

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** Please pray for those in the Anglican church, specifically vicars and other church leaders, in the aftermath of the recent General Synod discussions and vote on the bishops' proposals to change the position of the Church of England with regard to sexual ethics and marriage. Pray especially for Affinity members who work closely with the Church of England such as **Church Society** and **Oak Hill College**.
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- 2** Pray for **Little Hill Church Wigston's** three Carol Services and a Men's Meal happening this month. Pray these will be used by the Lord to bring people to himself.
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- 3** Thank the Lord with those at **Caring For Life**, for the opportunity to offer Advent Bible study notes and an audio recording of them to those in their care. Pray that the readings will help people see Jesus for who he really is and that ultimately, they will receive his gift of new life and mercy this Christmas.
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- 4** Pray for the many Christmas Experiences which are running for school-age children this month. Pray for the Christians that **Crossteach** know and support in schools (adults and young people). Pray that they will cling to God's trustworthy nature and that they will be effective 'lights in the darkness' in their school communities.
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- 5** Please pray for prisoners who will attend services or receive written material over the Christmas period, that the Lord will use these to speak to them. Give thanks for the work of **Daylight Christian Prison Trust** as they host services in prisons, lead bible studies and coordinate letter writing.
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- 6** Pray that 'Christmas Praise!', a new collection of carols and Christmas songs from **Praise Trust**, will be a blessing to many churches this Christmas, and glorify God in many Christmas services.
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- 7** Pray for **Church Society's** Global Anglican editorial Board meeting today (7 December). Please pray for excellent resources to be produced for the journal, and pray particularly for Peter Jensen as Editor, and Lee Gatiss as Chairman.
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- 8** Pray for **True Freedom Trust** speakers, who are meeting in London with speakers from other ministries for an annual retreat today (8 December). Pray it would be refreshing following a busy term.
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- 9** Please pray for the team at **CARE** as they anticipate the publication of an Assisted Suicide Bill at the Scottish Parliament, possibly before Christmas. From what is known, the Bill will provide patients with a specific length of time left to live with the option of an assisted suicide. The CARE campaign in Scotland has multiple elements and they're working with allies in the Scottish Parliament to see this legislation fail. Pray for wisdom, for compassion and for clear opportunities to make the powerful arguments against making this dangerous change in the law.
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- 10** Please pray for **Lovewise** as they update statistics in their 'Abortion' and 'Marriage, Sex & Living Wisely' presentations. Pray God would use accurate statistics to demonstrate to young people the goodness of his design for relationships. Please pray also that Lovewise would know how best to support churches in the aftermath of the recent General Synod discussions and vote on the bishops' proposals to change the position of the Church of England with regard to sexual ethics and marriage.
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11 Since **GFA World** national missionaries share God's love with their own people (or people nearby), they don't face the same cultural barriers international missionaries often face. Give thanks to God that he is using these dedicated servants in so many impactful ways. They often work where no one else is serving, sharing the gospel with people who have never heard of it. Please pray for these national missionaries, pray particularly that they can respond in the best way to demonstrate the grace of Jesus to each person they meet.

12 **Iden Green Congregational Church**, in Kent, are holding a few Christmas services this month, please pray that local people would particularly visit their 'Carols in the car park' event happening tomorrow (13 December) and that this opens the door to inviting them to other church services, and nurture a deeper relationship with those in the local community.

13 Pray for the churches and organisations who **Access Insurance** work with, pray for their kingdom work over Christmas and winter, and for safety and help for those involved.

14 Pray for the Christmas evangelistic events being held by **Associating Evangelical Churches of Wales (AECW)** churches which are often well attended. The 'Carols under the Arch' event hosted by Noddfa Church in Aberysychan happening this weekend (17 December) can draw as many as 1,000 people!

15 As we approach Christmas, pray that **SASRA** Scripture Readers would have many opportunities to share the true meaning of Christmas. Pray also that they would rest well with their families over the holiday season. Give thanks for the many professions of faith and baptisms SASRA Scripture Readers have seen this year. Pray these would be genuine, and ask that those who have made them would walk in Christ and be rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith.

