

FEBRUARY  
to MAY 2012

# CARE Prayer Diary

Internet communication

Marriage and families

Servant leadership

Food and shelter

Justice in Britain

UK parliaments  
and assemblies

Women's lives

Schools, colleges  
and universities

Human dignity

Redemption and rescue

Creativity and innovation

Sexualisation of children

The natural world

Making a Christian difference  
through prayer

Care

The cover picture is of The Garden Tomb, just outside the Damascus Gate on the north side of Jerusalem. This site is believed by many to be the garden and sepulchre of Joseph of Arimathea, so possibly the place where Jesus was laid after His death – and rose again three days later! The Garden is a quiet place preserved for worship and reflection and welcomes visitors free of charge. It is owned and administered by The Garden Tomb (Jerusalem) Association, a Charitable Trust based in the United Kingdom.



Celia Bowring

Cover and this photo:  
courtesy of The Garden Tomb Association  
[www.gardentomb.org](http://www.gardentomb.org)

The CARE Prayer Diary is written by Celia Bowring and is also available as follows:

- CARE website: read online, listen [new recordings by Patrick Woodward] or download to smartphone/iPad. Sign up to daily e-prayers: [www.care.org.uk/prayer](http://www.care.org.uk/prayer)
- **Premier Christian Radio** daily at midday: (**Freeview 725** and [www.premier.org.uk/radio](http://www.premier.org.uk/radio))
- Twitter: [www.twitter.com/careprayerdiary](http://www.twitter.com/careprayerdiary) for daily prayers, comments and news

To join CARE's mailing list to receive this Prayer Diary and other regular publications, please telephone **020 7233 0455** or join online at [www.care.org.uk/resources/stay-informed](http://www.care.org.uk/resources/stay-informed)

To contribute to CARE's ongoing ministry please go to [www.care.org.uk/giving](http://www.care.org.uk/giving)

CARE (Christian Action, Research & Education) is a Registered Charity, and a Company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales at 53 Romney Street, London, SW1P 3RF Tel: 020 7233 0455

Company No: 3481417, Charity No: 1066963, Scottish Charity No: SC038911

Executive Chairman: Rev Lyndon Bowring Chief Executive: Nola Leach

Design: [www.insightdesign.co.uk](http://www.insightdesign.co.uk) Print: Fineprint Basingstoke.

Generic images unless marked: Istock.com, Shutterstock.com

FEBRUARY  
5-11



# Internet Communication

'As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish . . . so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it" declares the Lord.'

ISAIAH 55:10,11 (TODAY'S NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION)

SUN  
5

*Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of all. Your word brings light, justice, knowledge, wisdom, grace and peace to all who will heed it. Thank You for sending Jesus, the living Word, to live amongst us, redeeming us through His death and giving us eternal life. Amen.*

MON  
6

Pray about serious problems associated with the internet: fraud and other criminal activities, the escalation of pornography and gambling sites and the risks of children and young people being exploited and abused through these and other online contacts.

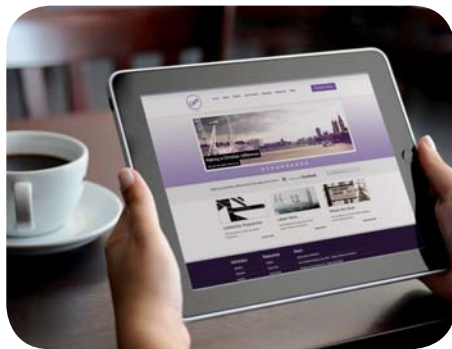
TUES  
7

**SAFER INTERNET DAY** 'Connecting generations and educating each other.'

Pray that adults responsible for children's welfare will feel confident and be equipped to help them to use the internet wisely, be safe and enjoy its benefits.

WED  
8

*Thank You, Lord, for the internet's instant communication and its advantage for business and commerce, education, culture and other aspects of life. May this technology especially benefit developing nations and those living in countries that are isolated from the international community. Amen.*



THURS  
9

Pray about the rapidly expanding phenomenon of social media, such as Facebook and Twitter, which has transformed the way many people communicate. Ask for God's wisdom for those responsible for monitoring and developing these networks.

FRI  
10

**THANKSGIVING:** that through the internet the gospel message is freely shared with billions of people across the globe, whatever their cultural, educational, social and religious backgrounds. Ask the Holy Spirit to inspire Christians to use this technology increasingly effectively.

