



CROMERCHURCH

transforming lives with Jesus Christ

Prayer Diary - April 2020

*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 is rather different, because all events have been cancelled or postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Worship will be streamed over the Internet from Cromer Church at 10.30am on Sundays and Wednesdays. (To access it, you will need to use this link: www.youtube.com/channel/UC0ySrZRxcovTLvIL136AHuQ/ and click the "Subscribe" button. This will take you to the CromerChurch channel.)

EVENTS AND PRAYER SUGGESTIONS FOR APRIL

*Please check weekly publicity for details and updates.
This month's mission prayer is for our own outreach over Easter.
See below for all mission partner requests.*

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| Wed 1 | 10.30 Internet Service (see above)
<i>Our ministry areas: Men's ministry; men's socials</i> |
| Thu 2 | <i>Mission Partners: Canaan; CPAS</i> |
| Fri 3 | <i>People isolated by the coronavirus outbreak</i> |
| Sat 4 | <i>Tomorrow's worship and teaching via the Internet</i> |
| Sun 5 | <i>Palm Sunday</i>
10.30 Internet Service (see above)
<i>Our church leaders; neighbouring parishes</i> |
| Mon 6 | <i>Mission Partners: Andrew Leake; Bible Society</i> |

- Tue 7** *The persecuted church (see below)*
- Wed 8** **10.30 Internet Service (see above)**
Our government in this time of crisis
- Thu 9** *Our ministry areas: Mission representatives; music*
- Fri 10** Good Friday
For a greater sense of God's love in Christ
- Sat 11** *Tomorrow's worship and teaching via the Internet*
- Sun 12** Easter Day
10.30 Internet Service (see above)
Pray for deeper assurance of forgiveness and eternal life
Our church leaders; our bishops and archdeacons
- Mon 13** *Businesses affected by the current restrictions*
- Tue 14** *Mission Partners: London City Mission; Michelle Proctor*
- Wed 15** **10.30 Internet Service (see above)**
Small groups keeping in contact with each other
- Thu 16** *That Christians will be light and salt in their neighbourhoods*
- Fri 17** *Our ministry areas: Open the Book (visiting three schools now)*
- Sat 18** *Tomorrow's worship and teaching via the Internet*
- Sun 19** **10.30 Internet Service (see above)**
Our church leaders; our church governing bodies (synods)
- Mon 20** *For the NHS and all its staff in this crisis*
- Tue 21** *For those who care for the elderly and vulnerable*
- Wed 22** **10.30 Internet Service (see above)**
Mission Partners: Prison Fellowship; Scripture Union
- Thu 23** *For young people feeling bored - and those who look after them!*
- Fri 24** *For action against climate change to continue*
- Sat 25** *Tomorrow's worship and teaching via the Internet*
- Sun 26** **10.30 Internet Service (see above)**
Our church leaders; our other local church leaders
- Mon 27** *Our ministry areas: pastoral care; practical help*

Tue 28 *For growth in praise and thanksgiving*

Wed 29 **10.30 Internet Service (see above)**
For our emergency services

Thu 30 *Mission Partner: Tearfund*

The persecuted church: Worldwide (Contact: Ken Nash)

Recent research shows that religious persecution is increasing world-wide. People are being persecuted, tortured and killed just because they belong to a religious minority. A report prepared by the Bishop of Truro again confirmed that Christians are the most persecuted group. Persecution is “growing in scale and intensity.” The report added that the reaction of the international community has been lacking and largely ineffective. *ADF International*

MISSION PARTNER PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Andrew writes:

At the time of writing we are into the third day of lockdown, although Argentina has so far registered less than 300 cases. There is a realization here that the health system cannot cope, so the emphasis has been on early mandatory lockdowns.

Prayer-wise the priority now shifts to the virus and how we can best respond as a church. Not easy. The significant uncertainty here is what may happen with the virus when (no longer if) the weaker sectors of Argentina society, especially indigenous communities.

Amid the crisis, we count our blessings. Fortunately, we are all at home. Carolina’s university classes have been moved to the web. Tomas has no work for the foreseeable future. My work continues from home, with no travel plans. We are digging the garden and planting vegetables!

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:

- for the new children’s mission centre in Eswatini: for the generosity that made it possible, for the vision and passion of the team who created it, for the thousands of children who will encounter God, through the Bible, at the centre, for those in Eswatini translating the Bible into sign language and for the deaf children who will experience the Bible through these stories (www.biblesociety.org.uk/content/get_involved/word_in_action/files/2020/PIA_march_june_2020.pdf);

- for the work of *Open the Book*, especially for local teams (www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book);
- for the impact of Home360, a powerful, immersive film that uses the latest Virtual Reality technology, to show the Bible in a way that people will have never experienced before. Home360 shows drama in a modern-day home, the parable of the Prodigal Son and an overview of the Bible's big story, touching on ideas of love, loss, forgiveness and belonging - themes common to every audience. Pray that God will prepare the hearts of visitors and make them receptive to the message, and that Home360 will make them want to find out more about the Bible (www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/home360);
- for the opportunity that the Psalm 23 Garden at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show affords to take this beautiful Psalm to a global audience. Pray for a positive impact on the judges and the media and, through them, the public and visitors (www.biblesociety.org.uk/psalm-23).

