

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 for the many Christmas outreach **Gospel For Asia** mission partners held across the world in the last few weeks. Pray that the life-changing gifts that were given will help break people out of the cycle of poverty, and let them know that Jesus loves them.

 - 2 Give thanks to the Lord that some of the smaller churches within the **Evangelical Fellowship of Congregational Churches (EFCC)** are seeing gospel growth and conversions. Please pray for much fruit from the evangelistic events which were held over the Christmas period.

 - 3 Please pray for individuals and churches to respond to God's call to 'love our neighbours' following on from **Faith In Later Life's** winter campaign. January is a challenging time for many older people. Please pray they'll know connection and God's love through the relationships being built.

 - 4 Thank God for the strong new guidance on transgenderism in schools that would have helped all of **Christian Concern's** legal clients who have rightly resisted transgenderism in schools. Pray for the consultation and that the guidance doesn't get diluted. Pray that the government would make it illegal to allow children to socially transition in schools.

 - 5 Pray for teachers starting back to school after Christmas that they would be refreshed and revitalised and ready to be salt and light in their schools. Pray also for the **Association of Christian Teachers**, school leaders and other staff as they navigate the new guidance about transgender issues/gender dysphoria. Pray they would be respectful of the more conservative approach, and that Christians would be leading the way in showing grace to kids struggling with gender distress.

 - 6 Please pray for a **Grace Baptist Partnership** sponsored online micro-conference happening today (6 January). The event hosted by Andrew Roycroft will feature contributions from Donald Whitney, Jeremy Walker, Ali McLachlan, and Barry King on the theme of spiritual disciplines.

 - 7 Give thanks for prisoners who attended services hosted by **Daylight Christian Prison Trust** and received seasonal literature over the Christmas period. Please pray that the messages they have heard and read will be used to speak to them. Pray for the Daylight team as they continue to faithfully follow up with all they have met.

 - 8 Children's 'Bible Clubs' run by **BCM UK** begin this week (8 January). Please pray for staff and Clubbers that they will be ready for God to bless all those in attendance. Pray also for safety and for the clubs to go smoothly.

 - 9 Pray for the **Access Insurance** staff as they begin a new year, give thanks for the work the churches and ministries have been enabled to do and pray for fruit from the ministries planned for the year ahead.

 - 10 Pray for the **Free Church of Scotland** as they seek to support the many rural churches in Scotland where there is a significant population and opportunities for redevelopment. Pray for believers in these areas, that they would be granted wisdom and opportunity to share the gospel in their community. Pray for work that is beginning in 'brown field sites' where a previous church has closed, and a new ministry is beginning. Give thanks to God for these opportunities and pray that he would richly bless the work.
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- 11** Please pray for **Crosslands'** new seminary students who start their course this month and for the Crosslands annual 'Theology for Life' conference, which is a three-day event in Newcastle starting on Thursday 1 - Saturday 3 February for both experienced Christian leaders and those training for ministry.
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- 12** Please pray for the **FIEC** Hub conference starting today (12 January): for young men and women on the journey into church ministry. Pray for an encouraging time and for God to give clarity to those attending.
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- 13** Join **UFM** in giving thanks for a whole raft of applications for long term mission at the back end of last year which seems to be continuing at the start of this year. Please pray for Mark as he joins the UFM staff team this quarter as Head of Development having served in Asia for 30 years.
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- 14** Pablo* serves in West Africa with **Africa Inland Mission**, where he continues to use English teaching as a door-opener for developing relationships for the gospel. Give thanks that since the arrest of many believers in his location, six have been released and a sympathetic lawyer has been found to represent the other nineteen. Pray that this lawyer will present a good defence and that the Judge will see that following Jesus does not make these believers dangerous to society. Pray for Pablo as he continues to seek wisdom in his sharing of the gospel despite heightened scrutiny from the authorities. (*Name changed for security reasons.)
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- 15** Please pray for wisdom as **Peterhead Congregational Church** appoint additional Deacons to support the growth of the church. Pray that those elected will know the blessings and call of God in service. As church ministries restart pray that the church will continue to see growth this year by the will of God.
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- 16** Praise God for all the opportunities **Crossteach** had last year to share about the Lord Jesus in schools across the country. Pray that many more might hear about him and turn to trust him in 2024.
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- 17** Pray for Paul Daniel, an evangelist serving with the **Associating Evangelical Churches of Wales (AECW)**, as he provides encouragement and training for churches in Wales and Christian Indian diaspora communities around the globe.
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- 18** After a difficult period for **Grace Baptist Church, Southport**, give thanks to God that Simon Percy commences a pastoral ministry as an external elder. Pray for his settling in, the preaching of God's word and his pastoral ministry.
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- 19** Please pray for the vulnerable families with children, who **Caring For Life** support. Thank God for the relationships built last year and pray that the Caring For Life team will be able to continue sharing Jesus' love with entire families and that these little ones will hear of him while they are still young.
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- 20** Wimbledon Baptist Church, part of the **Grace Baptist Partnership**, will celebrate the refurbishment of part of its building and the induction of Barry King to the pastorate in a special service today (20 January). Please pray for Regan King as he preaches in the service as well as for the ongoing work of the church.
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- 21** Remember the two students at the Reformed Theological College, Belfast (part of the **Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland**), as they begin their final term of study, followed by six months of practical experience in local congregations. Pray for their continued preparation as men of God and good ministers of the gospel.
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- 22** Recently some church families have moved on from **Blenheim Free Church, Maidenhead**, and this has left some gaps in their Sunday School teachers and 'Mums and Toddlers' helpers. Please pray for more volunteers to fill these valuable roles and for the remaining hard-working helpers to have the energy and enthusiasm to keep going.
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- 23** Please pray for **Crosslands'** Basecamp cohort that recently started doing part-time study. Pray for them to enjoy what they learn about Jesus, and for it to be useful for their current roles in local churches.

