

Prayer Diary – February 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

Please note that services are held in the Parish Hall while the church is closed.

Sundays

8.45 am Traditional Holy Communion at the Parish Hall.

10.30 am Informal service at the Parish Hall, 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 No Holy Communion while the church is closed

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

Thu 1 Judges, magistrates and court clerks

Fri 2 Our Mission Partner: Bible Society

Sat 3 Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Matthew 9v18-26: Authority...over sickness). Preachers: Julia Chamberlin (Parish Hall), Will Warren (St Martin's).

Sun 4 Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; our children's and youth group leaders

Mon 5 Those who have been wrongly convicted of a crime or had their prison sentence extended indefinitely

Tue 6 Our Mission Partner: London City Mission

- Wed 7** Open the Book
- Thu 8** Our Mission Partner: Good News for Everyone
- Fri 9** Young people in inner cities
- Sat 10** Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Matthew 9v27-38: Authority...like no-one else). Preachers: Jennie Hodgkinson (Parish Hall), Julia Chamberlin (St Martin's).
- Sun 11** Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; our small group leaders
- Mon 12** Mustard Seed
- Tue 13** Our Mission Partner: Hope into Action
- Wed 14** Our energy suppliers
- Thu 15** Our Mission Partner: Christians Against Poverty
- Fri 16** Those working in our water industries
- Sat 17** Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Matthew 4v1-11: How can I resist temptation?). Preachers: Joanna Haywood (Parish Hall), Paul Neale (St Martin's).
- Sun 18** Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; national church leaders
- Mon 19** The persecuted Church
- Tue 20** Our Mission Partner: CPAS
- Wed 21** Our families
- Thu 22** Our Mission Partner: Mission Without Borders (MWB)
- Fri 23** Transport services – public and logistics
- Sat 24** Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Matthew 10v1-25: Facing hostility). Preachers: Julia Chamberlin (Parish Hall), John Chandler (St Martin's).
- Sun 25** Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; other local church leaders
- Mon 26** Our Mission Partner: Open Doors
- Tue 27** Those who have been affected by storms and flooding

Wed 28 Those who tidy up our town streets

Thu 29 Those providing phone and data services and equipment

PRAYER REQUEST DETAILS

The persecuted church: Sub-Saharan Africa (Contact: Ken Nash)

More than 50,000 Christians have been slaughtered in a genocidal campaign of anti-Christian violence that has swept across parts of sub-Saharan Africa. The worst-affected area is northern and middle-belt Nigeria, where around 45,000 believers have been killed by terrorists since 2009. Added to this figure are an estimated 5,500 Christians since October 2014 in the DRC, and 1800 in northern Mozambique since October 2017. More of our brothers and sisters have suffered violent deaths in countries such as Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Kenya and Niger.

Barnabas is petitioning the UK, Australian and New Zealand governments to request institutions such as the African Union and the Pan-African Parliament to consider urgent action to protect Christian communities that are especially vulnerable to extremist violence.

Barnabas Aid

London City Mission (Contact: Elizabeth Bridger)

LCM gets creative!

LCM missionaries use all sorts of creative ideas for sharing the Gospel with needy people!

Naz, an atheist, was invited to a men's fitness programme set up by missionary Tim in his local church. After the exercise sessions, the men get to hear from God's Word and share ideas from what they have heard.

Some months later Naz repented and turned to Christ. He still has much to learn but is no longer lonely and depressed.

One man said recently 'London is the loneliest place in the world' . Especially for the homeless. Economic hardship through loss of employment or bereavement drives many into homelessness. This is why the ministry of Webber Street to the homeless is so vital! A daily hot meal, shower and fresh clothes is such a lifesaver to so many homeless men along with the offer of friendship and the chance to hear of the love of Jesus and new life and forgiveness.

Others find help through attending English language classes. Friendships are formed and people learn about the love of Jesus.

Some missionaries get involved with Food Banks to meet needy people and share the Gospel...Food for body and soul!

The creative ideas are endless!

Please pray for all the missionaries and the churches they partner with in their passion for sharing Jesus with London's neediest people. The missionaries need great wisdom, perseverance and God's love for the lost in their daily ministry.

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

This month:

- On the 16th March we are holding our annual meeting for all who are interested in the work. The meeting will be held in the Parish Hall 2.30-4.00. For further details, tel. Jenny Jacquier 01263 512019. Please pray that all will run smoothly during that afternoon.
- Please pray that the Regional Director of Good News for Everyone, Jane & her husband Geoff will have a safe journey to Cromer for the March meeting. They are coming to tell us about the international work of the Good News for Everyone & their involvement in scripture distribution in Chile. Our Branch in Norfolk will tell you about our work over the last year and we thank and praise God for the way that we have been able to place scriptures into people's hands.

- Please pray for North Walsham High School which has refused to take Youth New Testaments this school year, that during the next academic year we may, as in the past, offer year 7 God's Word to the students.
- Please pray that we will be able to contact all the remaining secondary schools during the next two terms and offer to take an assembly and Youth Testaments.

