

APRIL – JULY 2024



CARE
FOR WHAT
YOU BELIEVE

CARE Prayer Diary

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The chaffinch (pictured on our cover) is widespread across the UK with a vibrant song and a wide variety of calls to claim territory, attract a mate and – just sing! Apparently, chaffinches have regional accents, and they are one of the species that each morning join in the dawn chorus of beautifully complex and varied songs. Half of all the world's 11,000 known species are classified as songbirds. How amazing that God has created them all and given them a voice to praise Him and bless those of us who are listening!



'Ask the beasts, and they will teach you; the birds of the heavens, and they will tell you; or the bushes of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you... In His hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.'
JOB 12:7-10 (ESV)

The CARE Prayer Diary is written by Rev. Celia Bowring.
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Revd. Celia Bowring

APRIL 21 – 27

VALUES IN EDUCATION



APRIL 18-24: GLOBAL ACTION WEEK FOR EDUCATION

SUN
21

Holy, loving Creator, we thank You for the 'statutes, precepts, commands and fear of the Lord' that are the foundation of the true spiritual wisdom revealed in Your Word. Please help us to guard our children's hearts and minds by teaching them these, Your ways: at home, in church, among friends and in school. In Jesus' name. Amen.

MON
22

Father, we intercede that the Church's goal to put children and young people at the heart of ministry, especially in partnership with schools, will result in many becoming Christians and would strengthen the values of faith, forgiveness and generosity within their communities. In Your mercy. Amen. (growingfaithconnections.org)

TUES
23

Gracious God, please help church leaders, chaplains, Christian organisations, parents, headteachers, staff, governors and pupils to be 'light and salt' in their schools through speech and action that honours You, demonstrates Christ's love and cherishes those around them. By Your grace. Amen.

WED
24

Lord, please grant determination, compassion and wisdom to those responsible for education in countries where many children, especially girls, lack opportunities to learn. We ask You to provide for and help teachers to impart excellent moral and spiritual values alongside essential academic knowledge and skills. In Jesus' name. Amen.

'Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honourable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.'

PHILIPPIANS 4:8 (NLT)

THURS
25

God of truth and love, we pray that government policies on Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE), 'designed to give pupils the knowledge they need to lead happy, safe, and healthy lives and to foster respect for other people' will not pressurise children to question their sexual identity, act inappropriately or accept 'gender theory' that denies biology and biblical belief. For Christ's sake. Amen.

FRI
26

Holy Spirit, thank You for raising up intercessors to pray blessing on our schools and all who learn and work in them, often facing difficulties and always in need of Your wisdom and strength. Please continue to inspire Christians to make it a priority to pray for their local schools. In Jesus' name. Amen. (prayforschools.org)

SAT
27

Lord of all wisdom and knowledge, thank You for the statutory requirement for school children to be encouraged to respect 'British values' that are based on Your ways of freedom, fairness and respect for others. We pray for these ideals not to be eroded or twisted but rather strengthened according to Your truth and grace. Amen.

The Government requires all schools to promote fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. There is the additional 'duty to help prevent the risk of people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.' This includes safeguarding learners from extremist ideologies.

APRIL 28 – MAY 4

MUSIC



SUN
28

Holy Spirit, please inspire and sanctify Your people as we worship You with music, especially those who write songs and hymns, play instruments and lead others in praise. We pray for those who serve in this way to glorify Jesus as they plan, practise and present their music to the congregation. By Your grace. Amen.

MON
29

INTERNATIONAL DANCE DAY

Creator God, we thank You for the activity, enjoyment, artistry and beauty that dance can bring, reflecting global cultures and expressing many ideas and emotions through its music and movement. Please watch over performers in their demanding work and strict disciplines and protect them from injury and any other harm. In Jesus' name. Amen

TUES
30

Father, we pray for the 210,000 people working in the music industry contributing almost £7 billion to the UK economy each year. Please help those who are struggling to make a living; victims of unfair contracts, misogyny, racism and other bad attitudes; and those stressed from tough work situations. Through Your unfailing love. Amen.

