

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 office@affinity.org.uk at least five days before the end of the month in which you would like it to appear.

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- 1 Pray that the Lord would raise up a new generation of pastors, preachers, and evangelists to serve the cause of the Gospel in the UK and further afield. Pray for those considering a call to ministry at the **London Seminary** Visit Day on 4 December.

 - 2 Please pray for **Spring Meadow Baptist Church**'s evangelistic hot potato quiz which takes place at 7pm on 4 December. Pray that those who are invited will hear a clear gospel message.

 - 3 Please pray for Barry King from **Grace Baptist Partnership** as he visits gospel workers in Vienna, Austria; Frankfurt, Germany; and Warsaw, Poland on behalf of the partnership in early December.

 - 4 Please pray for the **Church Society**'s meeting today of the Editorial Board of their journal *The Global Anglican*, which is for biblically faithful articles and reviews to be produced. Pray for Peter Jensen as Editor, Kirsten Birkett as Managing Editor, and Lee Gatiss as Chairman.

 - 5 Pastor Sun Cong was one of a number of members of Beijing's Zion Church taken away by security officers in a dramatic, authoritarian clamp down in October. The incident left his wife Wanyu distraught – and caused the pastor's elderly mother to suffer a heart failure. Through their partner for China, **Release International** supports the families of prisoners and provides legal aid to support churches who are coming under pressure from the Chinese authorities. Pastor Sun's story is spotlighted in Release International's Christmas Appeal this year. Pray for a good response from Christians in the UK. Pray also for Pastor Sun, his wife and family at this traumatic time.

 - 6 The second part of **Trinity Road Chapel**'s redevelopment work is being completed at the start of December. Give thanks to God for his provision for them and pray for the reopening of the building in the New Year.

 - 7 As we approach Christmas, pray for visitors to **Iden Green Congregational Church**'s various Christmas events and toddler groups. Pray that visitors would be convicted of their need of a Saviour.

 - 8 Ask/Holi is a bilingual, English and Welsh magazine produced for distribution by churches in Wales at the beginning of December each year. Last year churches requested over 10,000 copies. This year we have already exceeded that number of orders. Please pray that these will be read and prove to be a useful evangelistic tool for churches in the cities and in the large stretches of rural areas in Wales.

 - 9 Pray for the **True Freedom Trust staff** as they meet on the Wirral for a staff away day today. They will spend time thinking about the vision, mission, and values of the ministry, and how they can best support Christians who experience same-sex attraction far into the future.

 - 10 Pray for the team at **Solas** as they engage with evangelistic events across the country this month, particularly for Andy Bannister as he heads to Bath Rec today. Pray too for Gavin Matthews heading to Olivet Falkirk on the 14th and for Steve Osmond heading to St John's Perth on the 17th.

