

## Prayer Diary – February 2025

*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.
- 6.30 pm The Gathering at the Parish Church

#### 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 FEBRUARY

*See below for prayer requests from Mission Partners and others*

- Sat 1** Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Matthew 12v22-37 – The house and the tree). Speakers: Joanna Haywood (Parish Church), Tim Britton (St Martin's)  
Pray for this month's Mission Partner: Bible Society
- Sun 2** Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; our children's and youth group leaders
- Mon 3** Our Mission Partner: Michelle Proctor
- Tue 4** People suffering from cancer, and those working in research (World Cancer Day)
- Wed 5** Harmony amongst different faiths (Interfaith Harmony Week)
- Thu 6** The persecuted church
- Fri 7** Our Mission Partner: Good News for Everyone
- Sat 8** Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Matthew 38-50 – A sign sought). Speakers: Julia Chamberlin (Parish Church), Paul Rosier (St Martin's)  
Pray for this month's Mission Partner: Bible Society
- Sun 9** Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; our small group leaders
- Mon 10** People with health problems, both mental and physical, especially those we know
- Tue 11** Women and girls in science
- Wed 12** Our Mission Partner: Christians Against Poverty
- Thu 13** Prisons and prisoners
- Fri 14** People struggling with relationships
- Sat 15** Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Matthew 13v1-23 – The seed and the Sower). Speakers: John Chandler (St Martin's)  
Pray for this month's Mission Partner: Bible Society
- Sun 16** Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; national church leaders
- Mon 17** Mustard Seed
- Tue 18** Our Mission Partner: Hope into Action
- Wed 19** A lasting peace in the Middle East
- Thu 20** Open the Book

- Fri 21** Our Mission Partner: CPAS
- Sat 22** Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Matthew 13v24-30 – The wheat and the tares). Speakers: Will Warren (Parish Church), Julia Chamberlin (St Martin's)  
Pray for this month's Mission Partner: Bible Society
- Sun 23** Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; other local church leaders
- Mon 24** An end to the war in Ukraine
- Tue 25** Crafts2Share
- Wed 26** Our Mission Partner: London City Mission
- Thu 27** An end to the war in Sudan
- Fri 28** The natural world and the effects of global warming

## **PRAYER REQUEST DETAILS**

### **The persecuted church: France** (Contact: Ken Nash)

In France and other Western European countries, hundreds of churches have been set on fire or vandalised. This worrying trend has received little attention from governments and media.

ASSIST News Service reports that "In France alone in 2020 there were 613 cases of hate crimes against Christianity ... according to Ellen Fantini, a consultant to religious freedom, the number of officially recorded anti-Christian incidents has risen 285 per cent between 2008 and 2019".

Journalist Rupert Shortt says: "We are witnessing two attacks per day on churches in France. You get knives being stuck through the throat of statues of the Virgin Mary" and "a great deal of graffiti on walls with slogans like 'Submit to Allah or else' or 'Abandon your idolatry'".

Mahyar Tousi concludes: "If they were mosques being burned down, there would be outrage. But when it's the other way round, not only do they not talk about it in the media, nobody is seeking any sort of investigation. Why is this?".

*ASSIST News Service / Heart News*

### **London City Mission** (Contact: Elizabeth Bridger)

There are so many Gospel-preaching Churches whose members lack the confidence or skill to be effective witnesses for Jesus, sometimes through embarrassment or fear of causing offence to those of other religions or none.

That's where LCM comes in as they partner with London Churches to offer basic training in friendship evangelism. It's not rocket- science!

People like Ann who had lived on the same estate for 30 years, and came to follow Jesus through the faithful witness of LCM missionary Shane. She says Jesus now fills her life with meaning and she is developing friendships with her neighbours. 'God's helping me to get out and speak to people about Him - even on the bus I chat about Jesus!'

Nearly 1/4 of London's households are social housing, which is where the greatest need exists. There is a basic distrust of Churches as 'authority figures' like the police. Many people don't know who Jesus really is because they've never heard.

- Please pray for churches to take personal evangelism seriously and work with LCM to train their members to be effective witnesses and even to visit the 'no-go' areas to seek out lonely and needy people and show them God's love and make Jesus real to them.
- Pray for more people like Ann to catch this vision and discover the joy of friendship evangelism.
- Pray for us here in Cromer to share in this vision too!