WED
1

Lord, we praise You for the gift of music, a universal language that transcends barriers. Help us to use it to glorify Your name, to find solace during times of distress, and to celebrate Your goodness in times of joy. May our hearts always be instruments, playing the melody of Your love and faithfulness. Amen. (Prayer from biblelyfe.com)

'I laid the foundations of the earth ... as the morning stars sang together, and all the angels shouted for joy.' JOB 38:4,7 (NLT)
'Sing to Him; yes, sing His praises. Tell everyone about His wonderful deeds. Exult in His holy name; rejoice, you who worship the Lord.' PSALM 105:2,3 (NLT)

THURS
2

Lord, we pray for Christian composers, performers, sound technicians and others working in the world of music. May they bring rhythms, harmonies and melodies that spring from Your heart as they devote themselves to their music and relate to colleagues, audiences, teachers and students in ways that please You. For Christ's sake. Amen.

FRI
3

Lord our Healer, thank You for the therapeutic power of creating and listening to music that brings relief for many physical, emotional and neural conditions. Please grant insight, creativity and patience to music therapists working with people at every stage of life. In Jesus' name. Amen.

SAT
4

INTERNATIONAL DAWN CHORUS DAY IS TOMORROW (5 May)

Thank You, Lord, that we can enjoy the incomparable music of birds whose singing greets the dawn throughout the earth. Please bless every initiative that is seeking to protect endangered species and address the serious decrease in numbers of birds, partly due to pollution and certain harmful farming practices. In Your mercy. Amen.

'We can't hear it with our ears, but the stars in the sky are performing a concert, one that never stops. The biggest stars make the lowest, deepest sounds, like tubas and double basses. Small stars have high-pitched voices, like celestial flutes ... Like bubbles rising in a pot of boiling water, sound waves move through a star's interior because of temperature changes ... This causes the whole star to expand and contract, in effect ringing the star like a bell.' (Elizabeth Landau, NASA Exoplanet Exploration Program.)

MAY 5 – 11

THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD



SUN
5

God of mercy and truth, please help us to accept and apply the truths of Your inspired Word to our lives – teaching us to do what is right, alerting us to what is wrong. Thank You for this priceless gift that the Spirit gives to prepare and equip us to do every good work. By Your grace. Amen. (2 Timothy 3:15-17)

MON
6

DEAF AWARENESS WEEK

begins: 6-12 May

Father, thank You for ministries dedicated to making Christian disciples among the deaf community. We pray for churches to be equipped to welcome deaf people, ensuring their needs are understood and considered. In Jesus' name. Amen.

TUES
7

Holy Spirit, thank You for the many ways in which children and young people can access Scripture: using printed and audio Bibles, picture books, videos, songs, games, Sunday School and other groups and following other people's examples. May Your Word encourage them to know, trust and faithfully follow Jesus. In His name. Amen.

WED
8

Lord Jesus, You challenged the devil when he came to tempt You in the desert by quoting scripture. Thank You that the same powerful Word, the sword of the Spirit, is available to us to overcome evil. May we be diligent to put on Your armour of truth, righteousness, peace and faith as a daily spiritual practice. In Your mercy. Amen.

THURS
9

ASCENSION DAY

Lord Jesus, we rejoice that You went to the cross to save us from our sins, rose victoriously from the grave and ascended in glory and triumph to sit at the Father's right hand, as our glorious King! We lift our hearts in praise for Your eternal mercy and grace, praying for the Holy Spirit to kindle faith, holiness and love in our lives. Hallelujah! Amen.

FRI
10

Thank You, Lord, for Your everlasting Word of life: the divine seed planted in human hearts throughout all generations – transforming lives, building Your Church and growing the kingdom of God. We pray that theologians, preachers, pastors and teachers will faithfully guard its truth, and share it with others. In Jesus' name. Amen.

SAT
11

Father, we intercede for those who have a specific gift of evangelism. Please fill them with Your Spirit as they preach the gospel to people who do not yet believe or realise their need of a Saviour, to speak faithfully of Your goodness and mercy, so that many will be moved to turn from their sin and give You their lives. For Christ's sake. Amen.