- 24** Give thanks for last year's courses that **SASRA** Scripture Readers ran for military personnel which explored Christianity. Pray God would prepare the hearts of soldiers and aviators and that many would accept invitations to courses this year and have ears that are ready to hear the gospel.
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- 25** **Iden Green Congregational Church** is running a mission with students from Cornhill in their village at the start of February. Please pray that they would be able to effectively witness to people in the village, at the primary school and in the care homes.
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- 26** Please pray that more Christian young people would engage with the **Lovewise** website, and that articles published there would help them to navigate the challenges of relationships in a God-honouring way within our highly sexualised culture. Pray that Christian teachers would be wise in how they care for children and young people who are questioning their gender, and that they would not be intimidated into actions which they don't believe are right.
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- 27** **Little Hill Church, Wigston**, will be having a week of prayer this week, starting today. Please pray that it will be an encouraging and fruitful time for the church family.
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- 28** Timo and Laura serve in Finland with **Africa Inland Mission** among the Congolese refugee population, sharing Jesus with them, and equipping Christian refugees to reach out to the Finns they live among. Give thanks that after much discipleship, enough gospel volunteers have joined their ministry, that they can confidently call themselves a ministry 'team'. Pray for unity in this team with members from five continents, that this unity will drive them to greater boldness in Christ amid spiritual opposition.
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- 29** Pray for the **London City Mission** evangelism training sessions which run throughout the year in partnership with local churches. It was as one of these events that Fateh*, from a Punjabi background, was inspired to rise to the surface of frontline ministry and share the gospel with his community. He has now set up a WhatsApp group with other believers from Sikh backgrounds to share ideas and encouragement he's received from an LCM missionary called Manmohan. Pray for both Fateh and Manmohan as together they are currently studying the background of the Sikh scriptures, which prepares them to respond to questions they often face in conversations with Sikh friends. (*Name changed for privacy reasons.)
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- 30** Give thanks for the many church evangelistic and university Christian union events **Solas'** speakers have been invited to this month. Pray particularly for Andy Bannister as he speaks today (30 January) at Above Bar Formation School and for the Solas team tomorrow (31 January) as they hold a 'Confident Christianity' evening session in partnership with the Surrey Gospel Partnership.
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- 31** Please pray for the **Church Society** Council meeting today (31 January), for wisdom, unity, and courage in the ongoing debates in the Church of England. Pray particularly for Andrew Towner as the Chairman.
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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.