### **Michelle Proctor (SIM)** (Contact: Tim Britton)

*Michelle writes:*

Hello from Zambia,

- Give thanks for 6 new Zambian doctors that have been posted to Mukinge. Pray for them as they settle in and search for housing.
- Pray for me for safe travels to Lusaka to attend SIM Zambia Board meeting on 15th February.
- Pray for our team as there is lots of change with people leaving and new people coming.
- Pray for families in our team homeschooling their children.

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

*Work in North Norfolk*

At the end of last school term, 190 Youth Testaments were taken to Sheringham High School. The scriptures were presented to year 7 & 8 students and to those from older age groups who requested them. After reading the Bible with the students, there was some great discussions around the passage read and an opportunity to share favourite scriptures together.

At the end of the “Candlelight Christmas Carol Service” at Cromer Parish Church, interested people took 50 Explore magazines.

On 8<sup>th</sup> March, we are inviting all of our church community to the Parish Hall at 2.30 pm for a presentation about the work of GNfE in North Norfolk over the past year. There will be light refreshments. Please pray that many will be interested.

### **CAP – Christians Against Poverty** (Contact: Claire Harber)

CAP's 2024 client report found a significant rise in the reliance on credit to survive. It shows that:

59% of their clients had an equivalised income below the poverty line

60% had to borrow money just to pay household bills and

46% had considered or attempted suicide as a way out of spiralling debt.

- Pray that the Lord comforts all those in despair caused by debt and poverty.
- Pray that they can find the emotional and practical support they need and hope for a brighter future.
- Pray that CAP can continue reaching out to help more people, allowing them to be released from the bondage of debt and giving them the love and support they need.

### **CPAS** (Contact: Vivienne Benford)

- With the bookings for CPAS Holidays now open, please pray for all the planning and organization that goes into running over 100 holidays throughout the country for children and young people and pray God will raise up the volunteers needed to ensure the safe running of each holiday.
- Please pray for all who are about to take part in two new CPAS ventures “Leading Evangelism Learning Hub” which will help Christians find their part in the showing and sharing of faith, and “Oversight Ministry Course” which will help Multi-Parish Benefices to grow.

### **Hope into Action** (Contact: Katharine Checketts)

“You will be known as a rebuilders of walls and a restorer of homes.”  
Isaiah 58:12

The annual conference is on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March in Peterborough. The theme this year is “Restorers of Hope”. The conference is most inspiring and

informative, with keynote speakers and a choice of seminars. I shall be attending, so please contact me asap if you are interested or would like to know more ([kchecketts@btinternet.com](mailto:kchecketts@btinternet.com) 07906 803302). You may even be interested in investing in a share of a house, which could be anywhere in the country.

- Please pray for the success of the conference.

### **Bible Society** (Contact: David Anderson)

Pray for our Open the Book Teams active in the Cromer Primary and Junior Schools. Open the Book is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> year and is a powerfully memorable way to introduce someone to Scripture. In schools across the country and around the world it is sparking imagination and connecting generations.

The Bible Society notes that the demand for Bibles in prison increases year on year. Last year they distributed six and a half thousand Bibles. At a service lead by Harry Fenner Crawley at HMP Bristol, when he asked everyone to open the Bible and pick a random verse, someone found a verse from Isaiah 51v14 *'Those who are prisoners will soon be set free; they will live a long life and have all the food they need.'* Everyone in the room just said 'Wow!' when they heard that. What's more, the person who read that verse was released the following week. There's so much to pray about with prison ministry, but this is a wonderful example of the light of Christ shining in the darkness. Also, six people took Bibles with them back to their cells.

Give thanks:

- That God longs to show himself to people everywhere and enable them to live as the people he made them to be.
- For a Bible Society presence and ministry in over 240 countries and territories worldwide.
- For the generosity of Bible Society supporters that enables this work to happen, and for the dedication of creative and hard-working staff in every part of the globe.
- That the Bible has power to help people of all backgrounds in every situation and at all times.

Please send prayer requests for March to Katharine Checketts by  
**Monday 17th February**