

Prayer Diary – May 2025

*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.
6.30 pm The Gathering at the Parish Church

Mondays

- 2.00-5.00pm 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)
10am-4pm Cornerstone Café
7.15 pm CC Community Choir rehearsal in St Martin's

Wednesdays

Small groups meet morning, afternoon and evening

- 10.00 am Holy Communion
10.am-4pm Cornerstone Café
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
10am-4pm Cornerstone Café
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 MAY

See below for prayer requests from Mission Partners and others

- Thu 1** People who are exploited in their work
- Fri 2** The Vatican as they proceed to elect a new Pope
- Sat 3** Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Romans 12v10; Philippians 2v1-11 - Honour one another). Speakers: Tim Britton (Parish Church), Dee Freeman (St Martin's)
Pray for this month's mission partner: CPAS
- Sun 4** Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; our children's and youth group leaders
- Mon 5** Our Mission Partner: Tearfund
- Tue 6** Cornerstone Café (opens today)
- Wed 7** All those whose lives are connected to the sea
- Thu 8** Open the Book
- Fri 9** Our Mission Partner: Good News for Everyone
- Sat 10** Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Colossians 3v12-17 – Forgive one another). Speakers: Will Warren (Parish Church), Paul Neale (St Martin's)
Pray for this month's mission partner: CPAS
- Sun 11** Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; our small group leaders
- Mon 12** The Middle East, especially Israel, Palestine, Iran, Yemen
- Tue 13** Our Mission Partner: Christians Against Poverty
- Wed 14** The Democratic Republic of Congo
- Thu 15** Our Mission Partner: Michelle Proctor
- Fri 16** The mineral riches of our planet, that they may be fairly extracted
- Sat 17** Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Hebrews 10v19-25 – Encourage one another). Speakers: Will Warren (Parish Church), John Chandler (St Martin's)
Pray for this month's mission partner: CPAS
- Sun 18** Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; national church leaders
- Mon 19** Mustard Seed
- Tue 20** A greater awareness of plastic pollution and its dangers
- Wed 21** Our Mission Partner: Hope into Action

Thu 22	Myanmar
Fri 23	Our Mission Partner: Bible Society
Sat 24	Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: John 13v31-35 – Love one another). Speakers: tbc (Parish Church), Paul Rosier (St Martin's)
Sun 25	Our services, children's groups and youth group. Our church leaders; other local church leaders
Mon 26	Our Mission Partner: London City Mission
Tue 27	Lonely people
Wed 28	People who have lost their job
Thu 29	Our Mission Partner: Canaan Christian Trust
Fri 30	Universities and students
Sat 31	Tomorrow's worship and teaching. (Theme: Acts 1v1-26 – You will be my witnesses). Speakers: Will Warren (Parish Church), Dee Freeman (St Martin's) Pray for this month's mission partner: CPAS

PRAYER REQUEST DETAILS

The persecuted church: Syria (Contact: Ken Nash)

We reported last month how church leaders in Syria were apprehensive about religious freedoms following the fall of Assad's regime and the establishment of a transitional government by Ahmad al-Sharaa. The latest news from the country is shocking. Christians are living in "total fear". Human rights groups have reported some of the worst atrocities since the ousting of President Assad. Starvation is being used as a weapon, Christian workers being denied pay, being executed in the streets, and being forced to crawl on their hands and knees like animals. The Christian leader of conservative pressure group CitizenGo, Caroline Farrow, spoke of seeing footage too shocking to air on TV news channels when she appeared on GB News. Sadly, other news channels have barely mentioned the plight of Christians involved. Farrow asks: "Why is this not front-page news? Why are Western leaders ignoring the plight of Syria's Christians? Their silence is shameful". One British pastor messaged: "They've just burned a forest – they found out that people were hiding there...they set the forest alight and waited on the other side to kill them".

Heart News/TBF Trust/Christian Post/CitizenGo

London City Mission (Contact: Elizabeth Bridger)

Making the Invisible Visible

As the cost-of-living crisis deepens, the most vulnerable in society especially the homeless pay the price.

Globe Church in Southwark regularly partners LCM in hosting meals at Webber Street's homeless centre. Their volunteer workers sit with the guests as the generous meals are served. A short word from the Bible is given first. Taking time to listen patiently to the story of a vulnerable person can make a world of difference. Sam, a volunteer, says 'It's a fantastic way to live out that calling to love your neighbour. It's at the heart of why we're here!'

Many homeless people describe feeling 'invisible'. But at the meals they hear how God knows them by name and loves them deeply and personally, that they really matter and can have a purpose in life.

The volunteers are careful to treat the guests as equals and seek to build meaningful relationships, introducing them to a local church and inviting them to events and services. Some do indeed become church members and learn more about the love of Christ and saving faith. It is what Jesus did often in His ministry around the table in people's homes.

- Pray for the volunteers, to serve these vulnerable people lovingly and patiently and to develop fruitful friendships.
- Pray for more people to attend these meals and so come to know Jesus as Lord and Saviour and develop their full potential in society.

Michelle Proctor (SIM) (Contact: Tim Britton)

Michelle writes:

- Please pray for my time in UK on Home Assignment for good time with family, friends and at supporting churches.
- Pray for safety in all my travel.
- Pray for the hospital as it gets ever increasingly busy, that it would continue to be a place of healing both physically and spiritually.