SAT  
11

Pray that more local churches and other ministries will be enabled to set up and develop inspiring and informative websites that are welcoming to people who are searching for spiritual truth and a Christian community.

Almost one third of the global population use the internet - including 77 per cent of households in the UK. Over 70 per cent of the world's population now have a mobile phone, and more and more internet communication is through these devices.

FEBRUARY  
12-18



# Marriage and Families

'Let marriage be held in honour - esteemed worthy, precious, of great price, and especially dear - in all things.'  
HEBREWS 13:4 (AMPLIFIED BIBLE)

SUN  
12

## FEBRUARY 7-14 MARRIAGE WEEK

*Thank You, Lord, for the blessings of marriage for couples, their families and the wider society. Thank You too for the gift of singleness. Please help us each to find contentment and know Your will for our situation, trusting You to provide for all our needs. Amen.*

MON  
13

Pray that the many activities and events in churches and other settings during Marriage Week will result in marriage being increasingly esteemed and valued, especially by those with influence in government and the media.

TUES  
14

Intercede that current efforts to change the traditional and biblical definition of marriage: the voluntary union for life of one man with one woman to the exclusion of all others, will not succeed.

WED  
15

*Dear Father, please prompt more Christians to support families that are struggling with health problems, challenging relationships, money worries and other issues causing anxiety, conflict or hardship. Grant Your peace, wisdom and comfort to those in need. Amen.*

THURS  
16

Remember today everyone who has lost a loved one and is experiencing grief and loneliness. Ask God to comfort them and prompt caring friends and family members to express their support and affection in the coming weeks, months and years.

FRI  
17

**THANKSGIVING:** for the positive influence of loving married couples on family, friends and the wider community. Pray that their example of faithfulness, loyalty and kindness will be an inspiration to others, especially as they go through challenging times.

SAT  
18

Pray about the growing trend towards long-term cohabitation relationships – statistically more likely to fail – in place of marriage. Remember too the many couples who decide not to marry because they cannot afford the wedding they feel is expected.



Wedding of CARE International Intern Melissa Beckett

6 of Four Photography

'We do a disservice to society if we ignore the evidence which shows that stable families tend to be associated with better outcomes for children ... There are few more powerful tools for promoting stability than the institution of marriage.'  
(Iain Duncan Smith MP, Work and Pensions Secretary)



# Servant Leadership

'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.' Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.  
1 PETER 5:5-7 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)

SUN  
19

*We worship You, Lord Jesus! Thank You for coming to live among us and for dying on the cross for our salvation. We marvel at Your humility and obedience to the Father, and pray that we may serve You and others through the power of Your Spirit. Amen.*

MON  
20

Ask God to raise up even more Christian men and women gifted in business and other professions, who have a heart for disadvantaged young people and a willingness to mentor them. Pray they will have wisdom, patience and vision for those they help.

TUES  
21

Pray for those in positions of strategic leadership in the nation who may be tempted to indulge in excessive financial gain, inappropriate relationships and misuse their power. Ask God to guard their hearts and help them to serve with integrity.

## ASH WEDNESDAY

WED  
22

*Lord, during this season of Lent, through the presence of Your loving Spirit, please help us to grow in spiritual devotion and discipline, find new depth in our prayer and learn to depend ever more on Your power and love. Amen.*

THURS  
23

Remember the thirteen graduates on CARE's Leadership Programme on their placements with MPs and NGOs, who meet weekly for study, lectures, prayer and other input that inspires and equips them to relate their faith to effective engagement in society.



CARE Leadership Programme participants 2011-12

mattcrew.com

FRI  
24

**THANKSGIVING:** that today there are more Westminster MPs than ever who identify themselves as committed Christians. Praise God that along with others in politics they are promoting policies and initiatives to challenge injustice, immorality and greed and benefit the most vulnerable in society.

SAT  
25

Ask God to encourage those in leadership in local churches, Christian denominations, ministries and organisations. Pray that they will bear the hallmark of Christ-centred, servant-hearted service in all their relationships and activities.

'So let us learn how to serve, And in our lives enthrone Him; This is our God, the Servant King, He calls us now to follow Him; To bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to the Servant King.'  
(Graham Kendrick 'The Servant King')

FEBRUARY 26  
- MARCH 3



# Food and Shelter

"Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink, a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ... sick, or in prison and go to visit you?" The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." MATTHEW 25:37-40 (NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION)

## FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 5 POVERTY AND HOMELESSNESS ACTION WEEK

Organised by Church Action on Poverty, Housing Justice and Scottish Churches Housing Action. ([www.actionweek.org.uk](http://www.actionweek.org.uk))

SUN  
26

*Father, You care passionately for the poor. Please stir our hearts with a deepening sense of Your justice and compassion, that we may find ways to ease the problems of people in our local communities who are hungry and in need of secure shelter. Amen.*

Intercede for the thousands of adults and children trafficked or smuggled into the UK who are destitute and have no legal status. Pray they will make contact with those who can help with their immediate practical needs and advise them about legal and financial problems.