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

C.A.P. Prayer Points

- Amid the challenges of so many coming into debt there is so much to celebrate:
 - Even with a smaller staff, the team has been able to see significantly more people go debt free this year. Over 2,000 people became debt free since the start of 2023.
 - They have been equipped with the vital tools they need to move forward with hope again!
 - And right across the country people are being prayed for and experiencing answers to prayer, finding belonging in church communities for the first time, and encountering the God who loves them and is present in their time of trouble.
- This month a new CEO has been appointed, Stewart McCulloch. Please pray for him as he leads CAP forward.
- May CAP staff and volunteers remain full of vision, continue to love the local church and be passionate about meeting people at their point of need and seeing them transformed through an encounter with Jesus.

CPAS (Contact: Vivienne Benford)

“For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost” Luke 19:10

- CPAS continues its calling to work with churches and leaders to help them share the gospel afresh in each generation. So please pray for all who will be attending the many courses booked for February from Leading Evangelism Learning Hub to Resilience 2 (to be held in Norwich).

- Also pray for the New Wine Leaders Conference to be held between the 27th and 29th February.

Hope into Action (Contact: Katharine Checketts)

This month:

- Pray for Jon Kuhrt, CEO of Hope into Action, and all those who work for the charity, as they enter a new year of challenges, hopes and successes.
- Pray for the tenants and those who are hoping to be housed, that they are cared for through the love of God.
- Pray that more houses will become available for tenants.
- Pray that our government will make homelessness a priority, especially in this election year when there is a danger that more effort is put into election manifestos than in actually tackling urgent issues.
- **Give thanks** for all those who enable tenants to be housed: investors, churches, empowerment workers, friendship and support volunteers.

Bible Society (Contact: David Anderson)

This year the Bible Society celebrates its 220th birthday. At a recent meeting of the world's Bible Societies in the Netherlands, 147 organisations were represented. They're at work right now in around 240 countries and territories because they share our desire to see the Bible made available to everyone.

February focus, **Romans 10 v14** "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?"

The World Cup made many of us more aware of the conditions endured by migrant workers in the Gulf countries. In the year that

followed, Bible Society has reached thousands there with the gospel. People arrive in the oil-rich Gulf from poorer countries, full of hope, but quickly sink into despair. 'The number of people losing their jobs and committing crimes is increasing exponentially,' says Hrayr. He tells us that God's word speaks into this darkness more powerfully than anything else. 'This is the dynamism of the Bible, a book that generates a response to every reflection and query.' Last year Hrayr and his team gave out 12,000 copies of a compilation of scriptures called **Who is Jesus?** in 15 different languages.

Remember our **Open The Book** Teams that visit the Junior School each week and the Infant School every other week. Give thanks for the friendly reception we meet from teachers and pupils.

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

- Please continue to pray for the homeless families in **Bulgaria** who are part of MWB's 'Street Mercy' project. Pray that God will touch their hearts and make a way for them to get back on their feet again. Pray for wisdom for the team as they serve the homeless and share the gospel.
- Please pray for God to bless MWB's partnership with churches in **Romania** who have opened their doors to the needy and that God will provide all that is needed.
- Please continue to pray for **Ukraine**: For wisdom for the government, the president, and local authorities, for the end of this war, for the lives and health of all involved in defence, for all orphans and widows, for all volunteers who risk their lives to help people in the war zones and for the protection of Ukraine's power grid.
- MWB praises God for a mild Autumn in **Ukraine** which helped people save on heating costs and was beneficial for military operations. Winters can be very cold. Pray for MWB folk who work in the Soup Kitchen or care for the elderly that they will be able to continue to provide warmth and comfort and assurance of the love of God.

Open Doors (Contact: Judith Anderson)

Open Doors World Watch Launch on Jan 17th

Give thanks that 98 MPs, including our own MP, Duncan Baker, attended the launch meeting. Please pray that they remember what they learned and have been sufficiently impacted to work for the freedom of belief across the world.

Praise God that despite persecution rising, His church is growing and increasing all the time.

Yemen

Much in our news at the moment, Yemen is now number 5 in the World Watch list.

Most believers meet in house churches, and some leaders courageously travel around the country encouraging these churches. Many regularly receive death threats, and many are arrested, yet they persevere, and the church in Yemen is growing!

Open Doors is providing support to the Yemeni church in many different ways. One leader says:

“Without the support of Open Doors, we could not serve and have grown the church in Yemen. Your prayers are vitally important, and uplifting to us, giving us strength and encouragement to keep going.”

China

Two thirds of all attacks on churches and church closures have taken place this year in China, forcing many churches to splinter into small, less visible groups. Please pray that every Christian finds a home in one of these groups.

Please pray that Open Doors' local partners will continue to be equipped, empowered, and encouraged as they serve the persecuted church around the world.

Please send prayer requests for February to Katharine Checketts by **Monday 19th February**