



CROMERCHURCH
transforming lives with Jesus Christ

Prayer Diary - December 2021 and January 2022

Please check the Weekly Update for new events and revisions.

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

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 Small groups meet in the evening.

- 6.30 pm Meeting Point (for people with learning difficulties and their carers) in the Parish Hall (not December).
- 7.15 pm Gospel Choir rehearsal in St Martin's.

Wednesdays Small groups meet morning and evening.

- 10.00 am Cornerstone Coffee & Chat.
- 2.45 pm Open the Book at the Junior School (term time).

Thursdays Small groups meet afternoon and evening.

- 8.30 am Coffee morning at St Martin's.
- 2.45 pm Open the Book at the Infant School (fortnightly in term).

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS FOR DECEMBER

*See below for details of prayer requests from mission partners and others.
This month's mission focus is our Christmas outreach.*

- Wed 1** Mission Partner: Bible Society
- Thu 2** The persecuted church (see below)
- Fri 3** Welcomers and Cornerstone helpers in the Parish Church
- Sat 4** Cromer Lights switch on
Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Luke 1v5-25 - Zechariah. Preachers: Paul Neale at the Parish Church, John Chandler at St Martin's.)
Our Christmas outreach
- Sun 5** 3 pm Civic Carol Service
Our services, children's groups and youth group (see above)
Our church leaders; our national church leaders
- Mon 6** 2 pm Crafts2Share
Music ministry
- Tue 7** 7.45 The Wellbeing Journey at St Martin's
Mission Partner: Canaan
- Wed 8** Our hospitals and GP practices
- Thu 9** Mission Partner: CPAS
- Fri 10** The end of the pandemic
- Sat 11** Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: 2 Peter 1v12-21- Luke 1v26-38 - Mary. Preachers: David Masters at the Parish Church, Paul Rosier at St Martin's.)
Our Christmas outreach
- Sun 12** Our usual services, children's groups and youth group
6.30 Carols by Candlelight in the Parish Church
Our church leaders; our bishops and archdeacons
- Mon 13** 10 am Cromer Junior School Christmas Service
Mission Partner: London City Mission
- Tue 14** Those suffering extreme weather

- Wed 15** 10 am Cromer Academy Christmas Service
12-2 pm Crafts2Share
Mission Partner: Michelle Proctor
- Thu 16** Local government workers and councillors
- Fri 17** All whose work is dangerous
- Sat 18** Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Luke 1v39-45 - Elizabeth. Preachers: Will Warren at the Parish Church, Philip Bligh at St Martin's.)
Our Christmas outreach
- Sun 19** Our usual services, children's groups and youth group
4 pm Family Carols at St Martin's
Our church leaders; other local church leaders
- Mon 20** The Queen and Royal Family
- Tue 21** Mission Partner: Prison Fellowship
- Wed 22** Peace on earth, goodwill among nations
- Thu 23** Mission Partner: Scripture Union
- Fri 24** CHRISTMAS EVE
2pm and 4pm Christingle services in the Parish Church
11pm Midnight Communion in the Parish Church
Tomorrow's worship and teaching. Theme: Luke 2v8-20 - The Shepherds. Preacher: Will Warren at the Parish Church (no service at St Martin's)
- Sat 25** CHRISTMAS DAY
8.45 am Traditional Communion in the Parish Church
10.30am All Age Communion in the Parish Church
Visitors to the church
- Sun 26** 10.30 am United Service (All Age) in the Parish Church. (Theme: Acts 6v1-15 - Stephen, the first martyr. Preacher: Will Warren)
Our church leaders; our children's and youth group leaders
- Mon 27** Family life at this time of year
- Tue 28** All who are unhappy, especially the bereaved,
- Wed 29** Mission Partner: Tearfund

- Thu 30** Care home residents and staff
Fri 31 Thanks for God's past blessing, hope for the future

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS FOR JANUARY 2022

*See below for details of prayer requests from mission partners and others.
This month's mission focus is Michelle Proctor.*

