

Prayer Diary – April 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 APRIL

See below for prayer requests from Mission Partners and others

- Tue 1** Our Mission Partner: Bible Society
- Wed 2** The schools in our area
- Thu 3** Our Mission Partner: Tearfund
- Fri 4** The countries where Tearfund works
- Sat 5** Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: John 12v1-8 – Jesus anointed. Speakers: Anna Coghlan (Parish Church), John Chandler (St Martin's)
Pray for our own opportunities for mission
- Sun 6** Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; our children's and youth group leaders
- Mon 7** The health of our nation
- Tue 8** Our Mission Partner: Good News for Everyone
- Wed 9** Ukraine
- Thu 10** Our Mission Partner: Hope into Action
- Fri 11** The Pleasaunce in Overstrand
- Sat 12** Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Luke 19v28-44 – The triumphal entry). Speakers: Will Warren (Parish Church), Paul Rosier (St Martin's)
Pray for our own opportunities for mission
- Sun 13** Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; our small group leaders
- Mon 14** Our Mission Partner: Michelle Proctor
- Tue 15** The bereaved, especially anyone we may know
- Wed 16** Our local police, ambulance and fire brigade
- Thu 17** Our Mission Partner: Christians Against Poverty
- Fri 18** **Good Friday.** The Holy Land
- Sat 19** Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Acts 10v34-43; Luke 24v1-12 – Easter explained). Speakers: Will Warren (Parish Church), John Chandler (St Martin's)
Pray for our own opportunities for mission
- Sun 20** **Easter Sunday.** Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; national church leaders
- Mon 21** Our Mission Partner: CPAS

- Tue 22** The health of our planet (Earth Day)
- Wed 23** Carers: in care homes, at home and home visitors
- Thu 24** APCM
- Fri 25** Our Mission Partner: London City Mission
- Sat 26** Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Psalm 118 – I will not die). Speakers: Will Warren (Parish Church), Paul Neale (St Martin's)
Pray for our own opportunities for mission
- Sun 27** Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; other local church leaders
- Mon 28** People suffering abuse at home
- Tue 29** Our Mission Partner: Canaan Christian Trust
- Wed 30** Shops and businesses in Cromer

PRAYER REQUEST DETAILS

The persecuted church: Syria (Contact: Ken Nash)

Syrian church leaders met with Ahmad al-Sharaa, the head of Syria's transitional government. It was an opportunity for them to raise questions and concerns following the fall of Bashar al-Assad's regime. One main fear was the possibility of Islamist government or renewed civil war. In either scenario, persecution of Christians and other religious minorities would be a real possibility. Sharaa is otherwise known by his Islamist nom de guerre Abu Mohammad al-Jolani, and worked closely with Islamic State (IS, ISIS, ISIL, Daesh). In the days following the fall of Assad, Al Qaeda issued a statement urging the victorious rebels to turn against "Jews and Crusaders" (a pejorative term for Christians).

Unidentified armed groups have attacked a church building and desecrated a Christian cemetery in Hama. In a separate incident, a group of eight men burned a Christmas tree in Suqaylabiyah. Similar incidents have occurred in other parts of the country.

Barnabus Aid

London City Mission (Contact: Elizabeth Bridger)

Much of LCM's work in London is now done in partnership with evangelical Churches across London.

Luke Carson (who spoke in Cromer Parish Church a few years ago) is LCM's Team Leader for Prisons and works alongside King's Cross Church (KXC), training ordinary Church members to reach people in prisons with the Gospel of Christ, informally through chatting and friendship. He is encouraged to see

how this partnership is changing the lives both of the prisoners and these visitors, who give sacrificially of their time to do this work, as they sit alongside and chat with these vulnerable prisoners.

Men in prison often feel forgotten and valueless and are some of the most marginalised and invisible in our society. But the regular prison chapel services and the friendly chats with these Christian prison visitors has enabled many men to open up about their problems and anxieties and seek Christ. Those who become Christians will be much more easily rehabilitated into society after their release as they become part of a Christian community.

Please pray for Luke in this valuable work and that it will be expanded, so bringing more and more men to hear the Gospel and turn to Christ and become witnesses for Him.

Michelle Proctor (SIM) (Contact: Tim Britton)

Michelle writes:

- Please pray for my Home Assignment which starts in April. Pray for opportunity to spent time with family and friends and supporting churches.
- Give thanks for and pray for those taking on extra work to cover my roles while I am away.

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

News from National Office

In 2024, 713,000 Bibles, New Testaments and Magazines were purchased by Branches, for distribution in the UK. In addition to this, just over £831,000 was given for the purchase of Scriptures around the world. Praise the Lord.

The launch of the Association's very first App, YOURBIBLE, is downloadable from a key fob with a QR code on it. This new resource will be a valuable asset in witnessing to others.

Please pray that the scriptures will be read and that many would come to trust in the Lord.

Work in North Norfolk

On 8th March we invited all of our church community to the Parish Hall at 2.30pm for a presentation about the local work over the past year. Prayers were answered; we had supporters from Briston, Mundesley, North Walsham, Sheringham as well as the Parish Church, 30 of us. We enjoyed hearing of the work that been achieved over the last year, enjoyed eating the cakes, scones, etc. and drinking tea.

