

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 member agencies, churches and organisations. We also include prayer requests from churches within our wider network. 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.

1 Pray for the **Free Church of Scotland** Mission Board which is meeting today (1 December). Pray for wisdom and guidance as they seek to make decisions, and vision to see God glorified throughout Scotland and the world.

2 During Advent, **Frontiers** asks we pray for the land Jesus called home, the region of Galilee. Praise God that the Light of the World stepped down into the darkness of human suffering. Thank God that some Arab and Jewish Christians want to reach their neighbours with the Good News. Pray that their sacrificial love will be light for their Muslim and Jewish friends and neighbours. Pray for more Frontiers workers to be Christ's light to Muslims in Galilee and Israel.

3 Please pray for DR Congo, where **Africa Inland Mission** work, as the country continues to suffer internal conflict. Clashes between the army and the rebel M23 group have increased since last month, and at the time of writing, fighting had moved closer to the city of Goma, which borders Rwanda. Please pray for peace to come to DR Congo, and for protection for civilians against being caught up in the fighting.

4 Pray for **Little Hill Church, Wigston's** three carol services to be God honouring, joyful and to have gospel impact. Pray also for good numbers of unbelieving family members to hear the gospel on Christmas Day.

5 Pray for those who **ReachAcross** seek to share the Gospel with; for softened hearts, conviction of sin, understanding of grace and for their salvation. Pray that all ReachAcross missionaries will have many opportunities to share their faith regularly. Pray also that Glenn (UK Director) and Stuart's (Ireland Co-ordinator) recent trip to Eastern Europe will forge links with various churches and ministries for future mission partnerships with ReachAcross.

6 Pray for Garry Williams leading a Doctrine Study Day at **London Seminary** on the Incarnation for pastors in Sheffield, and Matthew Mason leading a day in Cambridge on the Ethics of Transgender for the Pastors' Academy of London Seminary. Both events are happening tomorrow (7 December).

7 Please pray for the **Church Society** Council as they meet today (7 December), for useful discussions and wise decisions, as they seek to contend for biblical faithfulness in the Church of England. Pray especially for Andrew Towner as Chairman of the council.

8 Please pray for **Peterhead Congregational Church's** services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day later this month, that through faithful preaching many will hear and respond to the good news of the Gospel. Pray too as they begin their 'Warm Space' for individuals and families and provide lunches. Pray the church will root all the ministry they do in the Lord Jesus Christ.

9 Give thanks for **Edward Connor Solicitor's** in-person staff day this month – a great way of connecting, fellowshiping and envisioning for their staff. Pray it would be a fruitful time for the team, and that as many staff can avoid illness and travel strikes to make it.

10 Join the **Free Church of Scotland (FCS)** in giving thanks to God for His blessing and provision for the many camps which took place over the summer, the Big Free Rally in October and all the young people who attended. Please pray for the 28 churches which have been engaged with the FCS Church Development Track. Give thanks for the good ideas generated and for the rich friendships formed.

11 **Cornerstone UK** give thanks that God answered our prayers for a new CEO who will start in January 2023. They also give thanks for other filled vacancies. God has been working in people's hearts, calling them to the amazing mission of fostering. Please continue to pray more Christians will come forward to be foster carers.

12 Pray for **UFM** mission partners around the world as they seek to share the gospel with those around them this Christmastime. Pray too for a good response for mission partners who are supporting people in Ukraine in these cold winter months, as they launch a 'Warmth for Ukraine' appeal to buy sleeping bags.

13 Give thanks that many prisoners will attend services hosted by **Daylight Christian Prison Trust** and receive seasonal written material over the Advent and Christmas period. Please pray that this contact will be an encouragement to those who are believers and that others will be challenged to think about where they stand spiritually.

14 Give thanks for everyone who took part in **London City Mission's** 'Sleepout' last month – sleeping rough for one night to raise money for those who are homeless in London. Pray for more awareness around the issue of homelessness and for the Church in London to develop a culture in which the marginalised can find hope and belonging.

15 Pray for Moses Tulesigensi the newly ordained and inducted pastor of Castle Street Church, Tredegar. Pray for his ministry to the church and outreach to this South Wales community. The church is affiliated with Affinity Corporate members the **EFCC** and **Associating Evangelical Churches of Wales (AECW)**.