'The word of God is alive and active, sharper than any double-edged sword. It cuts all the way through, to where soul and spirit meet, to where joints and marrow come together. It judges the desires and thoughts of the heart. There is nothing that can be hid from God; everything in all creation is exposed and lies open before his eyes.' HEBREWS 4:12,13 (GNT)

'I want to know one thing, the way to heaven: how to land safe on that happy shore. God himself has condescended to teach the way; for this very end he came from heaven. He has written it down in a book! Oh, give me that book! At any price, give me the book of God! I have it: here is knowledge enough for me. Let me be a man of one book.' (John Wesley)

MAY 12 – 18

THE GOVERNMENT OF PEOPLE



SUN 12 Sovereign God, we know that yesterday, today and tomorrow lie under Your control. 'You rule over everything. Power and might are in Your hand, and at Your discretion people are made great and given strength.' May those to whom You have given authority to govern recognise this. In Jesus' name. Amen. (1 Chronicles 29:11,12)

MON 13 Lord of the nations, as we look ahead to the General Election, please inspire politicians with imagination and sound strategies to reform and reinvigorate the NHS, education, the economy, national security, peaceful community life, support for the most vulnerable and proper provision for the poor. In Your mercy. Amen.

TUES 14 Father, we commend to You all who serve their communities as local councillors, mayors and police and crime commissioners. May they work together productively, promoting respect and unity for the benefit of everyone they represent, across many areas of social responsibility. For Christ's sake. Amen.

WED 15 Lord, we intercede that UK Parliaments and the NI Assembly will reach righteous conclusions on issues of life and liberty especially as they consider our freedom of expression, religion and belief, proposed legalisation on assisted suicide, further liberalisation of abortion laws and other ethical concerns. In Jesus' name. Amen.

'Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. The authorities are God's servants, sent for your good.' ROMANS 13:1,4 (NLT)

THURS 16 God of all power, we remember countries where poverty, racial inequality, unrest and corruption prevent progress, peace and prosperity. Please raise up wise and honest leaders to govern justly and establish agreements that will ensure the needs of their people are met, especially those in greatest need. In Your mercy. Amen.

FRI 17 Lord, our patient reconciler, thank You that two years after being suspended, the NI Assembly was reinstated in February this year. Please grant grace to MLAs from unionist, nationalist and cross-community political parties to work together to benefit all who live in the six counties of NI. In Jesus' name. Amen.

SAT 18 Lord, we pray about elections taking place in 2024 amidst clampdowns on people's freedom in many so-called democratic states, and problems of AI-generated disinformation. Please help those in the UN and other inter-governmental organisations to encourage free and fair elections throughout the world. In Your mercy. Amen.

During 2024, more than two billion voters are heading to the polls in 50 countries including seven of the world's ten most populous nations, representing nearly half of the global population (Bangladesh, India, United States, Indonesia, Pakistan, Russia, Mexico.) In June, 400 million voters across 27 member countries will elect 720 members of the European Parliament.

MAY 19 – 25

GAMBLING HARMS



SUN
19

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Lord Jesus, we celebrate the Holy Spirit's coming in power upon Your Church 2,000 years ago and pray for His strength to go with holy boldness to share the gospel, receive His gifts and graces, and grow the spiritual fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control in our lives. To Your glory. Amen.

MON
20

Lord of justice, we intercede for existing UK legislation to be strengthened and robust new laws passed to protect problem gamblers from further harm and bring the betting industry to account. Grant wisdom to those who serve on the APPG for Gambling Related Harm and others who are championing this cause. In Your mercy. Amen.

TUES
21

Dear Lord, we pray that more people will register with GamStop – an initiative first proposed by CARE – to self-exclude from online gambling. Please grant insight and wisdom to those who counsel individuals and raise up more Christian-based resources undergirded with prayer and inspired by biblical wisdom. In Jesus name. Amen.

WED
22

Father, we intercede for people with an extreme gambling addiction as they face the dreadful prospect of financial ruin, homelessness, relationship breakdown and major health issues. Please help problem gamblers to face up to their situation and find support to recover and rebuild their lives. In Your mercy. Amen.

