



CROMERCHURCH
transforming lives with Jesus Christ

Prayer Diary - May 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 reflects the changes caused by the coronavirus pandemic at the time of writing. Please check the Weekly Update for up-to-date news.

Sunday services will be a traditional Holy Communion service at 8.45am and an informal service at 10.30 am (with Communion on the first Sunday of each month), **both in the Parish Church. Both services will be streamed on the Cromer Church YouTube channel, accessed in the normal way.** (Go to YouTube and search for 'Cromer Church'.)

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

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS FOR MAY

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

This month's mission focus is CPAS.

See below for all mission partner requests.

- Sat 1** *Tomorrow's worship and teaching; CPAS*
- Sun 2** *Sunday services - Theme: John 20v24-31 - Thomas
Preacher: David Masters
Our church leaders; other local church leaders*
- Mon 3** *Mission Partner: Andrew and Maria Leake*

- Tue 4** *Nations having difficulty coping with the pandemic*
- Wed 5** *Mission Partner: Bible Society*
- Thu 6** *The police and justice system*
- Fri 7** *The persecuted church (see below)*
- Sat 8** *Tomorrow's worship and teaching; CPAS*
- Sun 9** Sunday services - Theme: John 21v14-25 - Peter (Part 2)
Preacher: Paul Neale
Our church leaders; our small group leaders
- Mon 10** *World leaders thinking about climate change*
- Tue 11** *Mission Partner: Canaan*
- Wed 12** *Farmers and all involved in providing our 'daily bread'*
- Thu 13** *Mission Partner: London City Mission*
- Fri 14** *Safe easing of lockdown measures next week*
- Sat 15** *Tomorrow's worship and teaching; CPAS*
- Sun 16** Sunday services - Theme: 1 Corinthians 16
Preacher: Will Warren
Our church leaders; our national church leaders
- Mon 17** *Mission Partner: Michelle Proctor*
- Tue 18** *For an end to the many conflicts in this world*
- Wed 19** *Mission Partner: Prison Fellowship*
- Thu 20** *Families and all involved in childcare*
- Fri 21** *People suffering mental ill-health*
- Sat 22** *Tomorrow's worship and teaching; CPAS*
- Sun 23** Pentecost
Sunday services - Theme: John 15v26-16v15 - The Spirit of truth
Preacher: tba
Our church leaders; our Bishops and Archdeacons
- Mon 24** *All who make their living on the sea - especially local fishermen*
- Tue 25** *Mission Partner: Scripture Union*

- Wed 26** *People waiting to receive treatment for health problems*
- Thu 27** APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting - our AGM)
Mission Partner: Tearfund
- Fri 28** *For our PCC, especially its newly-elected members*
- Sat 29** *Tomorrow's worship and teaching; CPAS*
- Sun 30** Sunday services - Theme: John 17v1-5 - the Son of glory
Preacher: tba
Our church leaders; our Archbishops
- Mon 31** *All having a half-term holiday*

The persecuted church - Iran (Contact: Ken Nash)

Iran is in the top ten of the World Watch List 2021. It is the only nation ruled by religious clergy. Ultimate power rests with the Supreme Leader, and then with the Council of Guardians. The government has control over every aspect of life - political, law, cultural, and of course every aspect of the media. Christians who dare to attend a house church, pray, sing, read the Bible, or evangelise risk arrest and imprisonment - where they are routinely subject to rape, torture and death. Satellite receivers are illegal in Iran (but everyone has one), and a convert from Islam is taking advantage of this. Dr Hormoz Shariat became a Christian, went to Bible College in the U.S., and now operates Iran Alive Ministries, broadcasting 24/7 to Iran in Farsi. He has a clear promise from the Lord that in his lifetime he will see one million Iranians come to Christ. He has been described as "The Billy Graham of Iran." (BG was never allowed to set foot in the country.) Please get a copy of Dr Shariat's book "Iran's Great Awakening" - I guarantee it will completely change your perspective of Iran.