- Sat 1** Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Colossians 3v1-17 - New year, new you. Preacher: Ben Rogers at the Parish Church. No service at St Martin's)
This month's Mission Partner: Michelle Proctor
- Sun 2** 10.30 am United Service (All Age) at the Parish Church
Our church leaders; our national church leaders
- Mon 3** For continuing efforts to mitigate climate change
- Tue 4** Mission Partner: Andrew Leake
- Wed 5** School staff and students beginning a new term
- Thu 6** Mission Partner: Bible Society
- Fri 7** Our armed forces
- Sat 8** Tomorrow's worship and teaching
This month's Mission Partner: Michelle Proctor
- Sun 9** Our services, children's groups and youth group
Our church leaders; our bishops and archdeacons
- Mon 10** Mission Partner: Canaan
- Tue 11** Local businesses
- Wed 12** 2 pm Crafts2Share at St Martin's
Mission Partner: CPAS
- Thu 13** Our universities
- Fri 14** Refugees and immigrants
- Sat 15** Tomorrow's worship and teaching
This month's Mission Partner: Michelle Proctor

- Sun 16** Our services, children's groups and youth group (see above)
Our church leaders; other local church leaders
- Mon 17** People facing hunger
- Tue 18** Mission Partner: London City Mission
- Wed 19** The media and the arts
- Thu 20** Mission Partner: Prison Fellowship
- Fri 21** Our government and MPs
- Sat 22** Tomorrow's worship and teaching
This month's Mission Partner: Michelle Proctor
- Sun 23** Our services, children's groups and youth group (see above)
Our church leaders; our children's and youth group leaders
- Mon 24** Mission Partner: Scripture Union
- Tue 25** Our dentists
- Wed 26** Mission Partner: Tearfund
- Thu 27** Our transport systems
- Fri 28** The United Nations
- Sat 29** Tomorrow's worship and teaching.
This month's Mission Partner: Michelle Proctor
- Sun 30** Our services, children's groups and youth group (see above)
Our church leaders; our national church leaders
- Mon 31** For an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on our land

PRAYER REQUEST DETAILS

The persecuted church: Bulgaria (Contact: Ken Nash)

ADF reports "unbelievable state hostility" to churches in Bulgaria. The government is defending the "slanderous actions" of city authorities such as that in Bourgas that - together with the police - sent a letter to all school administrators instructing them to "inform" children of the danger posed by non-orthodox Christians. They accused all Protestants of "launching a dangerous campaign of agitation", "duping new members", and "disuniting the Bulgarian nation".

ADF states, “The Church and its leaders are facing challenges like we haven’t seen for many years - and take us back to the darker moments in Europe’s history.” They launch their next decade of ministry with more than 900 ongoing advocacy matters. (ADF International)

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

Andrew writes:

- The province of Salta has seen an upsurge in applications to clear forest for agriculture, cattle, and lumber extraction. Pray for Land for Life as we continue to document and map each request, seeking to raise awareness of this situation.
- Andrew is now leading Compassion International’s response to the causes and effects of climate change on children trapped in poverty. Pray for guidance and encouragement as he seeks to build a team to support over 8000 churches in 29 countries develop their capacity to respond to these challenges.
- Our children are doing well. Cecilia continues with her master's in Madrid, combined with consultancy for the Organization of American States. Carolina is back in Cordoba at University. Tomas will be heading off to Peru for a work contract over Christmas and the new year. Pray for them in their work and for their safety in their travels.

Bible Society (Contact: David Orsborne)

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

Please pray:

- that *Open the Book* teams - especially those working with our local schools - will be strengthened and encouraged by the response to their important work of sharing Bible stories with children (www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book);
- that Bible Society’s Christmas resources - *The Impossible Promise*, *Instant Nativity* and *The Christmas Poem* - including those we will be distributing through local schools, will inspire and challenge individuals

and families to discover the real Jesus this Christmas and to follow Him throughout 2022 (www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/christmas).

- for the ongoing work of Bible Societies in China, Africa and the Middle East: giving thanks that the work of translation makes the Bible available in new languages and revises existing Bibles to bring the language up to date; that Bible Society's production facilities print physical copies and produce audio and digital formats to meet the individual needs and demands of the millions wanting the Scriptures; that distribution networks take the Bible to places it might otherwise be hard to come by; and that teaching people to read using the Bible improves literacy and spreads the Gospel in far-flung places (www.biblesociety.org.uk/what-we-do/around-the-world).

