



# **CROMER**CHURCH

transforming lives with Jesus Christ

## **Prayer Diary - October 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.**

### **WEEKLY SERVICES AND EVENTS**

#### **Sundays**

**8.45 am Traditional Holy Communion at the Parish Church.  
Refreshments between services.**

**10.30 am Informal service at the Parish Church, with CCKids.**

**10.30 am Service at St Martin's with refreshments.**

Both Parish Church services will be streamed on the Cromer Church YouTube channel. (Go to YouTube and search for 'Cromer Church'.)

**4.30 pm Cromer Church Youth Group (11s-18s) at St Martin's.**

#### **Tuesdays**

**6.30 pm Meeting Point (for people with learning difficulties and their carers) in the Parish Hall.**

**7.15 pm Gospel Choir rehearsal in St Martin's**

### **PRAYER SUGGESTIONS FOR OCTOBER**

*Please check weekly publicity for details and updates. All events need prayer support. (Don't forget the regular ones, above.) Other prayer suggestions are in italic print. See below for details of prayer requests from mission partners*

*and others. This month's mission focus is Prison Fellowship.*

- Fri 1**      *Nations with insufficient Covid-19 vaccines*
- Sat 2**      *Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: 1 Timothy 6:6-10 - Is enough enough? Preachers: Paul Rosier at the Parish Church, Will Warren at St Martin's.) This month's Mission Partner: Prison Fellowship*
- Sun 3**      *Harvest Festival (with offering for TearFund).  
Our services, children's groups and youth group (see above)  
Our church leaders; our small group leaders*
- Mon 4**      *Mission Partner: Andrew Leake*
- Tue 5**      *The persecuted church (see below)*
- Wed 6**      *Mission Partner: The Bible Society*
- Thu 7**      *Our government's priorities*
- Fri 8**      *People who do not have enough to eat, and all who help them*
- Sat 9**      *Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Ezra 10 - Right with God. Preachers: David Masters at the Parish Church, Ben Rogers at St Martin's.) This month's Mission Partner: Prison Fellowship - Prisons Week starts tomorrow*
- Sun 10**      *Our services, children's groups and youth group (see above)  
Our church leaders; our national church leaders*
- Mon 11**      *Pray for species in danger of extinction, and for increased biodiversity.*
- Tue 12**      *Mission Partner: Canaan*
- Wed 13**      *Our hospitals, doctors, nurses and other staff*
- Thu 14**      *Mission Partner: CPAS*
- Fri 15**      *Local businesses*
- Sat 16**      *Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Vision 1 - Purpose. Preacher: Will Warren.) This month's Mission Partner: Prison Fellowship*
- Sun 17**      *Our services, children's groups and youth group (see above; St Martin's to join with the Parish Church today)  
Our church leaders; our bishops and archdeacons*
- Mon 18**      *Mission Partner: London City Mission*

- Tue 19**      *Care home staff and residents*
- Wed 20**      *Mission Partner: Michelle Proctor*
- Thu 21**      7.30pm PCC Meeting  
*Glasgow COP26 preparations and outcomes*
- Fri 22**      *People suffering from mental health issues*
- Sat 23**      *Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Vision 2 - Strategy. Preacher: Will Warren.) This month's Mission Partner: Prison Fellowship*
- Sun 24**      Our services, children's groups and youth group (see above)  
*Our church leaders; other local church leaders*
- Mon 25**      *School staff, pupils and families on half term holiday*
- Tue 26**      *Mission Partner: Scripture Union*
- Wed 27**      *Refugees and asylum seekers*
- Thu 28**      *Mission Partner: Tearfund*
- Fri 29**      *For our mission activities, especially the BeachFest Light Party on Sunday*
- Sat 30**      *Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Vision 3 - Values. Preacher: Ben Rogers.) This month's Mission Partner: Prison Fellowship*
- Sun 31**      Our services, children's groups and youth group (see above)  
3.30pm Light Party in St Martin's (the Youth Group will help)  
*Our church leaders; our children's and youth group leaders*

### **PRAYER REQUEST DETAILS**

**The persecuted church: Eritrea** (Contact: Ken Nash)

Eritrea is 6<sup>th</sup> in the Open Doors' World Watch List of countries where it is most dangerous for Christians. It has been described as Africa's North Korea. Hundreds of believers have been imprisoned, without trial and with indeterminate sentences. They are held in appalling unsanitary conditions. They are tortured, starved, and forced into hard labour.

