects in their early 30's, were baptised at our church – Wealdstone Baptist church - to publicly declare they have become followers of Jesus.

Five months ago Farzane was walking through Wealdstone and an Explore magazine was passed across and an invitation to Church. She came to our morning service the next day and asked if her husband Ali could come the following Sunday. They have been coming ever since, and during this time they have come to faith."

Thanks be to God.

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

Jackie from Gateway Church in York reflects on two decades of service to her community, which have led to an MBE nomination.

During her 22 years as a debt centre manager with CAP, Jackie Adie has served over one thousand people facing financial crisis. Her experience and passion are what drive Jackie in an unstoppable mission to serve her community in Jesus' name.

Pray with us

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the grace to serve our communities. We lift up all who, like Jackie, are working with those living under the crushing weight of debt and poverty. Thank you for their commitment and compassion. Lord, grant them the energy, wisdom and resilience to continue supporting your people, demonstrating your love and compassion through their actions. Amen

CPAS (Contact: Vivienne Benford)

- "Campfire in the Cathedral" is to be a celebration of 100 years of CPAS Children's and Youth Holidays and will be held in Coventry Cathedral on 15th November. Please pray that God will bless all the organization and planning involved and it will indeed be a celebration of thanksgiving to Him and for all who have played their part in making this possible.
- Please pray for all the staff at CPAS, especially Jon Scamman (CEO), Tim Friend (Ventures & Falcons Principal), and Mike Duff (Patronage

Secretary). Pray also for the appointment of two new members of staff, an Assistant Finance Manager and Fundraising Administrator.

Hope into Action (Contact: Katharine Checketts)

On Wednesday 9th October, over 70 Hope into Action church partners, staff, F&S (Friendship and Support) groups and supporters met online to give thanks for the work and celebrate the achievements of incredible church partners over the last year. This year's service fell the day before World Homeless Day and World Mental Health Day. Mental health is a global crisis, and the focus of the service was on this topic, particularly as it affects HIA tenants directly during their recovery from homelessness.

The guest speaker for the service was Corin Pilling, Director at Sanctuary UK, a charity set up to equip the Church to support mental health and wellbeing. Sanctuary provide resources that meaningfully engage the topics of faith and mental health. Sanctuary UK's content is developed in collaboration with theologians, mental health professionals, and people with lived experience of mental health challenges. These resources prepare communities of faith around the world to raise awareness, reduce stigma, support mental health, and promote mental wellbeing.

Pray that as winter approaches, more people will find refuge and support through partner churches.

Bible Society (Contact: David Anderson)

Egypt focus

The Bible Society has trained young Christians to lead Bible study groups such as the one in Cairo which is flourishing and attracting people of all ages. 10 to 15 million people identify as Christians in this Muslim country of 111 million. Thanks to Bible Society supporters, a further 520 leaders are scheduled to be trained in 2025.

- Praise God that the poorest Christians in Egypt are receiving Bibles for free thanks to the combined efforts of Bible Society supporters, churches, evangelists and the team at Bible Society of Egypt. Pray that this ministry will flourish.
- Pray that Christian families in Egypt will draw nearer to God and have their faith strengthened as they engage with God's word.
- Ask God to bless the 520 people who are scheduled to undergo training in 2025 to lead Bible study groups in Egypt. Pray that God will use these young leaders mightily.

- With more than 82 million internet users in Egypt, our colleagues there are developing a powerful digital ministry. Pray for guidance so the Bible Society team in Egypt will be able to reach many more people with the Scriptures through their online apps and social media.

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

Please continue to pray for children and families living in poverty in Ukraine. Families continue to be separated, and lives torn apart. Many children still spend hours sheltering in the basements of homes. Families are living under great stress and fear.

In Ukraine winters are hard. Heavy snow can block off roads and rural villages, making food scarce. Families face ongoing air raid sirens and the anxiety of trying to provide food for their children. This Christmas, MWB hope to prepare 40,000 Christmas boxes of food, treats and the gospel message to deliver to families in poverty in Ukraine, Moldova, Bulgaria, Romania, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Albania. Called "Operation Christmas Love" it blesses many families.

Sergiy, one of MWB's staff workers in Ukraine says- "The message that we want to convey this Christmas is: 'We see you: we see the suffering you're enduring, and we want to be around to bring you relief.'" One Mother who received a box last year said, "It was like a miracle. This Christmas, the story of Christ's birth was not simply about a historical event but about a hope that people received. The hope for help and salvation."

Please pray for all those preparing the boxes and delivering them and for the families receiving them. Pray too for the money needed. £30 will buy an emergency Christmas Box for a family in crisis. Please continue to 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 continue to pray for protection against Russian rocket attacks.

Open Doors (Contact: Judith Anderson)

Open Doors has suggested 7 ways to pray for China, as the country marks 75 years of communist rule.

- 1) The Church. For wisdom, discernment, and courage for church leaders.
- 2) Muslim background believers. For perseverance, strength, and protection for them.
- 3) Buddhist background believers. For perseverance, despite the challenges.

For protection of those travelling to reach those in remote and mountainous regions.

4) The Next Generation. Under 18's are forbidden to attend any church activities.

Please pray that parents find effective and relevant ways to build faith in their children. That the restrictions are ineffective in preventing young people from following Jesus.

5) Activities arranged by local partners. Please pray for these faithful partners as they seek to nourish others, whilst enduring setbacks, obstacles, and discouragement.

6) Church Growth. That the church will continue to see astonishing growth, through the work of the Holy Spirit in peoples' lives.

7) China's Leaders. For China's president Xi Jinping, that he would acknowledge the sovereignty of God, and stop his active hostility and opposition to Christianity.

A Prayer encompassing all these requests from Open Doors.

"Heavenly Father, thank you for the courage, resilience, and faith of our Chinese brothers and sisters over the decades. We marvel at all that You have done in, and through Your people. We pray that You will lift those disheartened by pressure and persecution, and ask that You equip, encourage, and empower Your people, amidst different challenges. Provide breakthrough where it's needed today, and meet all their needs. Soften the heart of Xi Jinping, so that he sees Christianity not as a threat, but crucial to the fabric of China. Continue to build Your church in China, we pray.

In the powerful name of Jesus. Amen."

Please send prayer requests for December to Katharine Checketts
by **Monday 25th November**