16 Thank God that last month over 300 Bibles were bought from the Bible Society of Mongolia. Pray for increased use of the Bible by Mongolians and for the Holy Spirit to teach, grow and guide many through God's word. Pray for **Sharing Christ Internationally** who seek to reach the 3.2 million people (more than a third of who identify as Buddhist) currently living in Mongolia with the love of the true and living God.

17 Please pray for two of **Christian Concern's** clients, Glawdys Ledger who faces losing her career for refusing to teach LGBTQ lessons in a Church of England school, and Rev Dr Bernard Randall who was dismissed as school chaplain for preaching that people are free to disagree with LGBT ideology. Christian school teachers are at the forefront of the battle over our children and what they are taught.

18 Please pray for **Africa Inland Mission's** Europe Office's Communications team as they continue to make progress in updating and improving the website and managing many other creative projects to engage the public with what God is doing through his people. Pray for the time, capacity and the Lord's hand to be upon them as they work hard to share the stories of lives transformed by the gospel.

19 Please pray for all of **Crossland's** 'Lifelong learners' in established ministry – who connect with Crosslands in order to continue to learn and be refreshed in their contexts. Please pray that Crosslands will continue to support them through useful training, and to build them up in the gospel.

20 This Saturday (23 December) **Blenheim Free Church, Maidenhead**, will hold a 'Carols in the Car Park' service, this generally attracts people from the estate where the church is situated. Please pray for a clear gospel message, that people will stay for a hot drink and mince pies and a chance for personal conversations, and for a dry evening.

21 Pray for those who feel overlooked and unseen this Christmas. Pray that they would know that God sees them and cares for them. Pray also for the **London City Mission** missionaries who seek to minister to the homeless and marginalised and encourage churches to reach out with the gospel of hope.

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- 22** The **Evangelical Fellowship of Congregational Churches (EFCC)** ask us to pray for their churches as they reach out to their local communities through services this weekend. Pray that the Lord would bring fruit to the ministry of the Word as it is preached and shared.
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- 23** Praise God for the provision of a new social worker at **Cornerstone UK**, please pray that he settles into the team and the work well. Give thanks for the provision of a new office which the team moved into this month, thank God for his guidance with this move. Pray for Cornerstone's foster carers who have new and tricky placements and those who have recently said goodbye to children in their care as they move on to new placements and adoptive families.
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- 24** **Solas** are working on a new pre-evangelism book called 'Have You Ever Wondered?' which is being edited and prepared for publication by 10ofThose. Please pray that this book will be a practical resource for churches and individuals. Pray also that the staff team, who work really hard to keep so many plates spinning, would have a restful Christmas period. Pray for the leadership team who are working on the vision and goals of the ministry for 2024 and beyond.
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- 25** Please pray that, despite the overwhelming secular focus and consumerism on Christmas Day, people would recognise the void in their lives and earnestly seek the Lord within the fellowship of his followers. Pray that many churches, who witness to the incarnation of the Son of God today, will see hearts and lives changed by the gospel.
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- 26** 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 2024.
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- 27** **Akeman Street Baptist Church, Tring**, praise our Lord for his faithfulness to them over the past two years while they have been between ministers, and the unity of the church family in this time. Join the church as they give thanks for the preaching and support from other ministers during this period and that they have recently called Tom Copperwheat as pastor. Please pray for Tom and his family as they plan to join next month (January 2024).
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- 28** Please pray for the **Kingdom Bank** team as they plan for 2024 and beyond. Pray that they would remain committed to the Bank's core vision of seeing the Lord Jesus glorified in all of their work.
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- 29** Tim Matthews is preparing to serve as Director for the **Africa Inland Mission** Asia Pacific Mobilising Region leading a small team in Australia and coordinating teams in Hong Kong and New Zealand. Last month he said goodbye to his colleagues in the EU Office and left his position in the Finance and Mobilisation teams and is currently spending two months preparing to move to Australia in February 2024. Pray for Tim and his wife, Heather, as they make this huge transition. Pray especially that Tim's Visa will be granted soon so that he and Heather can begin to make concrete plans for their move.
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- 30** Please pray as the **FIEC** make the final plans and preparation for The Hub conference – for those exploring the journey into church ministry – which takes place next month (January 2024). Pray that God would lead the right people to this conference and make it clear to those considering church ministry whether that is their calling.
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- 31** In 2023 **Affinity** welcomed six new churches and five 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 within our network.
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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.