

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 five days before the end of the month in which you would like it to appear.

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- 1** Give thanks to the Lord for a successful two weeks of residentials for **Crosslands** seminary students and pray that they will be able to continue to progress well with their studies. Pray for the many churches who will start using the Crosslands Foundation courses this term that they will be challenged and also be blessed by it. Lastly, give thanks that the number of churches Crosslands are able to support locally is growing.
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- 2** Pray for the **Free Church of Scotland** 'Commission of Assembly' happening tomorrow (3 October). Ask God for His guidance and wisdom for the leaders – may their decisions and deliberations align with His will for the church.
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- 3** Please pray for the Opening Service for the new session at Reformed Theological College (operated by the **Reformed Presbyterian Church in Ireland**) this evening (3 October) at 8pm. Please pray for the two students entering their final year of study.
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- 4** Please pray for **Peterhead Congregational Church's** continuing work with a local primary school. The whole school – 380 children, with staff and parents – will be attending the church for a Harvest Service tomorrow (5 October). Pray that those who hear the gospel message will respond and want to know more. Pray also for the continuing growth of the church.
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- 5** This week **Hayes Town Chapel** has some outreach opportunities within the town, today (5 October) they have a book table in Hayes town centre as part of their outreach to the town, which will be followed by a weekly evangelistic caused called 'Come and see' seeking to engage those on the fringe by looking through John's gospel. Please pray for those attending that the Lord would open their eyes to see Jesus. Then on Saturday (8 October), the church will host an evangelistic harvest supper, with Al Gibbs speaking. Please pray that the Lord would work in hearts to call people to himself.
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- 6** Please pray for those who regularly preach the word of God at **Little Hill Church, Wigston**, who will be starting the first of three seminars on preaching. Pray that through these sessions these individuals will be better equipped to preach the gospel faithfully.
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- 7** Give thanks to the Lord as **Oak Hill College** starts the 2023/24 academic year, God has sent many men and women who are full of love for him and for people, to train for ministry this year. Pray that everyone who serves and studies at Oak Hill will be rooted and established ever more deeply in Christ, particularly pray for the new Principal, James Robson, as he takes up the reins of leadership in the coming weeks. Please also pray for the Graduation event happening today (7 October), and join the college in praising the Lord for all the ways the graduates grew in Christlikeness during their training and for all they learned. Ask the Lord to use them mightily in his service in the new places and ministries he's taken them to.
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- 8** Please pray for the family of Sudiksha Thirumalesh, who are being supported by **Christian Concern**, as they grieve the loss of their wonderful 19-year-old daughter, sister and cousin. Pray that the publicity around her case would help to bring about changes to the way that these end-of-life cases are handled so that anonymity is not forced on families and that doctors respect wishes about treatment and care.
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- 9** **CARE** have just opened applications for their 2024/25 Leadership Programme. Please pray they get a good cohort of applicants and for wisdom as they assess and then offer placements for next year. Pray too for the existing graduates who have begun their placements in parliament, both in London and Edinburgh.
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- 10 Please pray for the protection of Christians who **Barnabas Aid** support in Myanmar who have suffered severe violence for decades at the hands of their country's armed forces. Countless Christian villages have been attacked, creating large numbers of internally displaced people. Church buildings are also a frequent target. Ask that our Christian brothers and sisters, some of whom have had to uproot and flee attacks several times, may find peace and stability in the Lord our rock. Pray that their faith will be firm and that they will know the perfect love which casts out fear.
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- 11 Please pray for **Access Insurance** as they look to grow and support more churches, charities and ministries throughout the rest of the year. Pray for the work and variety of ministries supporting so many different people and doing good to others.
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- 12 Pray for the **Sharing Christ Internationally (SCI)** trustees as they tackle the task of developing the mission agency by appointing officers to help the organisation run efficiently to serve Jesus and his mission. Pray also that God would use SCI to draw many Mongolians to himself.
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- 13 Pray for Ros Clarke, Associate Director of **Church Society**, speaking to Oak Hill ordinands about contending for the gospel in the Church of England today (13 October).
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- 14 Please pray for all the staff and pupils who **Christian Schools' Trust** work with as they get stuck into the Autumn term. Pray this first term goes smoothly and that all pupils will feel secure, settled and well-supported as they attend a Christian school.
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- 15 Give thanks that prisoners continue to appreciate the **Daylight Christian Prison Trust** Letter Writing Ministry. Please pray that Daylight volunteers will be given wisdom as they write to inmates, seeking to share their faith through these letters.
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- 16 Please pray for **Grace Baptist Partnership's** Autumn Leadership Lunch with Paul Watts happening today (16 October) at Dunstable Baptist Church. They will be focusing on the theme of Watts' recent book, 'Gospel-Driven Change', and discussing how to navigate reform in the local church.
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- 17 James Eglinton is giving a week of special lectures at **London Seminary** this week (17-20 October) and is delivering the Lloyd-Jones Memorial Lecture today (17 October). Pray that these would be helpful and encouraging for Seminary students, pastors, and others who attend. Please also give thanks to God for John Benton and his team across the country offering pastoral support to pastors through the Pastors' Academy at London Seminary. John led a Pastoral Study day earlier this month (5 October) for pastors and wives.
