



CROMERCHURCH
transforming lives with Jesus Christ

Prayer Diary - January 2021

*Lord, pour your Holy Spirit on Cromer.
Lord, pour your Holy Spirit on the Church.
Lord, pour your Holy Spirit on me. Amen.*

This month's diary continues to reflect the changes caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Please check the Weekly Update for up-to-date news of what is happening.

Sunday worship continues to be streamed at 10.30am on the Cromer Church YouTube channel, accessed in the normal way. (Either use this link: www.youtube.com/channel/UC0ySrZRXcovTLvIL136AHuQ/ and click the "Subscribe" button to get to the CromerChurch channel, or go to YouTube and search for 'Cromer Church'.)

There's no need to pre-book online (via the Eventbrite website) to attend services in the Parish Church from 10th January onwards.

Morning Prayer continues to be streamed on the Cromer Church Facebook page at 9.30am on weekdays from 4th January.

The Parish Church is open for private prayer every Wednesday 10am to 12pm.

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS FOR JANUARY

Please check weekly publicity for details and updates, especially if restrictions change. If events start happening, they will need prayer support.

This month's mission focus is Michelle Proctor.

See below for all mission partner requests.

Fri 1 *For a significant growth in the Kingdom of God this year*

Sat 2 *Tomorrow's worship and teaching; Michelle Proctor*

- Sun 3** 10.30 am Worship in the Parish Church (and on YouTube)
Theme: Luke 2:41-52
Preacher: Tim Britton
Our church leaders; other local church leaders
- Mon 4** *The persecuted church (see below)*
- Tue 5** *Mission Partner: Canaan*
- Wed 6** Epiphany
Pray for the countries of the Middle East
- Thu 7** *Mission Partner: Andrew and Maria Leake*
- Fri 8** *The NHS in this difficult month*
- Sat 9** *Tomorrow's worship and teaching; Michelle Proctor*
- Sun 10** 10.30 am Worship in the Parish Church (and on YouTube)
Theme: Luke 3:1-22
Preacher: Paul Rosier
Our church leaders; other local church leaders
- Mon 11** *Mission Partner: Bible Society*
- Tue 12** *Businesses and employees struggling financially*
- Wed 13** *Mission Partner: CPAS*
- Thu 14** *All affected by adverse weather*
- Fri 15** *The homeless and refugees*
- Sat 16** *Tomorrow's worship and teaching; Michelle Proctor*
- Sun 17** Vision Sunday
10.30 am Worship in the Parish Church (and on YouTube)
Theme: 'I will...' - starting a series on the promises of Jesus
Preacher: Will Warren
Our church leaders; our small group leaders
- Mon 18** *For Christian unity, in this week of prayer*
- Tue 19** *Mission Partner: London City Mission*
- Wed 20** *School teachers, staff and pupils*
- Thu 21** *Mission Partner: Prison Fellowship*
- Fri 22** *Scientists searching for effective cures for diseases*

- Sat 23** *Tomorrow's worship and teaching; Michelle Proctor*
- Sun 24** 10.30am Worship in the Parish Church (and on YouTube)
Theme: continuing the 'I will...' series
Preacher: tba
Our church leaders; our national church leaders
- Mon 25** *Mission Partner: Scripture Union*
- Tue 26** *For our church leaders and PCC*
- Wed 27** *Peace in the world*
- Thu 28** *Mission Partner: Tear Fund*
- Fri 29** *Emergency services*
- Sat 30** *Tomorrow's worship and teaching; Michelle Proctor*
- Sun 31** 10.30 am Worship in the Parish Church (and on YouTube)
Theme: continuing the 'I will...' series
Preacher: tba
Our church leaders; our national church leaders

The persecuted church: UK (Contact: Ken Nash)

Students sign up to train as midwives to help pregnant women bring their babies into the world. This makes Julia Rynkiewicz's story all the more paradoxical. Her commitment to unborn life led her to become President of the 'Nottingham Students for Life' society. As a result the society was denied affiliation to the University of Nottingham Students' Union. ADF International assisted Julia and her committee in overturning the decision. After official recognition of the society, Julia herself was next to face punishment: suspension from her course after one of her lecturers filed a complaint with the midwifery school that she was not professionally suitable.