Canaan Christian Centre (Contact: Evelyn Smith)

This month:

- December is upon us and lots of preparations are under way so wisdom and strength are needed! We had to cancel the Marilyn Baker concert as she is very unwell at the moment, unable to use her right hand or her voice, so please pray for her and Tracy.
- Incredible kids club will be meeting that weekend and using the Bible Society booklet and will be dressing up as we share the Christmas story together. Pray about the booklets they will take home with them or give to others, and their craft activities, which is a great time to get alongside them.
- The Christmas lunch at Canaan has to be socially distanced so numbers will be limited to 30. Pray for all the team involved and those who come.
- We are asking friends to give £5 towards presents for the children at the Orphanage in Koszeg.
- We praise God for provision of gifts from the church in Heydon, Norfolk for our local children.
- Pray for a group coming for Christmas and another group coming in the new year and staying at Canaan.
- January... maybe with trepidation we plan events in 2022 as we restart activities.

- Please continue to pray for our Volunteers, team members and Trustees in the different roles they play in Canaan. We hope to have three or four new Trustees next year.
- Pray for our health and strength, and always for wisdom.

CPAS (Contact: Vivienne Benford)

Read 2 Corinthians 4:1-6

Prayer requests this month:

- In a year when everything began in uncertainty God enabled the Venturers and Falcons Camps to continue with 54 events impacting over 1,800 young people. Please praise God that Covid did not stop these children and teenagers from meeting and hearing the word.
- CPAS Leadership Course – please pray for the development of a new online version of the course. Ask that this will be a blessing to clergy across the UK and Ireland.
- St. Mary’s Eastrop – which is a CPAS patronage church in the centre of Basingstoke. Rob Phillips was appointed as Rector of this lively evangelical church earlier this year. Rob asks us to pray – that the church would humbly discern how to put their gifts and resources to the service of the gospel in Basingstoke and beyond for the next few years.
- Haslemere Holidays is being held between the 29th December and the 2nd January. Twenty teenagers from the Haslemere Venturers will be meeting together to explore Christian discipleship in a more focused way, delving into a book of the Bible. Please pray for the overall leaders and those attending and on a practical note please pray that snow doesn’t arrive as there is a very steep, mile-long road to the venue.

London City Mission (Contact: Elizabeth Bridger)

Helping people on the move...

London has been one of the most culturally diverse cities in the world for a long time. Now it is rapidly filling up with vast numbers of immigrants from all over the world: economic migrants, people suffering from persecution and thousands from war zones. Language and cultural barriers present those trying to help them with almost insurmountable problems.

London City Mission is uniquely equipped to help since many of the missionaries come from many countries in the world and speak between them a great variety of languages. The missionaries who are working in churches all across London can help the church members to reach out to these needy folk, with practical help and the Gospel of Jesus.

For instance Harish Patel's church in Southall has people from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Syria and India, worshipping together, which is a powerful witness. Many recent arrivals from these countries are being met by these Christians who can speak the same languages and are in a position to offer them help.

Many recent asylum seekers have encountered Jesus through these welcoming churches, though they know very little about their new-found faith and need teaching and discipleship. However, they are experiencing fierce opposition from their families and fellow countrymen.

New churches are springing up all across London, often planted by bigger churches, to cater for the different nationalities. In New Malden alone there are over 50 South Korean churches!

One of the difficulties is how to get these different nation churches to integrate with each other and indigenous churches. There are a few outstanding churches which do contain in their fellowships many different nationalities, but they are the exception, sadly.

So, please pray for wisdom as the church leaders and missionaries cope with these challenges, in a very exciting time for Gospel expansion in this very global city of London!

Michelle Proctor (SIM) (Contact: Tim Britton)

Here are my prayer requests:

- Give thanks for the drop in COVID cases and pray we do not get a fourth wave of COVID.
- Pray for local churches as they celebrate Christmas, that they can be a light to those around them.
- Pray for those on our team who will struggle being away from family at Christmas, that they would feel part of the Mukinge family and not be homesick.

- Pray for volunteers preparing to come in the new year as they say goodbye to family and friends.