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- 18 Please pray for **Cornerstone Fostering** who need to move offices before the end of the year. Pray that God would provide them with the right location for a new office. Pray also for one of the foster carers being supported by Cornerstone UK who is in the process of adoption – ask God to help them with all the court procedures and their hearing is approaching.
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- 19 **Blenheim Free Church, Maidenhead**, launched the Little Lights Mums and Toddlers group last month with the aim of giving a gospel talk to the parents/carers and introducing the children to basic Christianity through songs, themed play and simple Bible stories. The initial response was better than anticipated. Please give thanks to God for blessing this ministry and pray for a positive response to the gospel message.
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- 20 Please pray for good fruit from two recent conferences run by organisations supporting Christians working in education (Christian Values in Education and the **Association of Christian Teachers**). Pray that **Lovewise** materials for schools will become more widely known and used.
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- 21 Give thanks for the installation of Garry Williams as minister and the ordination of Paul McEachran as ruling elder, of Ebenezer Chapel, Luton (part of the **International Presbyterian Church**). Pray for Christ Church Romford (also part of IPC), as they introduce a monthly afternoon service this autumn and run a Hope Explored Course. Lastly, please pray for Reuben Hunter, who's recently been installed as Senior Associate Minister at IPC Ealing, and pray for Peter Leach as he's being ordained today (21 October) as Assistant Minister at Christ Church Derby, and will begin to explore church planting.
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- 22 Speakers from **True Freedom Trust** have been invited to speak in several Church of England and Baptist Union churches this term as those churches engage in conversations about gender and sexuality within their wider denominations. Pray for strength, wisdom, and grace.
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- 23** Please continue to pray for **Africa Inland Mission** workers among the Tanala people in Madagascar, they write in Prayafrica.org:
laban'i Velotia is one of the most respected kings in our area. I have visited him very often and shared the Gospel. He never wanted to fully trust Jesus because that would mean that he had to step down as king (the king is meant to teach the people about ancestor worship). However, when a witchdoctor couldn't help his son he turned to local Christians. They entered the house and saw all of his charms and magic stuff. They told him that they had to clear his house first. He agreed and they threw everything out. After that, they prayed for the boy and he was instantly healed. After this event, the king and his wife finally decided to follow Jesus! Praise the Lord that the local Christians were so bold to tell him to get rid of the witchdoctor stuff! And praise the Lord that they are a huge testimony for their neighbours.
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- 24** A new refectory is being built at **Caring For Life**, where bible studies, prayer times, mealtimes and offices will be provided for the whole team of beneficiaries and staff to use. Please pray that the building will be completed before winter, as they are currently living out of a (kindly loaned) marquee until then!
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- 25** Give thanks to God for the number of internationals joining the **Duke Street Church** family. Pray for wisdom as they think through how best to welcome and integrate people from all over the world into their church family. Pray that they would grow in love for each other, willing to lay down cultural preferences for the sake of gospel unity.
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- 26** **UFM** were greatly encouraged by their Week of Prayer event last month. Give thanks to God for the way they came together in prayer and fellowship as they heard how God is using cross-cultural workers to build his kingdom around the world. October is another busy month for the organisation with interviews for new mission partners as well as speaking engagements across the UK. Please give thanks for God's faithfulness as UFM strives for gospel progress.
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- 27** Edinburgh Theological Seminary (part of the **Free Church of Scotland**) is holding an Open Day today (27 October), pray that prospective students would be inspired to and called to attend the seminary to further their knowledge of God's Word. Pray also for Edinburgh Theological Seminary's Annual Conference tomorrow (28 October). Ask God to bless the speakers and attendees as God's word is preached and discussed, and that all would be strengthened in their faith and commitment to the Lord.
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- 28** Pray for Caerwent Evangelical Baptist Church in Monmouthshire (part of the **Associating Evangelical Churches of Wales**) and their pastor Gwydion Emlyn. Praise God that the church has seen significant growth in recent years which has now made it difficult to accommodate everyone in the chapel building. Pray for wisdom for the church in knowing how to provide additional accommodation for the congregation.
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- 29** **Frontiers** asks we pray for the church in the UK as it responds to the needs in North Africa after the recent earthquake and flood. Pray for the people affected by the disasters, partners on the ground, and the government and international response. Particularly pray for the long-term legacy of the work for the people to see the reality of God's love for them. Pray that the church will be challenged to send people to play their part to demonstrate that love.
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- 30** Thank God for **Crossteach** supporters who are continuing to support the ministry through prayer, volunteering and giving finances. Pray that God will sustain these good relationships into the future. Pray for upcoming Crossteach supporter events, each of the areas will be having a quiz night and enjoying fellowship together.
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- 31** The **FIEC** are making the final preparations for their national FIEC Leaders Conference which takes place in Blackpool from 6 - 8 November. Please pray for strength and wisdom as they work through the last-minute logistics, and for those who are booking to attend.
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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.