We are sad that David Bickford with his new wife have left our Branch and have moved to France. David has been an enthusiastic worker and always ready to volunteer for the distribution of scriptures.

We wish him and Sue God's richest blessing in their new home.

Please pray that the Lord will bring in more people into the work, there are only 4 of us left in this ministry in North Norfolk. We need those who are keen to serve the Lord. The only qualification for becoming a member is being a committed Christian and giving a few hours a year, as much or little as can be offered.

CAP – Christians Against Poverty (Contact: Claire Harber)

Pray that CAP teams will know how to sensitively express the gospel message to those they help. Pray for the debt coaches and volunteers as they meet with people facing darkness and despair that they will radiate the presence of God so that those they serve curiously seek the joy and hope of the Lord. Pray that CAP seeks God's guidance before action and that they hear and follow His instruction. Pray that God will protect those who are doing this service, and help them deal with negativity they might face due to their Christian faith.

Pray that we might be 'cheerful givers' to those in need in ways we are able, and to seek ways to spread God's love through kindness and compassion.

CPAS (Contact: Vivienne Benford)

- While the Church of England faces challenges around clergy recruitment and vacancies, please join with CPAS and thank God for his faithfulness enabling them to continue to appoint mission-focused clergy to their patronage churches. At the present time there are 142 vacancies across the Patronage churches, please pray for these churches in vacancy and their interim leaders as they journey through the season.
- Please pray and give thanks for the Overall Leaders of Venture and Falcon Holidays as they prepare and promote the holidays to churches, families and individuals. Praying especially for the Broads Cruise Venture and Ski Venture taking place during April.

Tearfund (Contact: Lynda Brown and Judith Anderson)

Pray

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

- There is an urgent humanitarian crisis in the DRC due to intense violence. Millions have been forced to leave their homes over the years and now renewed violence has resulted in hundreds of thousands fleeing. 3,000 people or more have been killed and 2,800 injured around Goma. Hospitals and aid relief workers are struggling to cope. But still there has been no mention on the UK news of this.
- Pray for Tearfund workers as they distribute clean water and hygiene supplies, set up clean water points, give aid for food.

British aid cuts

Please pray that many will email their MPs to fight against the decision by the Government to cut foreign aid to its lowest ever and so impact the lives of so many struggling in poverty.

Middle East humanitarian appeal

Please pray for those suffering from the war in the Middle East and pray for those providing lifesaving medicines and healthcare, and Tearfund partners providing food, mattresses and essentials.

Praise

Ukraine

Thank God for people like Daniela, who works for a charity reaching out to young orphans, now too old for an orphanage, including single mothers struggling to navigate life independently.

Hope into Action (Contact: Katharine Checketts)

- Please pray for a suitable person to come forward and be appointed as Finance Lead.
- Pray for all tenants, as they settle down to a more stable way of living than they are no doubt used to, and as they look forward to an independent and fulfilling future.
- Give thanks for a joyful Conference, where participants came away with renewed hope and energy for the next year.
- Give special thanks for those tenants who have found strength in the Lord and for those working alongside them who by their example, support, encouragement and prayers have restored in them hope for the future.

Canaan Christian Trust (Contact: Evelyn Smith)

Evelyn writes:

- Two families with 3 children are urgently looking for accommodation. Please pray, as this is a very unsettling time for them all.
- Another prayer request has come from Kornel in Hungary who needs English folk for their summer camps. It is a wonderful opportunity and challenge to visit Hungary and to join his team as they seek to introduce children to Jesus. Contact Evelyn or Jackie for more information

Bible Society (Contact: David Anderson)

Give thanks and pray for the work overseas

Elizabeth, who works as a migrant worker housemaid in Bahrain, can testify to the power of the Scriptures. When her kindly employer was away on vacation she was sent to stay at the employer's sister's where the housekeeper showed her how to roast and bake and who also took her to church. Elizabeth says 'I saw people on their knees, singing and praying in my mother tongue. Someone prayed over me. It was the moment I never knew I needed. Life suddenly seemed strange, and I felt a bit different about it, almost hopeful, but I didn't quite understand why. The pastor preached how Jesus had died for me, how my sins could be forgiven, how I could start anew. The astonishing change that this one encounter has had on my life every day since is almost too good to be true. I was given a Bible, attended Bible studies, and was baptised last year. I am thankful to this wonderful lady who took me to church, for the pastor who has helped me to love Jesus more and to the Bible Society supporters for giving me a free Bible in my own language. May God bless all of you'.

And locally here we are thankful for the good relationship 'Open the Book' leaders and team have with the head teacher, Whil de Neve, staff and pupils at Cromer Junior School. We have been able to supply 263 copies of the Society's Easter book 'It's All True, He's Risen for You!' Pray that these will be well received by the pupils and their family members.

Please send prayer requests for May to Katharine Checketts
by **Monday 21st April**