16 Join the **Association of Grace Baptist Churches South East (AGBCSE)** in giving thanks for the recent Association Day in October and for five new churches that joined AGBCSE. Please also pray for the various Christmas events happening across AGBCSE churches this month, that they may provide evangelistic opportunities and encouragement to many.

17 Pray military personnel would hear of the true meaning of Christmas through the witness of **SASRA** Scripture Readers, and that many would call on the name of the Lord and be saved.

18 Give thanks to God for the **Barnabas Aid**-funded Hope Clinic in Pakistan's Sindh province, which is providing quality health services to poor Christians that they could otherwise not afford. In its first year, the qualified Christian medical staff of Hope Clinic helped 6,890 patients, almost double the expected number. At the time of writing, medical team members were travelling to flood-affected areas of the province to reach Christian brothers and sisters in need, as cases of water-borne diseases were rising. Pray for the continued success of this medical ministry that is bringing both physical and spiritual comfort to impoverished Christian communities.

19 Pray for the churches and charities who **Access Insurance** support doing Kingdom work and outreach this Christmas as well as for Access Insurance staff at this busy time of year.

20 **Blenheim Free Church, Maidenhead**, plan to hold a 'carols in the car park' this week, on Christmas Eve. Previously this has attracted a number of local residents – two who now regularly attend the church. Please pray for dry weather and a good local response.

- 21** Please continue to pray for former school chaplain Rev. Dr Bernard Randall who was dismissed for a chapel sermon saying that people should be free to disagree with identity politics. **Christian Concern** are supporting him and are currently awaiting judgment from the Employment Tribunal.
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- 22** Please continue to pray that **Crosslands** will appoint the right people as the team grows. Pray for their new Cultivate Cohort which starts in January, that all the final details would be sorted out and that this programme would bless the wider church. Pray also that Foundation courses would be a significant and supportive tool for growth in local churches.
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- 23** The **Evangelical Fellowship of Congregational Churches** ask us to pray for their churches as they reach out to their local communities through services this week. Pray that the Lord would bring fruit to the ministry of the Word as it is preached and shared.
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- 24** Please pray for members of the **True Freedom Trust** who find the Christmas season difficult owing to their choice to remain single and/or celibate. Pray that the Church would provide a good community for those feeling lonely during this time.
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- 25** Pray that even amidst the rampant secularism and consumerism of this day, many will sense the emptiness of their lives and seek the Lord by his Word at among the gathering of his people. Pray that many churches that witness to the incarnation of the Son of God today will see hearts and lives changed by the gospel.
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- 26** **Solas** is seeking to recruit an additional evangelist/apologist for Scotland, to work with Andy Bannister and the team. Please pray for this process, that the right person will be found and that there will be many won for Christ as a result.
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- 27** Please pray for Graham Nicholls, Director of **Affinity**, who regularly gets invited to speak to the media about topics affecting Christians and churches. Please pray God would give him boldness and clarity of speech. Pray also for more opportunities to share grace and truth across many media outlets throughout 2023.
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- 28** **Christian Focus Publications (CFP)** ask us to pray that as we move forward into what is a very different world to the one we lived in a few years ago, we focus on the Word who never changes. May their decisions regarding the books CFP produce reflect the fact that we and our world need to know God and trust in him.
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- 29** Praise God for local believers who **Africa Inland Mission** support on the Indian Ocean Islands who are boldly living out their faith in Jesus. Some are boldly showing compassion and love to others because of Jesus, others are courageously staying faithful to him while under a lot of pressure from their unbelieving families. Please pray for God's protection over believers and that they will 'shine like stars as [they] hold firmly to the word of life.' (Philippians 2:15-16)
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- 30** Please pray for the **FIEC's** final preparations for 'The Hub' – a conference for those considering a role in church ministry – happening next month (13 - 15 January).
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- 31** In 2022 **Affinity** welcomed three new churches and six Christian organisations into membership bringing the total membership to over 100 church denominations, individual churches and evangelical agencies based in the UK and Ireland. Please pray for Affinity as we go into a new year, that God will provide for us materially and give wisdom on how to nurture unity between the 1,200 churches and evangelical organisations in our network.

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