

Prayer Diary – January 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

Sundays

8.45 am Traditional Holy Communion at the Parish Church.

10.30 am Informal service at the Parish Church, 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 Cornerstone Café

10.00 am Holy Communion in the Parish Church

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 JANUARY

See below for prayer requests from Mission Partners and others

Mon 1 Hospitals, care homes and those who work in them

Tue 2 Farmers, to look after the land as well as producing plentiful harvests

Wed 3 Mission Partner: London City Mission

Thu 4 People struggling to find adequate housing

Fri 5 Mission Partner: Bible Society

Sat 6 Tomorrow's worship and teaching.

Sun 7	Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; our children's and youth group leaders
Mon 8	Mission Partner: Good News for Everyone
Tue 9	People struggling to make ends meet
Wed 10	Democracy
Thu 11	Mission Partner: Hope into Action
Fri 12	Those affected by climate change
Sat 13	Tomorrow's worship and teaching.
Sun 14	Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; our small group leaders
Mon 15	Mission Partner: Christians Against Poverty
Tue 16	Young adults
Wed 17	Peace in the Holy Lands
Thu 18	Mission Partner: CPAS
Fri 19	The persecuted Church
Sat 20	Tomorrow's worship and teaching.
Sun 21	Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; national church leaders
Mon 22	Mission Partner: Mission Without Borders (MWB)
Tue 23	Ukraine
Wed 24	Pray and give thanks for public sector workers: street sweepers, refuse disposal collectors etc.
Thu 25	Those who work in low-paid, unpleasant conditions
Fri 26	Mission Partner: Open Doors
Sat 27	Tomorrow's worship and teaching.
Sun 28	Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; other local church leaders
Mon 29	Immigrants and refugees

- Tue 30** Research scientists working to find solutions to modern problems
- Wed 31** The conservation of local and global wildlife

PRAYER REQUEST DETAILS

The persecuted church: India (Contact: Ken Nash)

Violence against Christians in India is on the rise, as Hindu nationalism grows and anti-conversion laws are being used against Christians. These laws are intended to target conversion by force or allurements; however, the loose wording means any kind of charitable act can be considered a form of bribery. Since 2020 the US Commission of International Religious Freedom has repeatedly urged the US to designate India as “a country of particular concern”. From 2022 to 2023 the persecution has risen more than 45 per cent. One of the worst offending states is Uttar Pradesh, although the High Court there recently came to the defence of accused Christians. Release International said they would be “looking for it to take effect throughout the state”.

Heart News

London City Mission (Contact: Elizabeth Bridger)

LCM's CEO Graham Miller and his wife Alison were violently attacked in a London street recently in front of their young daughter by a gang after they intervened when the gang were harassing a local shopkeeper. Alison was worse off than Graham as they continued beating her over the head when she fell to the ground. They have said they forgive the gang members. All girls. There are several such gangs in that area.

There is a rise in the number of homeless people in London. LCM is seeking to increase their response to the problem of homelessness.

The ministry at Webber Street Centre continues to serve many homeless people daily with hot meals, fresh clothes and showers and gentle Gospel presentations with generous friendship.

LCM is launching a new Evangelism Resource Hub for Christians to bridge gaps and enable them to share the Gospel more effectively. Three quarters of Christians say they find it difficult to share their faith.

Surveys show that half of all Londoners don't know any Christians. This is termed 'Gospel Poverty'. LCM seeks to help people build bridges 'Start with one Person! 'is great advice!

This is all about equipping all Christians, not just ministers, to be more effective witnesses for Christ.

Pray for the Protection, Perseverance and Provision of all the needs of each missionary for their spiritual and physical wellbeing as they serve the Lord sacrificially.

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

This month:

- Praise God, visitors to the Cromer Parish Church during the 2nd December lights switch-on event were offered and took 124 New Testaments. One was to a pupil who said she was learning German, so was pleased to receive a NT in that language. A police constable accepted a New Testament with the North Norfolk Constabulary badge on the front cover. Many of these folk would not possess a Bible nor dream of buying one for themselves. Please pray that the scriptures given might be used by the Holy Spirit to bring these people to saving faith.
- Please pray that year 7 students in Stalham High School and Cromer Academy, who received Youth Testaments last term, will read them. Also, that the 20 large print New Testaments delivered to Sidestrand Hall School will be used by staff and students.
- During this term we will be contacting more North Norfolk senior schools to see if they will allow us to take an assembly and offer year 7 pupils Youth Testaments.

- Our Scriptures are delivered to a garage in Holt. Unfortunately, a ringworm infected cat entered this storage area. Please pray that not too much of the stock will need to be destroyed. Fortunately, much of the stock was sealed and can be used following the fumigation.