Pray that Poverty and Homelessness Action Week, with its theme, 'Breaking Barriers', will encourage Christians to champion the cause of people who are marginalised and at risk, helping them to lead full lives, and work with others to build a fairer world.

*Lord, we remember vulnerable young people who are homeless, particularly those leaving the care system, runaways, young offenders, asylum seekers, refugees and others who have no one to help them. We pray too for the estimated 1.6 million children in Britain in overcrowded, temporary, or rundown housing. Amen.*

Ask God to help Grant Shapps MP, Minister for Housing, and others responsible for meeting the needs of those affected by homelessness. Pray that the recent £42.5 million funding package to help these people will be apportioned fairly and wisely.

**THANKSGIVING:** for every local church initiative that supports people in extreme need by setting up night shelters, providing food distribution, friendship, counselling and advice services, and sharing the life-changing message of the gospel.

Remember the millions of refugees and internally displaced people worldwide who have left their homes because of conflict, famine or natural disaster. Pray for those living in overcrowded and insecure camps, and the most needy struggling to survive alone.

Reasons for homelessness in the UK most often cited by men: relationship breakdown, substance misuse, and leaving an institution (prison, care, hospital etc.). For homeless women: physical or mental health problems and escaping a violent relationship.



# Justice in Britain

'The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple ... The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the Lord are sure and altogether righteous. They are more precious than gold.' PSALMS 19:7,9,10 (NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION)

SUN  
4

*Almighty God, we thank You that the British legal system is founded on biblical principles and values of justice and mercy. We pray that our Judæo-Christian heritage will be protected from any further legislation that goes against Your revealed truth. Amen.*

MON  
5

Pray about Restorative Justice – which allows victims to tell offenders about the impact of their actions and can result in sincere apologies and changed attitudes. Pray that it will be increasingly used in schools, workplaces and other situations as well as criminal justice settings.

TUES  
6

Intercede for those in authority to find the just and right balance between allowing individuals and groups freedom to demonstrate in public areas and the need to control unruly behaviour and illegal trespassing that disrupt people's everyday lives.

WED  
7

*Lord, we pray for those who serve on Parole Boards as they work alongside other agencies to assess prisoners and decide whether they can be safely released into the community. Please grant them the insight they need to make wise and just rulings. Amen.*

THURS  
8

Remember those who are drawn into the legal process because they have been selected for jury service, called as witnesses or are defendants. Pray that they will understand the systems of the law and recognise their responsibility to speak with integrity.

FRI  
9

**THANKSGIVING:** for Christians working within the legal professions and groups, such as the Lawyers Christian Fellowship and the Association of Christian Law Firms, providing information and support for them. Pray for wisdom and courage, especially in difficult cases.

SAT  
10

Pray about plans to use digital technology throughout the UK justice system. These include 'virtual courts' and the secure electronic transfer of case files between the police, prosecutors, defence counsels and courts, to increase efficiency and prevent duplication.



Inscription above doorway of the Old Bailey, London

During 2009, 406,000 defendants were proceeded against for all offences in England and Wales. At the magistrates' courts, 22% of offenders sentenced received a fine, 38% received a community sentence, and 14% were sentenced to immediate custody. At the Crown Court, 22% of offenders received a community sentence, and 58% received a custodial sentence.

MARCH  
11-17



# UK Parliaments and Assemblies

'Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage! ... Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine. Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you.'

PSALMS 33:12,18,19, 22 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)

SUN  
11

*Almighty God, we lift to You all the elected representatives who serve in the Parliaments and Assemblies in Belfast, Cardiff, Edinburgh and Westminster. Please grant wisdom and courage to all who hold positions of authority. Amen.*

MON  
12

## COMMONWEALTH DAY: 'Connecting Cultures'

Remember today's Commonwealth Day Observance in Westminster Abbey, attended by the Queen, the Prime Minister, High Commissioners, other VIPs and 1,000 schoolchildren. Pray too for increasing cooperation and harmony across the countries of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.



© Northern Ireland Assembly

Chandelier, