



CROMERCHURCH

transforming lives with Jesus Christ

Prayer Diary - December 2019 and January 2020

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

Please use this diary in whatever way suits you best. Don't feel you have to pray for every event on the day but let the Spirit guide you.

Services and prayer meetings in **bold type** are open to all.

Prayer suggestions are in *italic type*. Events for families, children and young people are marked with an asterisk (*).

REGULAR WEEKLY SERVICES AND EVENTS

Sundays

9-10am Service and refreshments at the Parish Church.

10.30-11.30am Service and refreshments at St Martin's.

10.45am-12noon Service and refreshments at the Parish Church with Revolution (11s-16s)* and Sunday Club*.

2.30-3pm Service at Halsey House.

7-8pm Service and refreshments at the Parish Church.

Mondays (A small group meets fortnightly in the afternoon)

8.45-10am Light Break Café at St Martin's (term time)*.

10am-12noon Baby Playtime at St Martin's (term time)*.

10.30am-12.30pm Cornerstone Café in the church (until 20 December).

Tuesdays (Small Groups meet in the evening)

10-11.30am Take-a-Break in the Parish Hall (term time)*.

10.30am-12.30pm Cornerstone Café in the church (until 20 December).

7-8.30pm Meeting Point in the Parish Hall.

7.30-9pm Gospel Choir rehearsal at St Martin's.

Wednesdays (Small groups meet morning and evening)

7-8am Prayer meeting (see notice sheet for venue).

9-9.30am Prayer meeting in the Chancel Meeting Room.

9am-12noon Bowls in the Parish Hall.

10-10.45am Communion service in the Parish Church.

10.30am-12.30pm Cornerstone Café in the church (until 20 December).

1.30-3.30pm Staff meeting.

2.45-3.15pm 'Open the Book' in the Junior School (term time)*.

Thursdays (Small groups meet in the evening)

9am-12noon Bowls in the Parish Hall.

9am Staff Prayers. (The staff team prays for members of the Church Family who they know of who need prayer support and also for everyone in turn as they work their way through the Church Directory.)

10-11.30am Take-a-Break Too at St Martin's (term time)*.

10.30am-12.30pm Cornerstone Café in the church (until 20 December).

10.30am Prayer meeting for Canaan (except 3rd Thursday, when there's an **update lunch** at 12.15 at 21, Holt Road Sheringham).

11-11.30am Service at Benjamin Court.

2.30-3pm 'Open the Book' in the Infants School (term time)*.

7.30pm Bell-ringers' practice.

Fridays

10.30am-12.30pm Cornerstone Café in the church (until 20 December)
(10am-4pm on 1st).

7-8.15pm Choir Practice in the Parish Church.

Saturdays

10-10.20am Prayer Meeting in the Parish Church.

The persecuted church: World-wide (Contact: Ken Nash)

Praise God for the freedom we have to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Ask the Lord to protect believers in countries where meeting publicly to worship Jesus can make them a target. The special Christian festivals often attract more intense persecution, as we witnessed in Sri Lanka last Easter. Pray that more Christians across the UK will be moved to pray for, and support and speak out for, the persecuted family.

EVENTS AND PRAYER SUGGESTIONS FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

Please check weekly publicity for details and updates

Please look below for mission partner requests

- Sun 1** Morning theme: Matthew 1:1-25 - Who do you think you are?
Preachers: Will Warren (PC), David Masters (SM)
2.30pm Monthly prayer for Cromer at St Martin's
3pm Civic Carol Service
Evening theme: Daniel 11 - The God of history
Preacher: Philip Bligh
Our church leaders; our archbishops
- Mon 2** 2pm Crafts2Share
7.45pm Parish Prayer Evening
The persecuted church (see above)
- Tue 3** 2.30pm Simon Fenn visiting the Infant School
2.30pm Mothers' Union Advent Carol Service
Mission Partners: Andrew Leake; Canaan
- Wed 4** *Our ministry areas: Building maintenance*
- Thu 5** *The general election - candidates, voters, and the media*
- Fri 6** 7.30pm Women's Social Christmas wreath making evening
For the right attitudes and actions to mitigate climate change
- Sat 7** 10am Incredible Kids Club at Canaan*
Tomorrow's worship and teaching
- Sun 8** Morning theme: Matthew 2:1-12 - A tale of two kings
Preachers: Tim Britton (PC), Jess Stubenbord (SM)
Evening theme: Daniel 12 - God's ultimate rule
Preacher: Will Warren
Our church leaders; neighbouring parishes
- Mon 9** *People who have lost their homes or livelihoods from natural disasters*
- Tue 10** *Local government*
- Wed 11** *Mission Partners: Bible Society; CPAS*
- Thu 12** General Election
12.15pm Canaan Christmas lunch with Marilyn Baker
Our ministry areas: Children's work
- Fri 13** 10am Cromer Academy Carol Service
7pm Crafts2Share Bring and Share buffet
7.30pm Men's Christmas Social
The formation of a new UK government

- Sat 14** 3pm Canaan 'Hallelujah Christmas' outreach*
Tomorrow's worship and teaching
- Sun 15** Morning theme: Matthew 2:13-23 - The great escape
Preachers: Tim Britton (PC), John Chandler (SM)
6.30pm Carols@Christmas
Preacher: Will Warren
Our church leaders; our bishops and archdeacons
- Mon 16** 10am Cromer Junior School Christmas Carol Service
An end to modern slavery
- Tue 17** *Our hospitals*
- Wed 18** *For any we find difficult to get on with*
- Thu 19** *Mission Partners: Michelle Proctor; London City Mission*
- Fri 20** *Our ministry areas: Choir*
- Sat 21** *Tomorrow's worship and teaching*
- Sun 22** Morning theme: Matthew 3:1-12 - A voice in the desert
Preachers: Nicholas Lockett, Will Warren (PC), Paul Neale (SM)
4pm Family Carols* at St Martins followed by a family tea
Evening theme: Revelation 22:7-21 - The final page
Our church leaders; our church governing bodies (synods)
- Mon 23** *For peace on earth*
- Tue 24** **Christmas Eve**
2.30pm Christingle 1* Preacher: Will Warren
4.30pm Christingle 2* Preacher: Will Warren
11pm Midnight Communion Preacher: Will Warren
For those for whom this season is anything but joyful
- Wed 25** **Christmas Day**
9am Holy Communion Preacher: Philip Bligh
10.45am All Age Communion* Preacher: Will Warren
For the message of Christmas to be understood and believed
- Thu 26** *The homeless and destitute*
- Fri 27** *Mission Partners: Prison Fellowship; Scripture Union*
- Sat 28** *Tomorrow's worship and teaching*
- Sun 29** Morning theme: Matthew 3:13-17 - This is my Son
Preachers: Will Warren, Simon Fenn (PC), Jess Stubenbord (SM) (No Evening Service)
Our church leaders; our bishops and archdeacons
- Mon 30** *Our ministry areas: Cleaning*

Tue 31 *Mission Partner: Tearfund*

JANUARY 2020

January's mission partner focus: Michelle Proctor

Wed 1 *Hope for the future*

Thu 2 *The United Nations*

Fri 3 *The persecuted church (see above)*

Sat 4 *Tomorrow's worship and teaching; Michelle Proctor*

Sun 5 *Vision Sunday*

10am Combined Communion Service in the Parish Church

Preacher: Will Warren

Evening theme: Colossians 1:1-14 - Praise and prayer

Preacher: Jon Platten

Our church leaders; our archbishops

Mon 6 *For the church to go forward together*

Tue 7 *Our ministry areas: Communication*

Wed 8 *Mission Partners: Andrew Leake; Canaan*

Thu 9 7pm Crafts2Share
Our GPs and clinics

Fri 10 *Our local schools*

Sat 11 8am Men's Breakfast at St Martin's
Incredible Kids Club New Year party (with Daniel and puppets)
Tomorrow's worship and teaching; Michelle Proctor

Sun 12 Morning theme: Matthew 4:1-11 - A trial in the desert
Preachers: Malcolm France, Tim Britton (PC), Will Warren (SM)
Evening theme: Colossians 1:15-23 - A supreme Lord, a sufficient Saviour

Preacher: Will Warren

Our church leaders; neighbouring parishes

Mon 13 9am Simon Fenn visiting the Junior School

7.30pm Small Group leaders meeting

Our prime minister and cabinet

Tue 14 2.30pm Mothers' Union

Shopkeepers and local businesses

Wed 15 2pm Crafts2Share

Our ministry areas: Cornerstone in church

Thu 16 *Mission Partners: Bible Society; CPAS*

Fri 17	<i>The Queen and Royal Family</i>
Sat 18	<i>Tomorrow's worship and teaching; Michelle Proctor</i>
Sun 19	Morning theme: Matthew 4:12-25 - The work begins Preachers: Paul Neale, Will Warren (PC), Philip Bligh (SM) Evening theme: Colossians 1:24-2:5 - The faithful pastor Preacher: Paul Rosier <i>Our church leaders; our church governing bodies (synods)</i>
Mon 20	<i>For those who feel unappreciated. How can we encourage them?</i>
Tue 21	<i>Good governance in... (you choose the country or situation)</i>
Wed 22	<i>For those who are terminally ill</i>
Thu 23	<i>Our ministry areas: Crafts2Share</i>
Fri 24	<i>Mission Partners: London City Mission; Prison Fellowship</i>
Sat 25	10am Incredible Kids Club at Canaan* <i>Tomorrow's worship and teaching; Michelle Proctor</i>
Sun 26	Morning theme: Genesis 12:1-9 - A call and a promise Preachers: Roger Billings (PC), John Graveling (SM) Evening theme: Colossians 2:6-23 - Fullness and freedom Preacher: Will Warren <i>Our church leaders; our bishops and archdeacons</i>
Mon 27	7.30pm PCC <i>Our church finances and administration</i>
Tue 28	<i>Mission Partners: Scripture Union; Tearfund</i>
Wed 29	<i>Emergency services</i>
Thu 30	<i>Refugees and those who seek to help them - and those who don't</i>
Fri 31	<i>Our ministry areas: Graphic design</i>

MISSION PARTNER PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Please continue to pray for:

- Andrew and Maria as they work on fund-raising for further developing the Diocesan retreat centre. Thank God for the completion of the first phase (dormitories and kitchen), and pray for the next phase (meeting room and the old farmhouse);
- Argentina. The outgoing government recently passed made legislative changes that could mean Argentina becoming a new dumping ground for plastic waste;

- families of church leaders who have recently lost their lives. A Rocha, an organisation that inspired much of the work in Argentina, lost three of its top leaders in a horrific car accident in South Africa, and Paulo Paulino, an indigenous environmental leader, was killed because of his activity trying to protect his people's forest and land in Brazil;
- the property development project which will affect a 70-acre property across the road from them. It's a real struggle, and it's proved hard to keep neighbours motivated and engaged. On the bright side, it continues to help them learn more about the intricacies of environmental struggles. Pray for the court case they are dealing with and that a just outcome may be achieved;
- Andrew and Maria' daughter Cecilia as she seeks post-graduate study opportunities in the USA. Their son Tomas is enjoying his new job with an aircraft maintenance consultancy which involves travel to various countries. Their youngest daughter Carolina continues with her veterinary studies.

Bible Society (Contact: David Orsborne)

Find Bible Society's prayer resources at www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/pray-with-us. Please give thanks and pray:

- that Bible Society's Christmas resources will help people understand and respond to the true meaning of Christmas this year and, in the New Year, be prompted to find out more about Jesus and about following Him (www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/christmas);
- for Open the Book, which has been sharing Bible stories with school children for 20 years (www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book), for our local teams as they continue their work in the run-up to Christmas and in the new term in January, and for the special Open the Book presentation at Gresham Village School and all that might follow from that;
- for the more than 23,000 people who are committed to giving the Bible through the 'Bible a Month' club (including one of our Sunday Club groups); that these gifts might bring the life-giving message of Jesus to many (www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/bible-a-month);
- for Bible Society's work in Africa (www.biblesociety.org.uk/what-we-do/around-the-world/in-africa). In the next 10 years, more Christians will live in Africa than on any other continent. Demand for the Bible is unprecedented and it's on the rise. Pray for those working in South Sudan, Swaziland, Congo and Central African Republic to reach the poorest and most marginalized, that Bible Society's work will help lift

them out of poverty and instability, and give them a helping hand by offering them the Bible and the value that the Scriptures bring;

- pray for the impact of Rooted, a discipleship programme developed by Bible Society (www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/rooted). Subscribers get a resource box every two months, by post, to help them grow in Bible understanding and confidence, and explore, record and reflect on what they've read and what it means to live as a follower of Jesus. Their spiritual roots grow deeper while, at the same time, their Rooted subscriptions make a huge difference in the lives of others through the work of Bible Society.