ADF International *(See also supplement at the end of this prayer diary)*

MISSION PARTNER PRAYER REQUESTS

Andrew Leake (CMS/Compassion International) (Contact: David Leake)

Andrew writes:

- The provincial government in Salta has eased regulations on deforestation. This is a huge blow to our efforts to put a stop to forest loss. Please pray for wisdom and discernment on how we and others can effectively respond to this new challenge.
- We thank God for the decision from the Inter American Court, after many

years, that the Argentine Government should grant indian land rights: that they should have a right to their ancestral lands, a right to the use of their language, and that deforestation of their land should be stopped. Pray that what has been decreed on paper may become a reality.

- Andrew is working from home, helping Compassion International to shape their response to climate change, especially as it affects child poverty. He is hoping to start web-based creation care training for Churches in and around Tartagal soon.
- Pray for our children. Tomas has some work but is waiting for his main job to re-open. Cecilia is will start a Masters degree in law in Spain in February. Carolina has completed her last semester of classes at vet school. Pray also for Maria, who has passed the halfway mark with her Christian Rural and Environmental Studies.

Bible Society (Contact: David Orsborne)

This month, as we start a new year, please continue to give thanks and pray for the work of Bible Society. You can discover more at

www.youtube.com/watch?v=H-Br9p4AovE, find prayer resources at www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/pray-with-us or get Word in Action and Prayer in Action from www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/word-in-action.

- Please pray for the continuing impact of our Open the Book team's Christmas venture, and pray that they will find ways to continue the vital work of telling Bible stories in school this term.
(www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book)
- Please pray for Bible Society's work across the world, especially in those places where climate change, war, terrorism, disease, poverty, ethnic violence or civil unrest threaten lives and livelihoods and hamper the work of translation, distribution and Bible teaching.
(www.biblesociety.org.uk/what-we-do/around-the-world)
- Please give thanks and pray that Bible Society's Advent and Christmas resources will have been well used and will bear much fruit in transformed lives and new or revitalised relationships with Jesus in 2021.
- Please pray that Andrew Ollerton's new book, 'The Bible: A Story That Makes Sense of Life'
(www.biblesociety.org.uk/products/9781529327007) will be widely read, and help many people understand and respond to the message of the Bible. The book is the perfect read for anyone asking, 'What is the Bible and how is it relevant to me in the 21st Century?'. You can watch a short interview with Andrew Ollerton at www.youtube.com/watch?v=0sBxJciO3vo and a promotional video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=PhxbsWmRSKY.

Canaan Christian Centre (Contact: Evelyn Smith)

This month:

- Pray for Hungary friends at the orphanage and Kanaan Haz.
- Pray that we will all be kept safe and well.

CPAS (Contact: Jane Loades)

This month CPAS asks us to pray for:

- ‘Leading in Evangelism’. Pray for the work of the Evangelism and Discipleship Team as they develop material for the online learning process.
- ‘Leading in Uncertain Times’. Give thanks for the training that has taken place online since lockdown that has helped churches to thrive and grow. Please pray for the ongoing online training this spring.
- We are asked to pray for our church leaders that they might be filled with ‘grace and truth’ that were seen in Jesus.

“Truly He is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I shall never be shaken.” Psalm 62:2

London City Mission (Contact: Elizabeth Bridger)

We all pray for fresh hope from God in the new year although no one has any idea what it will hold across the world.

Let us join LCM in praying that it will be a year when many desperate people in London will find the Lord Jesus as friend and Saviour!

Please pray:

- for wisdom for the leadership to place missionaries in the ministries where there is most need;
- for new Christians to be linked up with good churches who will nurture them to Christian maturity;
- for those running food banks to share the love of Jesus with the many needy folk facing extreme poverty;
- for those running Webber Street homeless centre to build fruitful friendships with the guests as they offer practical help despite the limitations that may exist in the new year to the way such help can be given due to Covid;
- for wisdom to carry on with the ongoing work of evangelism despite the unknown challenges that Covid may present in the new year and the constantly changing guidelines from the Government;

- for wisdom to deal with the tension between the plans to recruit more missionaries this year despite the current financial restraints;
 - for all the missionaries to keep their eyes fixed on Jesus throughout this year, and to know His peace, protection and perseverance.
- 'Cast all your care on Him for He cares for you.' (1 Peter 5:7).

Michelle Proctor (SIM) (Contact: Tim Britton)

This month Michelle writes:

- Pray that our cases of COVID-19 will remain relatively few.
- Pray for our team, we are all tired after having none of our usual overseas volunteers come to help for most of the year (due to travel restrictions). A good number of people are planning to come next year; pray that this works out.
- Pray for the grand opening of the theatre which is planned for February 4th, that the day would go well, and overseas guests would be able to travel to join us. Pray that the glory for this project would go to God.