MISSION PARTNER PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Bishop David writes:

- Please pray for Andrew Leake who is facing a changing role in his work. Andrew up until now has been very committed to the whole question of Indian land rights and the care of creation. He has now accepted the challenge of an invitation from COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL to head

up a new challenge which is to outline and implement a project to care for children and how they will be affected by climate change.

- Much prayer is needed about the continual spread of Covid-19 in Brazil and that the virus may be prevented from spreading into Argentina. Also that South American countries may speed up their vaccination roll-out.
- Pray for the family: that Tomas may get stable work with servicing planes (work has been curtailed because planes have been grounded during the pandemic); for Cecilia now undertaking a post graduate course in Spain; that Carolina may be able to conclude her practical work and exams in her Veterinary studies.
- Pray for the Wichi and Toba bishops that they may be given wisdom as they lead the work in the absence of Diocesan Bishop Nicholas Drayson, still in lockdown in the UK.

Bible Society (Contact: David Orsborne)

Please pray for the work of Bible Society. Find out more at www.youtube.com/watch?v=H-Br9p4AovE, find 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.

This month:

- Thank God for our local Open the Book teams, and pray that they will continue to find effective ways to carry on their important work of telling Bible stories in schools as lockdown restrictions ease. (www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book)
- Please pray for the success of Bible Trek, a series of short films trekking through the Holy Land and beyond. Viewers visit Jerusalem, Galilee, Ephesus and other locations to discover the sites where famous Bible events took place. Pray that the films, historical notes and reflections will help many people to experience Bible stories in a new way and see why they matter today. (www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/bible-trek)
- Please thank God and pray for the “*oasis of opportunity for Bible work in Egypt, especially in the digital realm.*” During 2020, Covid shut down most of the country, but God was still at work and inspired the Bible Society of Egypt to embrace the digital world. The results have been amazing, achieving wider than ever distribution of the Scriptures and helping many to interact with God’s word for the first time. (www.biblesociety.org.uk/latest/news/the-true-god-triumphs-in-the-land-of-the-pharaohs)

- Pray that God will show us all how we can support Bible Society in their mission to “bring the Bible to life in today’s world.” Bible Society is passionate about making the Bible available to men, women and children around the world, and there are lots of ways to get involved. Please ask God to show you what that might look like for you.
(www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved)

Canaan Christian Centre (Contact: Evelyn Smith)

This month:

- Thank God for His supply for needs at Canaan.
- Pray for volunteers to paint children's play equipment, spruce up garden areas, clean inside Wolery and Canaan - ready for reopening in June?!
- Praise God that people have enjoyed meeting together safely in the garden at Canaan.
- We support ten families each month - between them there are thirty children. We support with food, prayer, phone calls, counselling - whatever is needed. Pray for them, and praise God for our good relations with them - especially with the fathers!
- Much prayer is needed for Kornel trying to arrange summer camps in Hungary. Covid-19 cases are still rising, so no English volunteers are possible at the moment.

CPAS

John Dunnett, General Director of CPAS, writes:

- “One of CPAS’ prayerful aspirations is to see every Christian become a courageous witness. Humanity is in need of external and eternal rescue, yet it is becoming ever more difficult to speak of our sinful nature and the lostness that is so key to the biblical narrative. Please join me in praying that, through CPAS’ work, leaders might know the Lord’s help in articulating Christian truth in our post-truth world.”
- “Pray that Christians will be courageous witnesses for the gospel, and that the Holy Spirit will show men, women and children of their need for God’s amazing forgiveness and gracious atonement.”
- Please also pray this month for these aspects of CPAS’s mission: to enable local churches to give every child the chance to explore Jesus; to enable church leaders to be catalysts for evangelism; to train leaders through free webinars; and to train members of PCCs.

London City Mission (Contact: Elizabeth Bridger)

Please pray:

- LCM missionary Andrew grew up in an African Caribbean London home. He came to faith in Christ while in prison awaiting sentence. Before leaving prison, he led another prisoner to Christ! Eventually he was accepted as a missionary with LCM, and now works near Grenfell Tower. One day while delivering leaflets advertising a church event, he met a very distressed young woman captive to substance abuse. He shared the Gospel and prayed with her. He continued to pray for her over the following weeks. He helped her move into new accommodation and prayed with her again and 'shared the word of life' with her. She began attending church and said 'it felt good!' She attended the very last session of the Alpha course Andrew was leading. At the end, she asked Jesus to be her Lord and Saviour! When lockdown began, Andrew kept in touch by phone, and when church re-opened, she was first in the door!