Canaan Christian Centre (Contact: Evelyn Smith)

December:

- praise for new folk coming to the Canaan monthly lunch (very few from Cromer Parish Church) - we're reaching out into rural areas! Pray for the Christmas lunch with Marilyn Baker on Thursday 12th December and for our "Hallelujah Christmas" outreach on Saturday 14th December at 3 pm with Marilyn, Tracy, Kids Club and Daniel. Pray for all taking part, pray for parents to come, and pray for a minibus driver for that day;
- praise for minibus drivers who covered the Hungarians' visit to Canaan in October;
- God supplies our needs. Praise for £700 received for Christmas gifts for Hungarian children. Praise for generous givers!

January:

- pray for the Incredible Kids New Year party with Daniel and puppets on the 11th January. Pray for all the team;
- praise that money came to cover the re-roofing of the Wolery after torrential rain came through, and the cleaning of carpets. Late Gift Aid covered it!
- praise for volunteers cleaning, gardening, driving, helping with children and the lunches;
- praise for bookings at Canaan in December and in 2020.

CPAS (Contact: Jane Loades)

Find the CPAS prayer diary at www.cpas.org.uk/supporting-CPAS/pray and please pray for the three kinds of ministry CPAS is engaged in:

- Leadership development. CPAS runs various courses and conferences: 'The Buck Stops Here' prepares clergy for their first posts in charge of parishes; 'Flourish is a new two-year-long programme from CPAS and LICC to develop the courage, confidence and competence of the

gathered church in mission and sharing faith, enabling Christians to flourish in their scattered 'Monday to Saturday' lives as followers of Christ; 'Arrow' is an eighteen month programme for young church leaders (Will has just completed it); there are training opportunities and packs for PCCs, and books and conferences for those exploring ministry. Pray for the trainers and for those being trained - a new cohort for the Arrow programme begins in February;

- Patronage. CPAS is the 'patron' of many churches in the country, sharing in the selection and support of new vicars. Each incumbent is invited to attend a free leadership training day each year called Looking Up, Looking Forward;
- Ventures and Falcon holidays. These are camps for 8 to 18 year olds (in three different age categories) - Ventures are for church young people's groups (but you don't have to be a church member to come), Falcons are for people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Pray for plans, organisers, leaders and helpers, and for young people as they book up for 2020.

London City Mission (Contact: Elizabeth Bridger)

Please pray:

- for Webber Street centre for the homeless, especially over Christmas. They need a new team leader and assistant leader. Pray for protection, when some guests become violent, and for patience and love at all times and strength to carry on;
- for 'Corner House', the new home at Webber St. for the homeless, with five bedrooms where guests can stay for six months for B&B and evening meal and work each day, to prepare them for living independently when they leave;
- for many lonely and homeless people to be found and offered lasting help over and beyond Christmas which can be the loneliest and saddest time of year for many people;
- for all the plans for outreach over Christmas and New Year at the Christian Centres and Churches and that many people will hear the good news of Jesus around London and find new life in Him;
- for the many carol services and children's and seniors' parties that will be held, that new friendships will be made, and lives transformed through Christ as people hear the Good News;
- for the Mission Team to be refreshed during the Christmas break and be able to have quality family time;
- for the whole family of LCM when they meet together in January for the Week of Prayer as they seek God's guidance for the coming year.

Michelle Proctor (SIM) (Contact: Tim Britton)

Michelle writes:

- 'Give thanks that we have had some rain. Pray that the whole country would have good rains this rainy season especially in areas where there is drought;
- pray that our electricity situation would improve we are without power for up to 15 hours a day making it very difficult to run the hospital as normal.
- give thanks that the building of our new operating theatre is going well. Pray for safety as the roof is put on;
- pray for local churches as they celebrate Christmas that the true meaning of Christmas would be taught and understood;
- pray for me as I juggle several roles, that I would prioritise well and have energy at this hot time of year.'

Prison Fellowship (Contact: Janet Rosier)

December:

- Give thanks for the hundreds of volunteers, especially those at HMP Wayland, who have bought, wrapped and delivered Christmas presents on behalf of prisoners as part of the PF Angel Tree ministry. We contributed over £200 for HMP Wayland;
- pray for prisoners, often alone in their cell on Christmas morning, as they imagine their children opening the present sent on their behalf;
- pray for children receiving a present, often with a personal message from Mum or Dad. Pray that these gifts will have a positive impact and help to make the family become united and stronger;
- pray for volunteers involved with Letter Link - a ministry of PF. Pray that their Christmas letter may be an encouragement to the pen pal in prison;
- pray for the carol service at HMP Bure on Wednesday 18th December which several of our fellowship will be attending. Also pray for Bishop Graham leading a service there on Sunday 22nd December and Bishop Jonathan leading the Christmas Day service there. Remember chaplains all over the country leading carol services and Christmas Day services.

