

This Prayer Calendar is provided to encourage us to pray for one another within the fellowship of Affinity.

Information is provided each month by our Partners, Associates and Churches. If you wish information for prayer to be included in the Prayer Calendar please send it to us at least 10 days before the end of the month in which you would like it to appear.

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- 1** Pray for the **Free Church of Scotland** as they seek a person to become their full-time camps administrator. Applications close on January 8. <https://freechurch.org/news/vacancy-camps-administrator>
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- 2** Pray for the team at **Union School of Theology** as they prepare for the year ahead.
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- 3** Pray for the three students at the Reformed Theological College, Belfast (**Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland**) as they preach at midweek services on 3 and 8 January and are evaluated by the College Committee.
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- 4** The **Association of Grace Baptist Churches South East** continue to search for someone to head up their governance and practical ministries role. Pray for the right person to take on this increasingly important role.
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- 5** Pray for small **AECW** churches in the South Wales as they follow up contacts made with people from their community who attended the various Christmas events. Noddfa Church in Abersychan, which has 25 members, hosted their third Carols Under the Arch event which was attended by more than 500 people, including many families.
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- 6** Pray for the **Africa Inland Mission** team on an Indian Ocean Island, which is strongly influenced by Islam and where open proclamation of the gospel invites opposition for missionaries, and conversion to Christianity can bring persecution for locals. As the team hopes to welcome three new members soon, pray for their preparation, fundraising and goodbyes to family and friends, and that they will settle in quickly.
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- 7** **Frontiers** ask us to pray for the Muslim peoples of the Caucasus, living in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Dagestan and Georgia - and the southernmost parts of the Russian Federation. The diversity and complexity of languages there hinder people from hearing and receiving the Word of God. New workers are desperately needed to go and make disciples among the Muslim people groups that still have no one telling them about Jesus Christ. More information: www.frontiers.org.uk/latest/pray-now.php
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- 8** **The Good Book Company** ask us to pray for fruit from all the resources that went out over Christmas - asking that the Lord would open blind eyes to the good news of the gospel and that he would grow Christians in their love for the Lord. Please pray for their staff who have had a very busy Autumn - that they would be prayerful and excited to start the New Year ready to serve and get resources out to churches and individual Christians. Please also pray for the team in the US office after recent staff changes.
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- 9** What do mosquito nets, water buffalo, sewing machines and outdoor toilets have in common? Each one meets profound needs for families in Asia and provides an opportunity for them to experience God's even greater gift: his Son. These and many other gifts are found in **Gospel for Asia's** World's Christmas Gift Catalogue. Some provide an impoverished family with a source of income, while others help them gain a higher quality of life through better health and education. As we celebrate Christ's birth, please join in praying for these life-changing gifts.
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Pray for the launch this month of '**SASRA** Fast and Pray 2019', that many supporters will join with them in this prayer initiative on the 11th day of each month throughout the year.

11

Pray for the **FIEC** Hub Conference which takes place this weekend for those on their journey into full-time ministry. Please pray for wisdom for those attending and those advising them.

12

Grace Baptist Partnership would value prayer for the first of three training days for those interested in evangelism and church planting in Bedfordshire at Dunstable Baptist Church on 12 January.

13

2019 will see **Christian Safeguarding Services** become a charity. Pray for the trustees and partners as they work with staff to make this happen. This is a big step for CSS but they believe it is the right thing to do to be better able to serve churches.

14

Pray for the doctrine module of **Church Society's** Priscilla Programme starting today, for the students to grow in their understanding of their faith and to be better equipped to explain and defend it.

15

Pray that **Barnabas Fund's** Parliamentary reception and book launch at Westminster today, commemorating the 300-year anniversary of Parliament beginning repeal of the Test Acts, will raise awareness amongst MPs about the urgent need to preserve our religious freedoms. The repeal of Acts that had excluded people who didn't hold a required set of beliefs from various professions – including teaching and politics – led to the religious freedoms enjoyed in the UK and other Western countries today.

16

Daylight Christian Prison Trust give thanks for continued opportunities to run services, Bible studies and courses in many prisons across the UK. Pray that this year Christian prisoners will continue to be encouraged and grow in their faith and that those who are not saved will be challenged as they hear the gospel.