'I love God's law with all my heart. But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord.'
ROMANS 7:22-25 (NLT)

THURS
23

Father, we pray for the estimated 85,000 11 to 16-year-olds who are being lured into gambling habits by spending time and money on betting activities such as online gaming. Please help them to realise the potential damage to their lives and take steps to stop. For Christ's sake. Amen.

FRI
24

Mighty God, we thank You for every person who has succeeded in breaking free from a serious gambling problem, and the encouragement their story gives to others. Please help them to keep going and not fall back into betting or other addictive habits that will cause harm to them and to those around them. In Jesus' name. Amen.

SAT
25

Lord of truth and justice, with relentless, persuasive gambling advertising and sponsorship now so linked to sport, many young people and adults consider betting to be a normal and essential part of enjoying sport. We pray for government and other influential bodies to demand greater restrictions in this area. In Jesus' name. Amen.

The UK has one of the world's biggest and most accessible gambling industries, generating £14 billion in 2022. The Gambling Commission reports that 2.5% of the adult British population, about 1.3 million people, may struggle with problem gambling. 26% of British adults gamble online. Stigma and shame mean many conceal their addiction so true figures are probably higher.

MAY 26 – JUNE 1

LEADERSHIP WITH INTEGRITY



CARE Leadership Programme cohort 2023-24

SUN
26

Lord Jesus, we remember those called to be spiritual leaders: to preach, teach, trailblaze and fulfil other ministries. Protect them from any snares of the enemy, hold them close through prayerful surrender and may they be accountable to other believers. In Your mercy. Amen.

MON
27

King of kings, we intercede that the Judeo-Christian foundation on which our country's culture and democratic values were established will remain firm despite the acceptance of many secular beliefs and attitudes across society. Please grant us leaders who desire to build on this heritage in our ever-changing world. In Christ's name. Amen.

TUES
28

Lord of goodness and truth, we pray that young people will increasingly reject the shallowness of 'celebrity culture'. Please raise up more inspiring individuals as authentic role models of honesty, self-discipline, purity, faith, compassion and vision. For Christ's sake. Amen.

WED
29

Father God, we pray for Christians in positions of leadership throughout society to be diligent in seeking the wisdom, humility and integrity that flows from Your Spirit to apply to their work and relationships. May they demonstrate Christlike servant-heartedness in all their work, acting for the good of all. By Your grace. Amen.

'Having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.'
PHILIPPIANS 2:2-4 (NIV)

THURS
30

Saviour, we remember with sadness those in positions of influence within the Church who have fallen morally and been required to withdraw from ministry. Please help them to repent and be restored in their relationship with You and comfort those who feel sorely wounded because of their failings. In Your mercy. Amen.

FRI
31

Thank You, Lord, for the almost 400 Christian graduates on CARE's Leadership Programme over the last 30 years learning together to apply their faith to public service and leadership roles. Please encourage these alumni and the current cohort to live and work to fulfil Your purposes in and through their lives. In Jesus name. Amen.

SAT
1

Sovereign God, we intercede for places in the world whose leaders are self-serving and oppressive, depriving people's rights to freedom and denying them the resources and opportunities to flourish. Please replace them with leaders of integrity. For Christ's sake. Amen.

'The world needs leaders who cannot be bought; whose word is their bond; who put character above wealth; possess opinions and a will; are larger than their vocations; do not hesitate to take chances; will not lose their individuality in a crowd; will be honest in small things as in great things; will make no compromise with wrong; whose ambitions are not confined to their own selfish desires...' (Unknown author, quoted by Ted Engstrom (1916-2006) American evangelical leader and author)

JUNE 2 – 8

RESTORING THE NATURAL WORLD



SUN
2

Almighty God, we lift to You this beautiful world, given to us to nurture and cultivate. We confess we have often failed in stewarding it well and beseech You to grant the vision, will and strategy to undo the damage caused. We hope our children and grandchildren succeed in this endeavour. For Christ's sake. Amen.

MON
3

Lord, we intercede that more world leaders would accept their responsibility to take action on the Paris Agreement targets to reduce carbon emissions enough to limit a global temperature increase of 1.5°C. Grant unity and wisdom to those addressing this critical situation. In Jesus' name. Amen.