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

News from National Office

Please pray that the spiritual walk of our members will be deepened and that we will:

- Step out in faith with a vision for increased branch Scripture distribution each year, trusting God to provide the resources and

praying that, through reading His Word, many will be brought into His kingdom.

- In faith, pray and plan to recruit one or two new members each year, thus strengthening and enabling the branch to achieve even greater things to God's glory.
- Pray in faith for every school to allow access to present Testaments every year, and for every closed door to be opened wide. *"He will bring down your high fortified walls and lay them low; He will bring them down to the ground, to the very dust."* Isaiah 25:12

North Norfolk

Praise God that we have gained a new GNF friend who is prepared to help in the distribution of packs, containing a Bible and Hope Magazine, to local Hotels.

CAP – Christians Against Poverty (Contact: Claire Harber)

A recent poll run by CAP highlighted the financial burden parents and carers of children in the UK are experiencing. Of respondents:

- 43% of parents/carers of children had daily anxiety about money
- 31% of parents/carers of children had a deficit budget
- 13% of parents/carers of children had borrowed money to fund regular food shops in the past year.

The Government is working on a Child Poverty Strategy which is due to be announced this spring. Pray that this strategy will include meaningful plans to support children and their families, working to bring down essential household bills and housing costs, tackle debt and increase income. Pray that there will be additional initiatives to support parents and carers of children, not just financially, but also to prevent financial hardship occurring.

Praise God that Christians have come together to form CAP to help those in need and that the Government has recognised that child poverty in the UK needs addressing. Continue to pray for CAP and all those working for CAP that they follow the Lord's guidance in all the work they do. Ask God to bless them and keep them safe.

CPAS (Contact: Vivienne Benford)

- While the Church of England faces challenges around clergy recruitment and vacancies, please join with CPAS and thank God for his faithfulness enabling them to continue to appoint mission-focused clergy to their patronage churches.
- Please continue to pray and give thanks for the Overall Leaders of Venture and Falcon Holidays as they prepare and promote the

holidays to churches, families and individuals. There are already over 2,000 children and young people booked for this summer.

- CPAS Easter Appeal – please pray for a generous response to this appeal.

Tearfund (Contact: Lynda Brown and Judith Anderson)

Nigeria

Over 100 people have been killed this month, by Fulani militants in Christian villages in Plateau State.

Please pray for all those traumatised by these attacks, and for Tearfund partners as they seek to bring comfort and relief to them.

Mozambique

In recent months the conflict over the past 8 years has escalated, with over 70 children abducted to be trained as child soldiers. Please pray for their grieving parents.

Tearfund has responded by focusing assistance to displaced families.

Please pray

- For peace to be restored to Cabo Delgado province.
- For the safety of Tearfund partners, and local church pastors as they work with internally displaced people.
- For God's comfort to those bereaved and injured.

Myanmar

This may have quickly gone from media focus, but Tearfund is continuing to work with those affected by this disaster.

Please pray

- For all those who have lost everything, and who are trying to survive in horrendous conditions.
- For the massive rebuilding programme.
- For Tearfund partners working tirelessly to bring comfort and relief.

Hope into Action (Contact: Katharine Checketts)

"Imagine having nowhere to live, having to live in shop doorways and derelict buildings, - it's not living. Most of the time I wished I was dead"

Susie

Homelessness strips people of Hope, dignity and the will to live. We are constantly inspired by our tenants who face immense challenges yet emerge stronger and become beacons to others around them.

Susie is a tenant from Norwich, and her story is one of hope restored. Struggling with addiction and drawn into offending, Susie felt like she had nothing left. But with the support of Hope into Action and a local church, she found more than a place to stay; she found a community that walked alongside her, helping her step into a future filled with possibility and hope.

- Let us all pray for those experiencing homelessness to be blessed.
- Let us remember that homelessness strips people of hope, dignity and the will to live.
- Join in prayer so that those in our communities who need help, support and love are blessed with opportunities and hope.

Canaan Christian Trust (Contact: Evelyn Smith)

Evelyn writes:

- Two families with 3 children are urgently looking for accommodation. Please pray, as this is a very unsettling time for them all.
- Another prayer request has come from Kornel in Hungary who needs English folk for their summer camps. It is a wonderful opportunity and challenge to visit Hungary and to join his team as they seek to introduce children to Jesus. Contact Evelyn or Jackie for more information

Bible Society (Contact: David Anderson)

Church attendance has risen by 50 per cent over the last six years, busting the myth of church decline. The findings come in **The Quiet Revival**, a survey commissioned by Bible Society and conducted by YouGov.

The Quiet Revival shows that the most dramatic church growth is among young adults, particularly young men. In 2018, just 4 per cent of 18–24-year-olds said that they attended church at least monthly. Today, says The Quiet Revival, this has risen to 16 per cent, with young men increasing from 4 per cent to 21 per cent, and young women from 3 to 12 per cent. Pray for our youth work and our team of leaders dedicated to working with them at Cromer.

The Bible Society provides a good amount of material to help and assist in this area. They are currently promoting a new film for the younger generation, 'The King of Kings'. This is an animated film that follows Charles Dickens and his youngest son, Walter, as they explore the life of Jesus Christ. Through vivid storytelling, the film invites viewers to experience Jesus' miracles, trials, and ultimate sacrifice through the eyes of a child.

Pray also for the continuing work of our 'Open the Book' teams in Cromer Infant and Junior Schools.

Please send prayer requests for June to Katharine Checketts
by **Monday 26th May**