

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 Pray for the local elections happening this week and for all those standing for election at a local level. Give thanks for diligent councillors who work hard for local communities. Pray for our brothers and sisters who are councillors or standing to become one – particularly those who **CARE** support – and ask the Lord to give them wisdom and boldness so they make a real Christian difference.

 - 2 The Bishop of Ebbsfleet's regional conferences are happening over the next three months, the first of which is in Tunbridge Wells today (2 May). The conferences have input from **Church Society** and Bishop Rob Munro is a member of the Church Society Council. Please pray that the meetings will be well attended and strengthen evangelicals to contend for the gospel in the Church of England.

 - 3 Pray for the **Associating Evangelical Churches of Wales (AECW)** Annual House Party at Hebron Hall happening over the next few days (3-6 May) and the Annual Conference at Newtown on 11 May. Pray for good ministry and good fellowship as Christians from all parts of Wales meet.

 - 4 Give thanks that with the amazing expertise of Good News Broadcasting, the first episodes of **Daylight Christian Prison Trust's** new podcast 'Convicted!' have been recorded. Please pray that God will use these stories of hope from inside prisons to bring glory to his name.

 - 5 Please pray for **Crosslands** Seminary students, who are currently studying evangelism and apologetics. Pray for them to love Jesus more and more as they learn how to engage a lost world with the good news of the gospel.

 - 6 There are a few elderly church members who are now too frail to come out and join regular services at **Blenheim Free Church, Maidenhead**, please pray that their faith will sustain them through the difficult times they are experiencing.

 - 7 Pray for Gilcomston Church in Aberdeen and Edinburgh North Church, both part of the **Didasko Fellowship of Churches** and are currently seeking a new senior minister. Please pray for the search teams in their task and the Lord's hand to bring the right men to lead these congregations.

 - 8 Please pray that **Lovewise's** most recent series of online articles on the benefits of marriage would be of help to many Christian young people in demonstrating the goodness of God's design. Pray that the UK Government would have wisdom as it navigates the various challenges around Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and gender questioning children in schools, the Cass Review into NHS gender identity services for children and attempts by some politicians to bring forward legislation on so called 'conversion therapy'.

 - 9 **The FIEC** have seven Local Conferences meeting this month, starting with Cambridge today (9 May). Please pray as local church leaders gather to encourage one another and hear from God's word.