This year there have been a number of releases in what Dr Berkane Asmelash - an Eritrean Church leader - described as "...an answer to prayer. Thousands of Christians have been praying for this." Some had been held for over 16 years. Anyone could have been released earlier from their ordeal - the only thing they needed to do was to sign a piece of paper to say that they

had renounced their faith. But they preferred to stay in prison. They thought they would never get out. They were ready to die there. Some 400 still remain in Eritrea's prisons. (Barnabas Fund)

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

For more information, please read Andrew's latest prayer letter in the prayer resources on the Cromer Church website.

(<https://www.cromer-church.org.uk/Publisher/File.aspx?id=292269>).

This month, please continue to:

- pray for Andrew and Maria as they review and refine their creation care ministry in NW Argentina through Land for Life. Pray that they effectively empower local people in taking pertinent actions to challenge and stop ongoing deforestation;
- pray for Cristina Perez as she takes on the challenging role of leading over 50 indigenous communities in their ongoing negotiations with the government over their land rights. Also, for the ASOCIANA team which provides vital technical support in this process. (Asociana is a social support group in the Chaco region of Argentina);
- give thanks for Andrew's recovery from spinal surgery and for the good health of the family. Give thanks that all our family has been able to receive an initial COVID vaccine. Pray that we may all be able to get our second doses in a timely fashion, especially as the main vaccine provider, Russia, has at the time of writing not been able to fully deliver on its second jab;
- pray for Andrew's transition into the new full-time role with Compassion International, helping to lead Compassion in addressing the increasingly complex effects of climate children on children in poverty across the world.

**Bible Society** (Contact: David Orsborne)

Find resources at [www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/pray-with-us](http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/pray-with-us) and [www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/word-in-action](http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/word-in-action) or speak to David Orsborne.

This month, please pray:

- that *Open the Book* teams - especially those working with our local schools - will be able to continue their important work of sharing Bible stories with children ([www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book](http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book));

- that *Bible Trek*, a series of short films that visit the sites where famous Bible events took place, will help many to experience Bible stories in a new way and see why they matter today ([www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/bible-trek](http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/bible-trek));
- that Bible Society's *Psalm 23 Garden* at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show will have been a place of contemplation and spiritual renewal for those who visited, and be a continuing source of inspiration and calm purpose for the future ([www.biblesociety.org.uk/psalm-23](http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/psalm-23));
- that the launch of Bible Society's Christmas resources - *The Impossible Promise*, *Instant Nativity* and *The Christmas Poem* (with its accompanying video animation) - will inspire and challenge individuals, churches and communities to celebrate Christmas 2021 in new and meaningful ways ([www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/christmas](http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/christmas)).

### **Canaan Christian Centre** (Contact: Evelyn Smith)

This month:

- Please continue to pray for the Incredible Kids club and the teens club. The teenagers have a Hub in our garage with table tennis and other games. We all start together with breakfast, and after worship we split into groups; teens will use the prayer lodge in the garden too. Pray for Margaret Smith, Keith and Dick as they lead this group; and pray all the members will keep coming!
- Pray for Evelyn, June, Chloe, Gemma, Adela, and Simon Clipsom as they lead kids group and the 11+ kids who will become junior leaders. Pray for two new families who hope to join.
- The monthly lunch group continues. Pray that many will come and be blessed.
- Praise for all families who used Canaan for their holidays and were tremendously blessed and have booked again. Praise for volunteers who got Canaan ready each week, and praise for the monthly provision of food bags.

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

As I take over as the Mission Champion for the Church Pastoral Aid Society, I thought it might be helpful to new church members, especially if they do not come from an Anglican background, if I give a brief history of the mission. It was founded in 1836 in the midst of the social upheaval of the Industrial Revolution to take "the gospel to every man's door". Its founders included the prominent reformer Lord Shaftsbury. It initially sought to fulfil its vision by

giving grants to the poorest parishes to enable them to take on extra help in the form of Curates.

Their current ministry involves developing Christian leaders, equipping churches with much-needed resources to help them grow, running Christian Holidays for children and young people between the ages of 8-18 years and appointing evangelical leaders through their patronage work (We are one of their patronage parishes).

- Please pray for the General Director, John Dunnett, and all the staff at CPAS that the Lord may continue to be bless and guide their ministry.