Just one story! But please pray that all the missionaries will have the joy of similar stories to tell. God bless you!

Michelle Proctor (SIM) (Contact: Tim Britton)

This month Michelle writes:

- Give thanks that our number of COVID cases is decreasing and that, so far, I have not had COVID.
- Give thanks that I was able to have a short break staying with friends. Pray for stamina and energy as anaesthesia keeps me busy in the theatre.
- Pray for Zambia as this is an election year (with elections in August). Pray for peace during the build-up and campaigning.

Prison Fellowship (Contact: Janet Rosier)

This month:

- Give thanks that weekly Bible Studies written by a group of volunteers almost since the start of lockdown, have been very well received and appreciated. As requested by the prisoners, they will continue until the end of the year. Pray that the compilers will be prompted and guided by the Holy Spirit as they write.

- Give thanks that Prayer Line which started during lockdown has had increasing numbers of calls, nearly 2,000 to date. Prisoners dial direct to Prison Fellowship who pay for all calls, and the request is anonymised and sent to volunteers around the country who pray immediately. Give thanks that PF finances are able to cover this and for answers to prayer both for those in prison and those who have been released.
- Ramadan is 13th April - 12th May this year. Pray that cooking staff will be able to cope with the extra work to provide food for the Muslim eating hours, as well as continuing to cater for other prisoners.
- In the heightened spiritual awareness of Ramadan, many Muslims have dreams and visions. Pray that God will reveal himself to many prisoners and staff in this way so that they meet the living Lord Jesus.

Scripture Union (SU) (Contact: David Orsborne)

'Connecting You' is SU's supporter magazine. Get it and other prayer resources at content.scriptureunion.org.uk/support-us/prayer.

This month:

- SU's Revealing Jesus mission framework helps churches support the 95% of under-18s who are not yet involved with church to find faith in Jesus. Please pray that it will help many churches - including ours - to connect with the 95 and walk alongside them as they find and grow in faith. (content.scriptureunion.org.uk/revealingjesus)
- SU's Mental Health and Wellbeing resources help churches engage children and young people in supportive and encouraging conversations about the particular challenges that they are facing. Please pray that they will be widely taken up and well used. (content.scriptureunion.org.uk/mentalhealth)
- Please pray for the impact of the Book of Wonders, a captivating and beautifully illustrated book that helps children to explore science and faith. Children will be amazed by the detailed illustrations as they learn about themselves, the world, the universe and the God behind it all. The Book of Wonders has been produced in collaboration with The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, an interdisciplinary research and communication enterprise linked to the University of Cambridge. (content.scriptureunion.org.uk/book-wonders)
- Please give thanks that Scripture Union has been inviting children, young people and adults to explore the difference Jesus can make in the challenges and adventures of life for more than 150 years,

Please continue to support them, and pray that 2021 will be a year in which their work makes a great impact for God's kingdom.

content.scriptureunion.org.uk/what-we-do

Tearfund (Contacts: Judith Anderson and Lynda Brown)

This month, please pray:

- Poverty is not God's plan. You are. In praying for the work of Tearfund we are becoming part of transforming communities and empowering people to lift themselves out of poverty. Please be encouraged that each prayer, even though the problem seems so vast, is transforming people's lives one by one.
- Tearfund have partnered with People's Vaccine Alliance to campaign for everyone in EVERY country to have fair and free access to a tested COVID vaccine. The only way out of this pandemic is if we recover together. Please bring this prayerfully to our Father God.
- Please continue to pray for the desperate needs of those in troubled areas in the world. Here are a few: Myanmar, Syria, Afghanistan, East Africa, India and Pakistan. There are more stories on the Tearfund website.
- Please continue to pray for our Government as they make key decisions to lead us into a greener future and for the preparations for the COP26 conference in Glasgow in November.

Please send prayer requests for June to Tim Britton
by Monday 24th May.