

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 North Africa is home to hundreds of millions of Muslims, but in the time of the early church, this region nurtured thriving Christian communities. Today a small regional church is increasingly bold. **Frontiers** ask that we pray for the church to grow in unity and multiply. Many Muslim young people feel jaded with the religious, political, and economic status quo and there is a new spiritual openness as they search for hope and purpose. Others are blinded as they practice folk Islam. Pray for increasing spiritual openness and for many to discover Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

2 Dr Ros Clarke, Associate Director of **Church Society**, is speaking today (2 May) to the Co-Mission network leaders on the Song of Songs, and then speaking tomorrow (3 May) to the Bishop Jewel Society about the Coronation and Establishment. Please pray that God will use these talks to refresh and encourage those who are in attendance.

3 **Blenheim Free Church, Maidenhead**, are inviting neighbours to join them in a street party to celebrate the coronation of King Charles. Pray for good evangelistic conversations and an opportunity to follow up with interested friends.

4 The **Association of Christian Teachers** share a number of key challenges facing the education system at the moment, all of which we can pray over as we strive to be salt and light: Schools will be receiving government guidance regarding trans pupils imminently, pray for wisdom for Christian teachers as they seek to know how best to respond; There will also be a review of materials being presented to children in RSE, pray that this review will protect Christian views. This review has been stimulated by concerns that certain political views on gender are being presented to children in biased ways. Lastly please pray for a quick resolution to the ongoing industrial action arranged by Teaching Unions.

5 Please pray for the **Evangelical Movement of Wales'** Pastors' Wives' Conference that will be held today and tomorrow (5-6 May). Pray that it will be an opportunity for these ladies to rest, be blessed and grow in fellowship with each other and with the Lord. Please pray for James and Martha Sercombe who will be teaching. Please also pray for the Spring Break – a holiday that is held later this month (15-20 May) at Bryn-y-groes Centre, Bala.

6 When fierce fighting broke out last month in Khartoum, the Sudanese capital, many Christians were too poor to flee the violence. Recent years have been full of ups and downs for Sudanese Christians. Decades of severe persecution were brought to an end by a new government in 2019, until a coup in 2021 began to reduce the newly-established religious liberty. **Barnabas Aid** ask us to pray that the Lord's hand will guide events in Sudan and that He will keep and protect Sudanese Christians.

7 Pray for troops who are involved in the developing situation in Sudan. When **SASRA** Readers encounter those who are deploying, pray the Holy Spirit would lead conversations in such a way that they could direct service personnel to our faithful God, His promises and the gospel of Jesus. Please also pray that God would strengthen and sustain the 6,000 members of the Armed Forces who are participating in the Coronation of King Charles III this weekend (6-7 May). In particular, pray for Army Scripture Reader Josh Fortune as he supports men and women serving in the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment. May he have wisdom on how best to serve them amid the heat and the stress and ask that he could tell many about the King of kings, our Lord Jesus Christ.