January:

- Thank God for all our experiences of the past year. Pray for prisoners who were released last year that they will not re-offend but find housing and work and the support they need to live in society once again. Give thanks for rooms in four houses owned by House of Genesis in Norwich which gives this support;

- give thanks that many prisoners have a family to return to. Pray that as the group dynamics change with another member of the family now living in that household the necessary adjustments can be made. Also pray that the parent who has been both mother and father and been responsible for running the home, discipline etc. will be able to “hand over” some of these roles;
- pray for prisoners facing another year inside. Pray for those who feel hopeless, are depressed, are self-harming and desperate. Pray that prisoner officers, chaplains, and visitors may be sensitive, and the Holy Spirit will give them the right words to comfort and encourage and to share words of hope;
- pray for families, especially the children, who face another year of travelling, often long journeys, to visit their family member in prison. Give thanks for volunteers at family centres who offer a welcome and provide a place for the children to play. Spurgeons is responsible for this at HMP Norwich.

Scripture Union (Contact: David Orsborne)

Find SU's 'Connecting you' prayer diary at both worship centres and other prayer resources at content.scriptureunion.org.uk/support-us/prayer. Please give thanks and pray:

- that Scripture Union's beautiful Christmas book, '*God Became Like Me*' will show children how much they mean to God and will continue to bear fruit throughout 2020 (content.scriptureunion.org.uk/help-share-real-meaning-christmas-thousands-children);
- for the continued development of SU's sports ministry (content.scriptureunion.org.uk/what-we-do/mission-through-sport), that God will enable strong connections with children and young people outside the church and provide opportunities for the language and activity of sport “to collide naturally with the language of faith”;
- for the success of Rooted, Scripture Union's new resource for youth ministry (content.scriptureunion.org.uk/resource/rooted). Rooted nurtures lifelong, authentic faith by offering an innovative and flexible framework for long-term relational ministry with young people. It can be used in any context, with any level of faith development and with any level of ability. It starts where young people are at - culturally, in their interests and passions, and at their faith stage - and seeks to provide space for each young person to grow, flourish and be nurtured in a safe, committed and compassionate Christian community. Pray that Rooted might be widely used - including in and around North Norfolk - and help many young people discover a transforming relationship with Jesus;

- for the impact of SU's 95 Campaign (content.scriptureunion.org.uk/95-campaign), gathering, equipping and encouraging those with a heart for the 95% of children and young people who are not in church, and that God will draw many in Cromer Church to this work and make 2020 a year of real breakthrough;
- for SU's schools ministry (content.scriptureunion.org.uk/what-we-do/schools-ministry), that it might continue to provide great opportunities for children to explore the good news of Jesus, inspire, encourage and equip churches to connect with their local schools and enable children and young people across the country to discover the difference Jesus can make to the challenges and adventures of life.

Tearfund (Contacts: Judith Anderson and Lynda Brown)

In both December and January:

- please pray for people like "Martha" in N. E. Nigeria, who lost her husband and two of her children when their home was attacked one night. On that night in 2018, 14 rural communities were attacked, and more than 10,000 people were displaced. Tearfund's partner, RURCON, is working in camps providing mattresses and emergency and hygiene supplies. Praise God that RURCON also addresses the spiritual needs, and that Martha herself has come to know God's goodness and protection;
- thank God for the success of another nationwide BIG QUIZ NIGHT. We give praise also to God that ours at St Martin's was such a great evening that many enjoyed. Pray that the money raised will be able to help families like Martha's;
- pray for an end to the Civil war in the Yemen that has left 10 million people at risk of starvation;
- thank our Father God for the stories of hope that are coming out of Yemen. One couple live with their four sons in one room, and Samed has to send his wife and children out to beg as he has scoliosis; but Tearfund partners registered the family on their food security project, so they are now assured of a regular basic supply of food.

<p>Please send prayer requests for February to Tim Britton by Monday 20th January.</p>