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- 11 Please pray for **crossteach**'s teams in Nottingham, Warwickshire, London, Kent and Cambridgeshire as they begin Christmas Experiences with local schools. This gives pupils an interactive experience to help them understand a key Christian celebration.
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- 12 Pray for **BCM International**'s upcoming camps in Northern Ireland, including their camp for Junior Teens/Merge Reunion (starting today and finishing on 14 Dec) and their Senior Teens' and Kids' Damp's reunions in January.
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- 13 The church family at **Akeman Street Baptist** is currently in a season marked by several deaths and illnesses among our members. Please pray that, even in the midst of our grief, we would be a people who mourn with gospel hope, anchored in the reality of our resurrected and victorious King.
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- 14 Give thanks to the Lord God for his great blessings on **EFCC**'s Ministers' Prayer Conference in November and please pray that the Lord will bless Christmas outreach and equip and empower our pastors by the Holy Spirit to reach the lost.
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- 15 Pray for Christmas events happening in December at **Emmanuel Church Canterbury**. Pray that they would boldly invite friends and family to their Family Nativity and Carol Service. Please pray that those who come along will sign up to our 321 Course held in January.
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- 16 As (God willing) **Westminster Seminary UK** relocates to Oxford, let's pray the Lord of the harvest would send out labourers into his harvest field!
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- 17 Christian schools, especially the smaller ones, are really struggling (and some have closed) with the added VAT and the removal of the business rates charitable relief. Pray for wisdom for the **Christian Schools' Trust** as they support them.
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- 18 Please pray for the churches that **Kingdom Bank** serve with mortgages. Pray that these places of worship would be used to share the love of Jesus with their communities. Pray also for wisdom and faithfulness for Kingdom Bank. Pray that they would continue to help their customers steward their savings well for the growth of God's Kingdom.
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- 19 Like other organisations, it was a privilege for **UFM Worldwide** to be at the FIEC leaders' conference. Give thanks for the many helpful conversations we had and please pray that any follow-up discussions would be fruitful.
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- 20 Give thanks for opportunities for **Daylight**'s team to take part in and run services in prisons over the Christmas period. Please pray that many people, both prisoners and prison staff, will come to know Christ as the gospel is shared.
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- 21 Pray with the **Christian Medical Fellowship** for all who will be working in hospitals, community health, and specialist services during the Christmas period. In busy and challenging times, pray that the light of the Saviour who came into the world would shine in their hearts and lead them to him.
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- 22 Pray for the wellbeing of all our 'family members', as **Pilgrim Friends' Society** calls those who choose to live with them. Pray that these family members would be protected from illness this Christmas and that they can enjoy spending time together as they celebrate Christ's birth.
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- 23 Please pray for the preparations for the **FIEC**'s Journeys conference, which is aimed at those considering a call into full-time ministry.
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- 24 Pray for older members of **York Evangelical Church**, some of whom need additional care at the moment. Please also pray for their Christmas outreach.
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Pray for all the Christmas initiatives and events that **SASRA**'s Scripture Readers have been running this month 'behind the wire'. Pray that serving personnel are moved to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Pray for military personnel who are working over the Christmas period and those who are far away from their families.

26

Give thanks that, at the **Associating Evangelical Church of Wales**' recent Ministers' Consultation, churches across Wales reported encouraging growth and conversions. Pray for wisdom for churches discipling new believers, especially young men. Pray too for churches seeking pastors in Bala, Newport (Bethel, Bassaleg and Little Mill), Swansea (Ebenezer), Cardiff (Cornwall Street and St Mellons), Bridgend (Free School Court), Lampeter and Pembrokeshire (Penuel, Roch).

27

Please pray for **Grace Publications**' continued work of publishing biblically faithful books, aimed at strengthening individual believers and local churches. Pray that God would bless our next title for publication, *Independent Eldership* by Stephen Kneale. Please pray specifically that it would be used to encourage elders and church members to dig into the New Testament picture of how congregations can be healthy and God-glorifying.

28

Sharing Christ Internationally needs additional trustees. It works in Mongolian languages where there is conflict over how the nature of God is described. Very many evangelical missions, and consequently Mongolians encouraged by them, call God 'Burhan', the word which Mongolians use to refer to Buddha. The usage dates from at least the ninth century. Marco Polo referred to it as 'Buddhist' and 'idolic' in his book dating from around 1300 AD. Clarity is needed on the divinity of Christ, Son of God, not Son of Burhan. Please pray God provides additional trustees and other volunteers who hold absolutely solid convictions on this.

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Edward Connor Solicitors are looking for an employment lawyer to join our team. Please pray for the right person to see their advertising, and for more churches to help them spread the news about this opportunity.

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Rejoice with **Little Hill Church** for their encouraging year. Some highlights include: new people with a spiritual interest just turning up, several young Christians benefiting from an on-line catechism course, and last month, a recent attender professing faith. Pray that the Lord would use our Christmas evangelism to bring more people to himself.

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Pray for the staff of **Affinity** – Graham, Fran and Rachel – that we may work efficiently and set the right priorities for the churches and agencies we serve and for each of us to maintain a close personal walk with the Lord.