Prison Fellowship (Contact: Janet Rosier)

This month:

- Give thanks that a CD of Alpha is being piloted which prisoners will listen to in their cells. There can be no group discussion, so pray that the Holy Spirit will bring clarity and understanding to those who listen to it and that it will be a powerful tool in prisons.
- Give thanks that some services are being streamed from prison, so families can join in and be part of it along with their relative in prison.
- Pray for prisoners facing another year inside. Pray for those who feel hopeless and depressed, are self-harming and desperate. Pray that officers and chaplains may be sensitive and that the Holy Spirit will give them the right words to comfort and encourage and to share words of hope.
- As we begin this New Year, we commit those who work in prison, their families, and the volunteers and staff of Prison Fellowship into God's hands. We give thanks for His presence in the difficult months of 2020 and His guidance for all the new initiatives that have taken place. Give thanks that God is not bound by a virus, and that all things work together for good to those who love God.

Scripture Union (Contact: David Orsborne)

'Connecting You' is Scripture Union's supporter magazine, with news and daily prayer requests to support their exciting and vital work. Contact David Orsborne for a copy or get it, and other prayer resources, at content.scriptureunion.org.uk/support-us/prayer.

This month, as we start a new year, please continue to give thanks and pray for the work of SU:

- Please pray that SU's Advent and Christmas resources will have been well used and bear much fruit in transformed lives and new or revitalised relationships with Jesus in 2021.
- Following the launch of the 'Revealing Jesus' mission framework, pray that many churches will be able to recruit passionate, volunteer 'Faith Guides' to walk with children and young people from 'the 95' on their journey of faith. Pray, too, for the development of many 'Grow Communities' to provide opportunities for those they've been journeying with to meet regularly with their peers, to worship and grow together. (content.scriptureunion.org.uk/revealingjesus)
- SU's Mental Health and Wellbeing resources aim to help churches engage children and young people in supportive conversations around the challenges that they are facing. Please pray that they will be widely taken up and well used at this challenging time. (content.scriptureunion.org.uk/mentalhealth)
- For more than 150 years, Scripture Union has been inviting children, young people and adults to explore the difference Jesus can make to the challenges and adventures of life. This month, please pray that 2021 will be a year in which their work makes a great impact for God's kingdom. Please pray for SU's work in schools, churches and communities; for their sports ministry, holiday clubs, missions and other events (and for their online versions); for their role in training and resourcing individuals and churches; and for all their other work in the UK and across the world. (content.scriptureunion.org.uk/what-we-do)

Tearfund (Contacts: Judith Anderson and Lynda Brown)

This month:

- Please pray for those Tearfund partner organisations and volunteers who are helping the people of Central America put their lives and communities back together after Hurricane Eta ripped through the region in November. Pray for God's love and strength as they respond to catastrophic damage in Guatemala and Honduras.

- Praise God for continued funds to finance vital hand washing stations and hygiene kits being distributed amongst the poorest areas of Africa affected by Covid-19. Please pray on.
- Praise God for inspiring young people like Jenu, a schoolgirl in Nepal, who was able to join and later help lead a community group begun by Tearfund partners. The group was able to bring the villagers together to discuss and address issues such as road maintenance, safe hygiene practices and helping those in need. 'The changes have made a lasting impact on my family and community,' Jenu shares.

Persecuted Church supplement: An Urgent Call for Prayer

Barnabas Fund is one of the major sources for information about the Persecuted Church. The organisation seeks to bring "hope and aid for the persecuted church".

During September they received a spate of threats - mostly general, but including one very specific threat by a terrorist organisation against one of their national offices. This was not the first threat they have received: in 2009 their International Director Patrick Sookhdeo - a Muslim convert - received a death threat from Islamists. BF trustees have also been distressed by an article in "The Times" on 27th November of an "inflammatory nature" re-hashing events that were well aired in the press years ago. The article contained a number of inaccuracies, and the trustees are particularly concerned about the lack of consideration for Patrick, his family, and those who work tirelessly for the charity.

The trustees see all this as ultimately a spiritual battle.

I personally see this as just one more example of persistent attempts to marginalise the church and denigrate the work of faith ministries.

Please pray.

Ken Nash

Please send prayer requests for February to Tim Britton by Monday 25 th January.
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