 - 10 Give thanks for recent recruitment at **Crossteach** and please pray these new workers would settle in quickly. With increasing costs, Crossteach face some uncertainty, please pray for their financial needs and wisdom in decision making.
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- 11** Please pray for **SASRA** Readers over Mental Health Awareness Week next week (13 - 19 May). Every day, they minister to military personnel who are under immense pressure at work and are often living away from their main support networks. Pray that anyone who approaches SASRA Readers would feel listened to, understood, cared for and loved, all for the glory of God.
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- 12** **Little Hill Church, Wigston**, are celebrating baptisms today (12 May). Give thanks to the Lord for drawing these new believers to himself, and for the blessing of at least two baptisms. Pray for perseverance and fruit from the lives of those being baptised.
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- 13** Please pray for a **Grace Baptist Partnership** Leadership Lunch at Dunstable Baptist Church today (13 May) from 11am - 2pm. Ali McLachlan will be speaking about 'The Gap in our Map: The debt local churches owe to the unreached.'
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- 14** Pray for the six Pastors' Academy study sessions for UK pastors happening this month which are run by **London Seminary**. Please pray especially for Matthew Mason's study days in York and London on Concupiscence (sinful desire) and for the four study sessions happening for EMF leaders and missionaries across Europe. Lastly please pray for London Seminary students in their final term of studies.
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- 15** Please pray for new people joining the Bible Studies held at **Caring For Life**. They have moved one of the monthly studies to mornings to accommodate parents of school-age children, who have been keen to come. One of these ladies said she is very excited to come and learn more about Jesus! Please pray that the Lord will be at work in these precious people's hearts and that they will come to saving faith in him.
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- 16** **The Christian Schools' Trust** are hosting a conference next February 2025. Please pray for a positive uptake in bookings. The Fire of Faith Conference 2025 is a three day residential conference for envisioning, equipping and encouraging, primarily targeted towards Christian educators.
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- 17** **Wycliffe Bible Translators** report that God is opening up more and more opportunities for Bible translators in places that are hostile to the gospel. Pray for protection, provision and patience as the Bible comes to those 1 in 5 people around the world who are still waiting for the Bible in their language.
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- 18** Please pray for the **Free Church of Scotland** 'Women for Mission' meeting happening today (18 May). Pray that God will grant the women gathered wisdom, and unity in their efforts, and empower them to spread God's love within their communities. Pray that the stories of God's transformative work among women in Scotland will inspire and encourage them, motivating them to share the hope we all possess through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Please pray also for the Free Church of Scotland's General Assembly which takes place from 20 - 23 May. Pray for the Boards in the lead up to the Assembly and ask God to help commissioners make wise decisions for the benefit of God's church.
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- 19** Give thanks for the **UFM** summer teams preparing to serve in cross-cultural missions this summer, including both church groups and individuals from various congregations. Pray particularly for the Hungary team; that the remaining spaces will be filled with eager and suitable participants.
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- 20** Please pray for Kenny Stephenson, who has just graduated from the Reformed Theological College, part of the **Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland**, as he begins a six month placement in Knockbracken congregation, outside Belfast, next month.
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- 21** The **True Freedom Trust** staff team are meeting for an away day today (21 May). Pray for good fellowship, and wise discernment as they plan for the months ahead.
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- 22** Join **ReachAcross** in thanking God for the dedication of their long-term missionaries serving in 17 countries among Muslims, where many have never encountered Christians or heard the gospel. However, the need remains significant, and there's a scarcity of individuals feeling called to mission, especially among the least reached. Please pray that Christians in the UK will heed the Lord's call to proclaim the gospel where it has not yet been heard, bringing hope and salvation to those who are yet unreached.
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- 23** Please pray for the **Evangelical Housing Association's** Committee Meeting and AGM happening today (23 May). Pray they would make wise decisions about the future of the charity that will serve their tenants well.
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- 24** 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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- 25** Please pray for Peter and Mike from **Cor Deo** and the team as they lead the 'Bible Teachers and Preachers Network' at the European Leadership Forum this week (25-30 May) in Poland. Pray for gospel impact and growth in European churches.
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- 26** Please pray for the summer ministries organised by **BCM UK** across Scotland. From evening outdoor events for children to camps in Arbroath and special outreaches in Bishopbriggs and Kilsyth, these initiatives aim to bring the hope of the gospel to many young lives. Pray also for the team as they visit Tilsley College tomorrow (27 May) to share about BCM's work and mission.
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- 27** Pray for **Solas'** ongoing production and distribution of online evangelistic resources, especially their 'Short Answers' videos. Pray for these resources to reach beyond the church walls and touch the lives of those who haven't yet trusted in Christ. As the Board meets today (27 May) pray that the Lord will continue growing Solas, enabling Christ's message to be proclaimed even more widely. Pray for consistency in prayerfulness and that all their endeavours bring honour to the Lord. Lastly, pray for provision in finance and administration needs.
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- 28** Please pray for Dr Aaron Edwards who was sacked as a theology lecturer for a tweet arguing that 'homosexuality is invading the church'. His Employment Tribunal hearing against the professedly evangelical Methodist Bible College starts today (28 May). Dr Edwards is being supported by **Christian Concern**.
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- 29** Please pray for the unreached Fulani people who live in West Africa. An **Africa Inland Mission (AIM)** mission partner has recently started a cross-cultural ministry training program with some of the local believers that is aimed at preparing them for the cross-cultural church ministry task ahead. Please also pray for AIM's 'Teaching in Mission' online event happening next month (8 June). Pray for God to draw individuals with teaching experience, fostering interest in serving overseas with AIM. Considering the significant percentage of parents leaving the mission field due to children's educational needs, and with over half of AIM missionaries having children, pray for fruitful conversations during the event, leading to more educators considering cross-cultural missions. Pray AIM effectively guide these discussions.
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- 30** Pray for the future of **Peterhead Congregational Church** as their minister prepares to retire next year after 20 years of service. Pray that the Lord will already be preparing the right servant for this church, guiding them and making their calling known to the congregation. May God provide wisdom, discernment, and unity as they seek a new minister to lead them forward in their mission and ministry.
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- 31** Give thanks for the good turnout at the **Oak Hill College** Open Morning last month, please pray that the Lord will guide many of them into offering their lives in his service. Thank the Lord also for opening doors for final-year students as they move beyond college, and we ask for patience for those still seeking clarity about their future. Pray that the Lord will continue to raise a new generation of leaders for healthy churches so that the message of Christ will continue to ring out throughout the world.
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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.