Canaan Christian Centre (Contact: Evelyn Smith)

This month:

- Brian Anderson our project manager for Hungary requests urgent prayer for his daughter Jessica, husband Andy and young Franchesca who are in Ecuador with CMS. They need to return to the UK urgently due to health reasons and the date for leaving is very close. Ecuador has strict measures and planes can be cancelled at any time. Until Jessica is declared well, she will not be able to fly. They need a direct flight to Europe which will be expensive;
- our incredible kids need prayer as we have had to postpone meetings because of illness. We are going to keep in touch with them by surprise packages of quizzes, activity sheets, palm crosses, and surprise items so they can learn by post and get an award if they have tried to complete the activities. A bit like a children's correspondence course!
- praise for the fruit of the Spirit evidenced in our team and children which is encouraging;
- pray for members of the team who are not well.

CPAS (Contact: Jane Loades)

Find the CPAS prayer diary at www.cpas.org.uk/supporting-CPAS/pray.

This month please pray for all those who work for CPAS at this difficult time in our history.

"Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayers of your servants who delight in revering your name" Nehemiah ch1 v11.

London City Mission (Contact: Elizabeth Bridger)

Please pray for:

- Abbie at Hope Community Homes, Brixton, and for the very vulnerable men living there having moved in off the streets some months ago. One is shortly moving into more long-term accommodation; pray that he will settle well and learn, with mentoring, to live a more stable life;
- the weekly Bible studies to be able to continue;
- for new referrals to come later this year;
- 'all the lonely people' who normally attend language classes, toddler groups etc, where lonely women find friendship and support; and for all the elderly who attend drop-in centres. Above all, pray for these folk to find the love and friendship of Jesus;
- all the missionaries who may be restricted from visiting and that the Mission will be able to find creative ways of keeping in touch with all their contacts, and to use these unprecedentedly difficult and testing times as a Gospel opportunity;
- all the missionaries who may experience times of frustration and doubt that they will know the comfort and strength of the Lord and to be able to support and encourage each other;
- Victor who plans all the deputation visits around the country, as he will not be able to arrange for missionaries to visit churches such as ours to speak about the work of the Mission, till churches can open again;
- pray that the current crisis will not affect the resources of LCM adversely and that the Lord will continue to meet all their needs so that the Gospel will be preached, and many find the Lord at this critical time.

Michelle Proctor (SIM) (Contact: Tim Britton)

This month:

- give thanks that so far Zambia has very few cases of coronavirus and pray it will stay this way;
- pray for the hospital as we prepare for possible cases. We are poorly resourced to deal with this and have no ventilators for those that may need them;
- none of our expected overseas volunteer doctors can travel at the moment meaning an increased workload for us. Pray for strength and stamina for our medical staff;
- pray for me in my member care role in these potentially difficult times, as I try to support and encourage our team.

Prison Fellowship (Contact: Janet Rosier)

This month:

- thank God for the chaplains and volunteers in the chaplaincy who will be journeying with men and women in their prison through Holy Week and sharing its message of hope. May God give them fresh energy and joy as they serve this week;
- as we remember Jesus' death for us this Easter, give thanks that his love reaches out to all - even those written off by society like the criminal who hung next to Jesus;
- as we remember Jesus' resurrection, praise God for this gift of life, love and grace and the promise of eternal life. We believe no one is beyond God's love and forgiveness - neither those in prison nor those who have their freedom;
- pray for those in prison who are struggling in darkness with mental health issues, thoughts of suicide and depression. Pray they would come to know that God is with them in their despair and can bring hope and peace. May they come from darkness to Jesus the light of the world;
- pray that the coronavirus would not enter our prisons and that the governors will make wise decisions, especially whether the prisoners can receive visitors.

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:

- for Rooted, a simple but revolutionary youth work framework to help churches build relationships with the many teenagers who are lonely, unhappy and struggling to find a sense of purpose in a world driven by social media, with its fake news and hype. Pray that Rooted will help them develop solid foundations of faith and identity and to thrive;
- for the Bible focus group as it explores how best to help the 95 (the 95% of children and young people currently not involved with church) engage with the Bible in meaningful ways and discover more about Jesus. Pray that the tools being developed will enable staff and other workers to help the 95 explore the Bible for themselves;
- for *Guardians of Ancora*, which gets right to the heart of ministry to the 95, going where children are but the gospel often isn't: in the digital world. Pray that many more will discover Jesus, perhaps for the first time, as they play the game;

- for SU's *Mission through sport* ministry (content.scriptureunion.org.uk/what-we-do/mission-through-sport);
- for the specific prayer needs mentioned in *Connecting you* (which are also online at content.scriptureunion.org.uk/story/prayers-march-may-2020#slice-text-pw-slice-10253).

Tearfund (Contacts: Judith Anderson and Lynda Brown)

This month:

- please pray for Tearfund as they launch a Climate 2020 year of prayer. Thank God for the response of those who came to the CLIMATE 2020 Prayer afternoon in March. We had much feedback as to how moved people were. Pray that this will not be forgotten as we continue to pray for our world situation;
- pray for the world at this uncertain time as the coronavirus is affecting the whole world. Pray for those working with TEARFUND as they pray for protection and wisdom in dealing with this unprecedented global situation.
- A promise: In Isaiah 41:10 God says, "Do not fear, for I am with you."
- And finally: believe that this may be the opportunity in our generation for the church to be known globally for its brave and compassionate response.

Please send prayer requests for May to Tim Britton
by Monday 20th April.