Prison Fellowship (Contact: Janet Rosier)

In December:

- Pray for Letter Link volunteers who often send a Christmas card and letter to their prisoner at this time of year which may be the only contact the prisoner has with the outside world this Christmas. May they know they are not forgotten or alone.
- There are tens of thousands of children with a parent in prison who will be missing them and struggling with their absence at Christmas. Pray they would experience God's comfort and love.
- Give thanks for the Angel Tree volunteers who have bought and sent presents to children on behalf of a parent in prison, and for the generous giving from our church that has helped cover the cost of many of these presents.
- Pray for prisoners as they imagine their child/children opening their present on Christmas morning and for the joy the children feel for knowing their parent has remembered them. Pray that this gift may have a positive impact and help strengthen family relationships.
- Pray for the prison staff - governor, officers, kitchen staff, medics, chaplains etc, who will be working all over the Christmas period and their families with one of their family missing for part of this time.

In January:

- This New Year, pray for prisoners who are starting yet another year of their sentence, especially those who have lost hope, are dealing with anxiety, despair and depression and have suicidal thoughts, and are finding each day difficult to face.
- Pray that they find the support they desperately need, and may God reveal himself to them so they know how deeply loved they are.
- Pray especially for those in our fellowship who have a family member or friend in prison and who feel ashamed and often find it difficult to talk about, so carry a heavy burden.

- Pray for Prison Officers who have to deal with violent and disruptive prisoners and those who self-harm. May they have compassion and wisdom and the skills and knowledge to deal fairly and appropriately with each individual.
- Give thanks for the prisoners who are looking forward to being released this year, that they may integrate back into their families and society and have the determination not to re-offend.
- Pray for prisoners who are being released this year and have lost contact with their families and friends. Release can bring feelings of fear, uncertainty and confusion with the loss of daily institutional routine. Give thanks, that in Norwich, some have mentors who will meet them at the gate and mentor and support them, especially during the early days of release.

Scripture Union (SU) (Contact: David Orsborne)

Connecting You is SU's supporter magazine. Get a copy from David Orsborne or from content.scriptureunion.org.uk/support-us/prayer.

Please pray:

- that SU's Christmas resources will be a powerful and continuing way of helping children, young people and their families understand the real meaning and significance of the birth of Jesus as a human baby and challenge and encourage them to follow Him in 2022 (content.scriptureunion.org.uk/resources?s=Christmas+2021);
- that many churches will continue to 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).

From the end of December, Scripture Union will no longer be one of Cromer Church's formal Mission Partners. Thank you for all your support and encouragement over the years. Give thanks for a relationship that spans more than 135 years (Beach Mission first came to Cromer in 1883) and continue to support SU's work, pray for their staff and volunteers, and use their resources. Pray particularly for the success of the **Revealing Jesus** mission framework and **The 95 Campaign** in reaching the 95% of children

and young people who don't go to church, encouraging them to explore and engage with Christianity, and supporting them on their faith journey.

Tearfund (Contacts: Judith Anderson and Lynda Brown)

Please continue to pray for Afghanistan.

Challenges facing Afghanistans: hunger, inability to feed their families, bank closures and currency shortages, drought and harvest failures, Coronavirus spreading, many health professionals have fled. Some Tearfund local partners have restarted their programmes of food parcels and aid, but many are on hold.

Please pray:

- Pray for people's provision and safety – especially women and girls, who are especially vulnerable. Pray for enough food, clean water, a safe home and opportunities for work.
- Ask God to resolve the currency problems in Afghanistan so that people can have access to the resources they need to flourish. Pray for wisdom for international leaders and policy leaders for how they engage with the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan on addressing the economic issues.
- Pray for an end to the spread of coronavirus in Afghanistan.

Please give thanks and pray for COP 26:

- Thank God for the thousands calling for climate justice.
- Pray that the church will continue to speak out and be a strong voice calling for justice for people in poverty, affected by climate crisis.
- There is much heartache for many, that so much did not come to fruition at the COP26. IF all the promises made are kept, global heating will still reach 2°C rather than the 1.5°C needed.
- Many rich nations fell far short on giving financial support to vulnerable nations. Lift up these poor communities around the world facing changing climate due to the climate crisis.

<p>Please send prayer requests to Tim Britton by Monday 24th February.</p>
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