- 8 Give thanks for encouragements from **Daylight Christian Prison Trust** Bible study groups, with new prisoners coming along who have good questions and a real enthusiasm for learning more from God's Word.
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- 9 Please pray for plans that the government has to outlaw so-called 'conversion therapy'. Pray for **Christian Concern** as they continue to encourage Christians to challenge unbiblical laws – they have recently launched a dedicated website to explain why we should oppose any such ban to criminalise consensual conversations (freetotalk.org).
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- 10 Please pray for the ongoing government review into Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) content, and its potential implications for **Lovewise** who provide presentations on the subjects of marriage, sex and relationships from a Christian perspective in schools.
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- 11 Please pray for the **Evangelical Housing Association** Committee meeting and AGM happening today (11 May). Pray the EHA would have wisdom with their resources and serve their tenants faithfully throughout the year.
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- 12 The **Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Ireland (EPCI)** Annual Presbytery Day Conference is happening tomorrow (13 May). Annual reports will be provided and the new Moderator of the Presbytery, Rev. Robert Johnston, will be installed. Pray for God's blessing as members of the EPCI fellowship together.
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- 13 Pray for the Healthy Church Gathering, hosted by the **Free Church of Scotland**, which is taking place in Inverness today (13 May). Pray that the gathering will be a blessing to those who attend and that God would continue growing healthy, gospel-centred churches in the Inverness, Lochaber and Ross areas of Scotland. Pray for the Principal Clerk's office as they read through many reports and prepare for the General Assembly later this month (22-25 May). Give thanks for their diligent work at this time.
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- 14 With the funerals of three church members in the last three months pray that God would comfort the families concerned and the whole church family at **Little Hill Church, Wigston**. Pray that each in the church would learn to number their days, that they might gain a heart of wisdom.
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- 15 Please pray for Marcus Honeysett as he speaks about 'Powerful Leaders: When Church Leadership Goes Wrong And How to Prevent It' at a **Grace Baptist Partnership** Leadership Lunch at Dunstable Baptist Church today (15 May).
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- 16 Pray for Paul, a new convert in Iran who **AsiaLink** have connected with. Paul was recently rescued by God from addiction and introduced to the Saviour who loves him and gave Himself for him. Pray that Paul will find fellowship in this country where being a Christian is very difficult. Pray that he would continue to read and meditate on God's word and share with others the miracle, both spiritual and physical, which has taken place in his life.
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- 17 **London City Mission** is hosting their annual Open Day on Saturday (20 May) for supporters and anyone curious to find out more about the Mission. Pray that as attendees hear stories from the missionaries and visit the areas where ministry takes place, they would be inspired and encouraged about how God is at work across London.
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- 18 Please pray for the students from the Reformed Theological College, part of the **Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland**, who are on placement in local congregations for this month and next (May and June). Pray that they will be a blessing to the congregations where they've been placed and will gain vital experience for their futures in church ministry.
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- 19 **Jubilee Baptist Church, Occold**, have their church away day at the Red House Farm Faith Mission Centre tomorrow (20 May). Please pray for the church as they launch their new vision for the church and area and pray for all those who are leading sessions.
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- 20 Pray for **Cor Deo's** Peter Mead and Mike Chalmers who are at the European Leadership Forum in Poland this week (20-25 May). They are part of the team leading the Bible Teachers and Preachers Network. Pray for opportunities to encourage and help preachers in Europe.
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- 21 Pray for Simon as he speaks in Hampshire on behalf of **True Freedom Trust** today (21 May). Pray for God's wisdom as he seeks to help parents navigate some of the challenges their children are experiencing around identity.
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- 22** Please pray for the **FIEC** conferences this week for women in ministry (Thrive, 22-24 May) and ministry wives (Ministry Wives Retreat, 24-26 May). Pray they would be a good time of rest, encouragement, and building relationships.
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- 23** Please pray for all those who are in desperate need of safe housing who **Caring For Life (CfL)** are seeking to support. Praise God for the homes that have been found recently for some of those being cared for by CfL. Pray that each person will be safe and feel settled in their own home.
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- 24** Pray for the churches who are using **Crosslands'** Foundations short course materials. Pray they would be useful for equipping church members, small group leaders, interns and elders for discipleship and ministry. Pray also for those who are considering applying to the Crosslands Seminary programme which will be starting in September 2023.
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- 25** Please pray for the **UFM** summer teams that are planned for this year in Moldova, Italy, Hungary and South Africa, each serving alongside UFM long-term mission partners. There are still spaces in the South Africa and Hungary teams. Please pray for each team member and the preparation for each of these opportunities.
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- 26** Please pray for the following three **International Presbyterian Churches**: Christ Church Central Leeds who are thankful for the steady growth and stream of visitors, pray for a bigger building, and training of elders and deacons; Pray that Grace Church Larbert will find a permanent venue, for God to send new people, and for conversions; Lastly, join St Peter's Liss in giving thanks for new visitors, pray for new leaders (especially elders) and wise development of their historic building.
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- 27** Please pray for Rev. Dr James Robson as he looks forward to starting as Principal at **Oak Hill College** in September. Please pray for Johnny Jukes and his family as they plan for the next season beyond Oak Hill. Also, give thanks for the appointment of Thomas Renz who will be starting as a full-time lecturer in Old Testament also from September. Pray for the upcoming Equip event on 'How we respond to divine violence in the Old Testament', pray that it will be a helpful session thinking about an issue which is not only apologetic in nature, but also has profound consequences for our own personal Christian faith.
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- 28** **Kingdom Bank** are grateful for the opportunity to serve UK churches with financial services that enable them to flourish. They're seeing an ever-growing demand for mortgages for both churches and ministry workers. As the Lord continues to grow his Church, please pray that he would inspire individuals and organisations to place their savings with Kingdom Bank so that they can continue to lend responsibly to ministries across the country.
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- 29** Please pray for the provision of ministers for **Evangelical Presbyterian Church of England and Wales (EPCEW)** churches where there are vacancie and for the Lord to protect and provide for EPCEW church plants. Pray also for wisdom as a denomination, as they handle some difficult situations. Lastly give thanks for the new building at Oxford Evangelical Presbyterian Church and for the Lord's sustaining hand upon the church over the years.
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- 30** Give thanks to God for **Crossteach** supporters who are continuing to support their work through prayer, volunteering and giving. Pray the Lord will sustain these good relationships for the future. Please pray for the children and young people who have attended Crossteach clubs, assemblies, lessons and experiences in the past. Pray that they will remember the truths from God's word and that He will keep watch over them.
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- 31** Please pray for those who continue to come to the Warm Space run by **Peterhead Congregational Church**. Give thanks that some are coming to church. Pray for the preparations for Peterhead's Children's Summer Club and their work with other churches. Pray that God will go before them in all they do.
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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.