TUES
4

God of hope and new life, please bless those involved in 'rewilding' projects renewing nature's remarkable web of life, original habitats, natural processes and, where appropriate, missing species. Grant them success for Jesus' sake. Amen. (rewildingbritain.org.uk)

WED
5

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY:
focusing on land restoration,
desertification, and drought resilience.

God of new beginnings, we pray for innovative solutions across areas of the world where the land is degraded, eroded and infertile. Please grant wisdom and resources for those involved in planting suitable trees and plants, enriching the soil, managing water efficiently and supporting local communities. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

THURS
6

Thank You, Lord, for the dedication and skill of those engaging in research in the Antarctic,

providing information and advice that can help the Government to plan and manage the risks of extreme weather events, meet net-zero targets, and build a climate-resilient UK over coming decades. May Your favour rest upon them. Amen.

FRI
7

WORLD FOOD SAFETY DAY

Father, we remember the 600 million people affected every year by foodborne illness causing 420,000 preventable deaths, mainly in poor communities and among the young. We pray for safer food production, and better hygiene practices to be rolled out across the world. In Your mercy. Amen.

SAT
8

WORLD OCEANS DAY: 'Exploring the impact oceans have on our everyday lives'

Lord of Creation, we pray that this Day would alert more people to the urgent need to restore our seas and oceans, and to develop initiatives to solve problems of pollution, over-fishing, destruction of habitats and the creatures they shelter. By Your grace. Amen.

We rely on the ocean for food security, transportation, coastal defences and much more. Unsustainable and destructive fishing practices, greenhouse gas emissions, chemical and noise pollution, ocean mining, plastic pollution and transportation all threaten the future of our oceans, but too often these issues are out of sight and out of mind. This World Oceans Day seeks to challenge this 'sea blindness' and shine a light on what can be done to protect our marine environments.

JUNE 9 – 15

TRANSPORT SYSTEMS



SUN
9

Dear God, please protect and show mercy to the millions in the UK who travel each day by road, rail, sea and air. We ask for Your comfort and healing for those affected by the frequent and tragic deaths and injuries on our roads. We pray for improved safety measures. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

MON
10

Lord, we pray about the critical shortage of 50,000 qualified HGV drivers, due to an aging workforce, rising costs and growing demands for the transportation of essential supplies. We pray for more people to apply for training. In Jesus name. Amen.

TUES
11

God of justice, we intercede for a breakthrough in the long-running disputes about train drivers' pay and conditions, resulting in repeated rail strikes disrupting services and causing millions of passengers' lost work-days. Please help the union leaders, politicians and others involved to reach a lasting fair settlement. In Your mercy. Amen.

WED
12

Dear Lord, we remember with gratitude the continual service of hundreds of ferries that enable goods, vehicles and passengers to cross seas and rivers within the UK and to mainland Europe. Please watch over the crews who ply these routes throughout the year, in all weathers, that they will reach harbour safely. By Your grace. Amen.

'Some set sail in big ships ... to do business in faraway ports. Out at sea you saw God in action ... With a word He called up the wind—an ocean storm, towering waves! ... you called out to God in your desperate condition ... He quieted the wind down to a whisper, put a muzzle on all the big waves ... He led you safely back to harbour. So thank God for His marvellous love.'
PSALM 107: 23-30 (MESSAGE)

THURS
13

Father, we pray for people living in isolated communities that lack adequate transport services to workplaces, receive medical attention, do their shopping and visit friends and family. Please guide those in the Department of Transport into sound decisions that benefit the whole country. In Your compassion. Amen.

FRI
14

Father, thank You for the ministry of The Mission to Seafarers whose ordained and lay chaplains and welfare officers visit over 200 ports in 50 countries day and night, 365 days a year. Please guide them to those who need help and extend their work to many other places. For Christ's sake. Amen. (missiontoseafarers.org)

SAT
15

Lord, we remember those working in the UK aviation industry supporting over one million jobs and generating £24 billion for the national economy, still recovering from the effects of Covid and struggling to recruit staff in the air and on the ground. May everyone be kept safe and able to fulfil their duties well. By Your grace. Amen.

22,000 UK seafarers and almost two million worldwide work on 74,000 ships transporting over 90% of the world's goods and fuels. Many face serious challenges: money worries, lack of facilities on board, long periods from home, danger from conflict, piracy, shipwreck and abandonment (when unscrupulous vessel owners abandon their ships because of financial or legal problems), loneliness and mental health issues.

JUNE 16 – 22

CARING FOR VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS



JUNE 17-23: CHILDREN'S HOSPICE WEEK (togetherforshortlives.org.uk)

SUN
16

Lord, we intercede for the one in three children in Britain (the highest proportion in Europe) who live without a father because of death, relationship breakdown, unavoidable separation, or through his own choice. We also pray that men who are unfairly denied the right to see their children by family courts will receive true justice. In Your mercy. Amen.

MON
17

Gentle Saviour, we lift to You the 99,000 children across the UK who have life-limiting or life-threatening conditions. Please bless all who work, volunteer and fundraise for the 54 children's hospices and within other palliative services supporting families facing the heartbreak that their child will die young. In Your name. Amen.

TUES
18

Lord, we pray for more effective legal frameworks and practical measures to end homelessness across Britain; to predict situations where people are at risk and ensure that immediate emergency accommodation is available. In Jesus' name. Amen.

WED
19

God of hope, we ask for wisdom, resources and compassion for church-based projects reaching out to the hungry, homeless, those in debt and those facing other troubles. Thank You for national initiatives like Cinnamon Network and Nayba, equipping churches for social community action. Through Your grace. Amen.

'See, the Sovereign Lord comes ... He tends His flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them close to His heart; He gently leads those that have young ... He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.' ROMANS 15:5-7 (ESV)

THURS
20

WORLD REFUGEE DAY: to support refugees, help raise awareness and advocate for their rights.

Gracious Father, may today lead us to empathise more with the struggles and hardships refugees face, acknowledge their courage and strength in starting anew and be ready to join others in helping them. In Jesus' name. Amen.

FRI
21

God our Healer, thank You for the work of Christian organisations

such as Youthscape, that train church youth leaders to help young people struggling with loneliness, self-harm and other mental health and social issues. We pray for many lives to be transformed by their caring programmes and ministries. In Jesus' name. Amen.

SAT
22

Lord, we pray for the 600 people leaving prison every month with nowhere to live and little prospect of finding a job. Please help the overstretched prison and probation services in their efforts to assist them and reduce reoffending rates. Please bless the work of organisations that offer advice and practical support. For Christ's sake. Amen.

'While women weep, as they do now, I'll fight. While little children go hungry, as they do now, I'll fight. While men go to prison, in and out, in and out, as they do now, I'll fight. While there is a drunkard left, while there is a poor lost girl upon the streets, while there remains one dark soul without the light of God, I'll fight to the very end!' (William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army.)

JUNE 23 – 29

SEEKING GLOBAL PEACE



SUN
23

Sovereign God, thank You that we can confidently hold on to the hope and promise of eternal peace as we trust in Christ, knowing this will come to pass fully when He returns to restore and redeem the earth. Please help us to live at peace with one another and to earnestly pray for those in turmoil and trouble. In Jesus' name. Amen.

MON
24

Prince of peace, we intercede for our war-torn world where millions are caught up in conflict and violence, many forced to leave their homes. Please grant them courage and protection, and help every agency working to bring food supplies, shelter, medical assistance, education and hope to people in need. In Your mercy. Amen.

TUES
25

Lord, please help many Christians to be peacemakers within workplaces, families, communities, and other groups and situations where there is bitterness and strife. Grant them courage and calm where they are caught in the crossfire and empower them to share the gospel of forgiveness wherever possible. In Jesus' name. Amen.

WED
26

Mighty God, please restrain evil leaders of strong nations and factions who plot destruction and violence through stockpiling increasingly lethal weapons and attacking their neighbours in order to increase their power to oppress and steal what is not theirs. Grant mercy to those who suffer and rescue the perishing! In Your name. Amen.

'He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.'
ISAIAH 2:4 (NIV)

THURS
27

Father, please bring greater attention to the violation of tens of thousands of child soldiers throughout the world forced into armed conflict and suffering neglect, sexual abuse, harsh labour and unimaginable fear. We intercede for this to end and remember the victims – each known and loved by You. For Christ's sake. Amen.

FRI
28

Thank You, Lord, for all who seek to reconcile warring parties, including UN Peacekeeping currently working in twelve operations across the globe. We pray for Christians involved in these and similar initiatives, may they trust that Your justice will one day be done. In Jesus' name. Amen.

SAT
29

ARMED FORCES DAY Father, we remember those who serve full time in the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Airforce, the 34,000 reservists and tens of thousands of veterans, many in need of ongoing support. Please grant wisdom to senior officers and others responsible for the welfare, training and organisation of our vitally important armed forces. In Your mercy. Amen.

For 75 years, UN Peacekeeping has tried to help countries navigate the difficult path from conflict to peace. Peacekeepers are called upon to maintain peace and security, facilitate the political process, protect civilians, assist in the disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration of former combatants, organise elections, protect human rights and assist in the creation and restoration of rule of law.

JUNE 30 – JULY 6

COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



SUN
30

Lord of compassion and mercy, we lift to you women, children and men who are exploited sexually. Please send help to those desperate to escape, and grant wisdom to those working to strengthen our laws to protect vulnerable people and convict perpetrators. For Christ's sake. Amen.

MON
1

Father, we ask that Scottish Government plans for a national hub to support women to exit safely out of prostitution will lead to legislation that will criminalise the purchase of sex, as in Northern Ireland. We pray for similar moves to be championed by increasing numbers of peers and MPs in Westminster. In Jesus' name. Amen.

TUES
2

Lord, please help men with addictions to pornography, who abuse women and children and pay for sex, unwilling or unable to break free. We pray too for traffickers, pimps and others who make money from the misery and degradation of victims to cease what they are doing and repent. By Your transforming power. Amen.

WED
3

O God, we know that You are unspeakably heartbroken and angry at the vicious abuse of a million children, mostly girls, through prostitution, 'sex tourism,' online pornography and grooming. We intercede for people to stand up and demand robust international measures to prevent, protect and prosecute. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

THURS
4

Merciful Lord, as Operation Stovewood closes, which identified 1,367 crimes, arrested 209 individuals, and saw 20 people sent to prison following the 1997-2013 Rochdale child sex abuse scandal, we pray for the hundreds of survivors to find strength to overcome past trauma and find hope for their future. By Your grace. Amen.

FRI
5

Lord, we give thanks for the many organisations such as Beyond the Streets and its affiliates that reach out to people exploited for sex. Strengthen them in all compassion, and grant knowledge and the legal, social and therapeutic expertise to help survivors to exit prostitution and rebuild their lives. In Your mercy. Amen.


SAT
6

God of justice, we pray about the estimated 56,000 UK students who are resorting to sex work to cover their bills, partly due to the lack of part-time jobs. We ask for better statutory funding so no one feels they have to make this choice and those involved would quit, many turning to You in their troubles. In Jesus name. Amen.

'Our charity, inspired by Christian values, works alongside and on behalf of women involved in the UK sex industry. There is an urgent need for holistic, national and specialist support to help them pursue genuine alternatives, free from constraints such as poverty, drug dependency, and abuses of vulnerability. We also offer training, research, collaboration to other projects and are committed to acceptance, value and mutual respect for all.' (beyondthestreets.org.uk)

JULY 7 – 13

CONVICTION AND CIVILITY



May Christians be courageous and clear about God's truth whilst demonstrating His grace by listening with respect and compassion. May our society return to these values for the sake of justice, peace and freedom.

SUN
7

Father, may Your Church set an example of 'disagreeing well' by reasoned discussion and true tolerance. We pray for the debate within the Anglican Church about prayers of blessing for same-sex couples – may people have courage of their convictions but deal honourably with disagreements. For Christ's sake. Amen.

MON
8

God of grace and truth, we intercede for tighter controls and tougher penalties in relation to abusive online messages sent to public figures. Please help the police to convict offenders, and social media platforms to block toxic material which attacks individuals and undermines our democracy and freedoms. In Your mercy. Amen.

TUES
9

Lord, we bring to You concerns about a growing 'cancel culture' that calls out and silences anyone who disagrees with current ideas such as gender theory – that biological sex and 'gender identity' are not the same. Help us to challenge genuine hatred but confidently and graciously express biblical opinions. By Your grace. Amen.

WED
10

Gracious Father, please show mercy to this rising generation that is dismissive of the Bible and unaware of our nation's age-old Judeo-Christian foundations. May Christians who teach and work in schools, colleges and universities be discerning and faithful in guiding children and young adults to consider Your truth. In Jesus' name. Amen.

THURS
11

Jesus our Redeemer, we know the message of salvation, found only through Your death and resurrection, is 'a stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall', and that many Christians have laid down their lives for its truth. Help us share the gospel even when people speak against us. For Your glory. Amen.

FRI
12

Lord, thank You for creating opportunities for CARE and other Christian organisations and individuals to demonstrate conviction and civility in the public square. Continue to encourage politicians and others to respond to rudeness and abuse by listening, before firmly sharing their opinions courteously. By Your grace. Amen.

SAT
13

Holy God, we remember those who are publicly challenging beliefs and attitudes that go against Your Word on ethical matters such as human sexuality and gender, end of life, protecting the most vulnerable and upholding freedom. Help them to be brave, convincing and respectful as they express their views. In Jesus' name. Amen. mercy. Amen.

'There are many Christians who are strong on convictions, but you wouldn't really want them to represent you in any public way because ... they do it [in a way that is] not very civil in its engagement and loving and caring for the other person. Then you have Christians who are so civil, so loving, so caring, that you have no idea what they stand for. So there's this tension that you want to live out.' (Dr. Mark Yarhouse of Dallas Theological Seminary)

JULY 14 – 20

CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH



SUN
14

Jesus our Saviour, we intercede for many more children to come to know You. Send Your Spirit to guard their hearts and minds from the temptations, snares and emptiness of the secular culture in which they are growing up and reveal to them the Father's steadfast love. In Your name. Amen.

MON
15

WORLD YOUTH SKILLS DAY

God of Creation, we pray that young people will be equipped with skills for employment, entrepreneurship, and personal development to prepare for adulthood. Please help governments to find solutions to high levels of youth unemployment, and inadequate education and training. In Jesus' name. Amen.

TUES
16

Lord, we remember the almost 110,000 children in the UK who are in care, many having experienced abuse, neglect or other trauma. We pray too for the 11,000 young people aged 16, 17 or 18 leaving the care system every year with little support to find work and accommodation and to manage their finances. In Your mercy. Amen.

WED
17

Father, we continue to pray about both the amazing opportunities and the risks that young people face online. May the Online Safety Bill be robust and effective in protecting them from accessing harmful material: pornography, encouragement to self-harm, online bullying, radicalisation and other toxic content. In Jesus' name. Amen.

'You who are young, be happy while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see but know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment.'
ECCLESIASTES 11:9 (NIV)

THURS
18

Lord, we pray for the success of initiatives that seek to protect and rescue vulnerable young people, especially children in care and those excluded from school, who have been caught up in knife crime, criminal gangs, drugs, sexual exploitation and other dangers. Please help them to escape and recover their lives. In Your mercy. Amen.

FRI
19

Thank You, Father, for all who work with pre-school children and in schools, colleges and universities. Please give them all they need to inspire and support those under their care to gain vital life skills, grow in resilience and character, and develop understanding, knowledge and insight through their learning. For Christ's sake. Amen.

SAT
20

Sovereign God, please send Your Spirit of love and power to inspire and enable those with a passion to share the gospel to reverse the declining number of young people identifying as Christians and so raise up a new generation to love and serve You. In Your mercy. Amen.

Nearly three-quarters of young Britons now identify as having no religion. The number of under 16s in the Church of England has fallen by 20% in five years. Three-quarters of Anglican churches have less than five under 16s in their congregation and just over a third have none. This is likely also to be the same for other denominations. If something is not done to halt the decline, they conclude in a recent report, we could hit ground zero within a decade: children and young people could be entirely absent from our churches.



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