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

A brand-new venture at Sheringham. CAP Life Skills group @Sheringham Men's Shed to help gain practical skills and to discover new ways to live for a brighter future. This new group starts Tuesday January 25th from 12:30 – 2:30pm. Please bring a sandwich or something to munch. Warm welcome provided. Details from Margaret Wade 01263 824020

Poverty and debt can make us feel trapped, hopeless, overwhelmed, ashamed and depressed. Poverty can be isolating too.

Please pray that people can find the right support- emotionally, financially and spiritually. And that the new CAP Life Skills group will help many people.

Pray that folk can find:

- the right plan for them and new habits that will lead to a new outcome in their finances,
- and the loving God who will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus" Philippians 4:19.

Praise God that many are coming out of debt and more of these are finding God as their heavenly Father.

CPAS (Contact: Vivienne Benford)

- Most Anglican churches in the UK are now in groups – multi-parish benefices (MPBs), leading to unique opportunities and challenges. A new initiative "The Thrive Collection" is designed to help MPBs do mission and ministry well, and to release their potential. Please pray that using these "Thrive" resources will help many MPBs to grow.

- Please give thanks for all who have given so generously to the CPAS Big Give 2023 which ended on the 5th December.

Hope into Action (Contact: Katharine Checketts)

Jon Kuhrt, CEO of Hope into Action sends the following message:

“To bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes...and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.”

- Isaiah 61

Antonio was homeless and sleeping rough with a life dominated by addiction and despair. As he explains what his life was like: “I can sum it up in one word: hopeless. I was deep into addiction...cold, lonely...I had pushed away everyone that loved me, and I was on the streets with no way out.”

But through the support of Hope into Action and its wonderful partner church, Antonio has found security, dignity and hope.

- Pray for a New Year full of love and hope for employees (especially those in Norwich), partner churches and befrienders within them, and above all, for the tenants, past, present and future.

Bible Society (Contact: David Anderson)

The Bible Society ‘Open The Book’ programme and material provide a means whereby we can bring the bible stories that enriched and blessed us to the local schools. In Cromer we are involved in weekly presentation to the Junior School and fortnightly to the Infant’s School. We are not alone in this as other churches also involve themselves with their local schools.

In devastating circumstances, mission teams in the Bible Lands are committed to their mission of providing aid, comfort and spiritual guidance to the people in the region.

Both Bible Society offices in Gaza have been caught in airstrikes. The building that housed the surviving office was demolished in an attack.

Staff members have been wounded and other staff have lost their homes to bombardment.

Nashat Filmon's dedicated Bible team has been actively involved in relief efforts, continuing their support for Christians in the area. 'We formed a crisis team,' Nashat says. 'We're monitoring the situation and trying to provide as much help as possible. We are in daily contact with local and church leaders in the Gaza Strip and have maintained an open line of communication with them and will continue doing so.'

A literacy project is transforming the lives of Christian women in Pakistan. Christians make up less than two per cent of Pakistan's overwhelmingly Muslim population and they are often targeted by extremists. Gaining an ability to read the Bible and write also helps them to find employment.

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

- Praise God that there has been a generous response to the appeal for money for MWB's Christmas love boxes which are filled with food, treats and the gospel message. This year 42,000 boxes have been sent to families and vulnerable people in need across the poorest countries in Eastern Europe.
- Please continue to pray for the team in the UK office and the family of John Chamberlain, MWB's UK National Director, as they mourn his unexpected death after a heart attack.
- Continue to pray for MWB's work in Ukraine which is now the poorest country in Europe due to the war. Pray for MWB's ministry to refugees, displaced and poor people, which is very challenging but much blessed. Continue to pray for two of MWB's staff members whose brothers have died on the front line.
- 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.

Open Doors (Contact: Judith Anderson)

Please pray for:

Iran

The authorities continue to harass and persecute Christians. Please pray for our brothers and sisters there that they remain strong in their faith. Just months after being released from prison, Christian Milan has been re-arrested and further spurious charges made against him. Please lift Milad, his wife and family to the Lord in prayer.

Central Asia

Open Doors' local partners are hosting a number of outreach events to celebrate Christmas and the New Year. Teams are visiting schools, colleges, orphanages, and hospitals distributing Christmas gifts to children and literature in local languages.

Please pray that these events will impact many lives with the love of Christ.

World Watch Launch in Parliament

This takes place at Westminster on Jan 17th.

Please pray that many MPs including our own MP, Duncan Baker, (who has agreed to attend) will attend, and be really impacted by what they hear about the plight of Christians around the world facing ever increasing persecution.

<p>Please send prayer requests for February to Katharine Checketts by Monday 22nd January</p>