17

Pray that **International Presbyterian Church** in Larbert, near Falkirk, can quickly finalise the purchase of a site for their planned building.

18

ReachAcross thank us for the support and prayers through the Affinity prayer network throughout 2018. They are grateful and honoured to have been lifted up to the Lord by us all. Praise God for a mid-term (three-year) mission worker going to West Africa in January – in a different country from the rest of the team. Please pray that she will be able to raise the necessary support in the short time remaining, and that the Lord will be preparing her spiritually, physically and emotionally for this time.

19

The **Evangelical Movement of Wales** are holding two regional training days for churches. From 10.00am-4.00pm, the north event is today in Colwyn Bay and the south event is on 26 January in Bridgend. Pray for all the speakers and for many people to be better equipped for service as a result of attending.

20

Pray for **Christian Concern** as they recruit for another Wilberforce Academy in September 2019. Pray that many young Christians would come and be encouraged to live out their Christian faith boldly. Pray also that CC would continue to have a fruitful dialogue with the University of Oxford and be able to find a suitable venue for the event. <https://wilberforceacademy.org.uk/>

21

Blenheim Free Church (FIEC), Maidenhead, ask us to pray that they may continue to grow in grace and the likeness of Christ our Lord and that they may be useful, fruitful Christians serving one another and sharing the good news with those outside the kingdom throughout 2019.

22

Peterhead Congregational Church ask prayer for a new venture with their youth as they begin the new year. They are seeking to bring young people in contact with the older generation to befriend each other and to talk about the Christian faith. Pray that all that is done will be to the glory of God.

23

Pray for **Sharing Christ Internationally's** meeting for information, praise, prayer and business this Saturday, 10.30-4.30 at the Discovery Centre, Sherbourne Road, Bradford BD7 1RB. Drinks provided, bring a packed lunch. All are welcome to attend. Further information from mandypatterson@btinternet.com

24

Dunstable Baptist Church would value prayer as they commence a church revitalisation project at the Baptist Church in Linslade, beginning this month.

25

Pray for 'Sarah' (not her real name), a victim of one of the worst cases of Islamic sex-grooming, as **Christian Concern** support her through this ordeal and do all they can to seek justice for everything she has been through. Pray that justice would be done and that the government would realise the scale of the problem and do something to protect the many victims of sex-grooming, like Sarah. <https://www.christianconcern.com/our-issues/islam/prayer-alert-pray-for-sarah-victim-of-worst-sex-grooming-case>

26

Pray for the usefulness for all who attend of **OSCAR's** re-entry course for returning mission workers and their supporters which is being run today.

27

The Jubilee Centre have just published a new booklet that aims to dispel some of the sensationalism around AI, whilst offering a distinctly biblical analysis. *Artificially Intelligent?* looks at the myths, present realities and future trajectories of AI and will enable Christian leaders in church, business and public service to make informed responses to AI that are rooted in their faith. Pray for the booklet to be widely useful.

28

Pray for the Trust Board of the **FIEC** as they meet together today and tomorrow, for a fruitful time which will lead to gospel advance among the churches of the Fellowship.

29

Praise God for the Employment Team at **Edward Connor Solicitors** who seek to help churches and Christian organisations, and their staff and volunteers. Pray for wisdom for them as they take on an increasing amount of advisory and contentious legal work and seek to provide excellent Christ-centred legal advice.

30

Pray for the planning for the forthcoming **Affinity** Theological Study Conference, 13-15 March, on the theme of corporate worship in the local church. Pray that many would come and be helped to think biblically about this important issue.

31

The women's work in the local community run by **New Life Church, Middlesbrough**, is thriving. Rachel, Chell and Lauren are building a number of links in the local community and there is something going on every day. Since they are without their own building they are having to be inventive where they meet, so far having activities held in the local library, hairdressers and a hired hall. Please pray for fruit from this work.

If you would like more information about the Affinity Partners and Associates mentioned in the Prayer Calendar, you will find their website addresses on the Affinity website – www.affinity.org.uk.

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Please send entries for the February Prayer Calendar to us by 20 January.