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

This month London City Mission's work among children continues to need our prayers! Many schools welcome the presence of LCM, to take assemblies, classes and Bible clubs. So please pray:

- for wisdom for the missionaries to introduce children to Jesus through Bible stories in an engaging way, without offending those of other religions, or falling foul of 'political correctness';
- for churches to work alongside LCM in building relationships with schools;
- that schools will continue to be open for freely sharing the good news of Jesus;
- for the success of 'Operation Forgiveness' to break the cycle of knife crime, so prevalent in London schools;
- for teenagers who easily get involved with gangs and are written off by society and for missionaries to form friendships with them and show them that they matter to God;
- for Marlene to be able to keep contact with the many who attended summer clubs and camps in Tower Hamlets;
- for many kids who had traumatic experiences at home during lockdown of violence, bereavement and educational deprivation;
- for more and more children to discover Jesus as their friend!

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

This month:

- Give thanks for an amazing holiday enjoying God's creation and for time to relax and rest.

- Give thanks that our COVID numbers are reducing and pray that it would remain this way.
- Give thanks that we will have a week-long visit from a paediatric surgeon and pray that his time here will be a blessing to many.
- Pray for the newly elected president of Zambia and give thanks for peaceful elections and transition to new government.

### **Prison Fellowship** (Contact: Janet Rosier)

This month Prisons Week is on 10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>. For over 40 years Prisons Week has prepared prayer literature for the Christian community to use as they pray for the needs of all those affected by prisons: prisoners and victims, their families, their communities, those working and volunteering in prisons and the criminal justice system. Please join with others across the nation to pray each day during Prisons Week using the suggestions in the Prisons Week leaflet.

- We pray for prisoners who often feel isolated, especially during the time we were in lockdown, and until volunteers and families are allowed to visit regularly again. As we pray, we ask the Holy Spirit to assure prisoners “you are not forgotten and you are not alone.”
- It is 175 years since the death of the Quaker Prison reformer, Elizabeth Fry. She once said “It is an honour to appear on the side of the afflicted.” We pray we might also see it as a deep honour to support men and women in prison.
- The Prisons Week Prayer: Lord, you offer freedom to all people. Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist. Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care. Heal those who have been wounded by the actions of others, especially the victims of crime. Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ in His strength and in His Spirit, now and every day. Amen.

### **Scripture Union (SU)** (Contact: David Osborne)

**Connecting You** is SU's supporter magazine. Get a copy from the Parish Church or St Martin's, from David Osborne or from [content.scriptureunion.org.uk/support-us/prayer](http://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/support-us/prayer).

This month, please pray:

- that Light Parties and other Christian events at Halloween, might lead to many children and their families discovering Jesus, the Light of the World ([content.scriptureunion.org.uk/what-we-do/light-parties](http://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/what-we-do/light-parties));

- that many churches will use the Revealing Jesus framework to reach out to ‘the 95’ (the 95% of under-18s who don’t go to church) and walk with them as they discover Jesus and grow in their Christian faith ([content.scriptureunion.org.uk/revealingjesus](http://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/revealingjesus));
- for the “I don’t go to church but…” tour this autumn, helping churches to explore how they can make the most of this opportunity to reach ‘the 95’ with the good news of Jesus. Our nearest venue is in Norwich, on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October. Please pray that the tour will be well-supported and productive ([content.scriptureunion.org.uk/i-dont-go-church-tour](http://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/i-dont-go-church-tour)).

**Tearfund** (Contacts: Judith Anderson and Lynda Brown)

This month, please continue to pray for Afghanistan:

- Lift up the people of Afghanistan – including those who have fled – and pray for their safety and wellbeing. Ask God to provide for all their practical needs, including shelter, clean water, food and opportunities to earn an income.
- Pray for wisdom and protection for our partners based in Afghanistan so they can continue to support people like Abdul, Khan and Zarina.
- Pray for an end to the drought that is leading to chronic food shortages in Afghanistan.
- Cry out to God for peace in Afghanistan and that it will be safe for people to one day return home. PRAY!

Please also pray for the upcoming COP 26 in November:

- From 31<sup>st</sup> October to 12<sup>th</sup> November, world leaders are meeting in Glasgow for this major conference. It is vital that the Prime Minister and other leaders step up and take strong and transformative action to help end the Climate Crisis. Please uphold them in prayer and pray to build a fairer world. Pray for those suffering drought and famine due to Climate Change.

<p>Please send prayer requests for November to Tim Britton by Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October.</p>
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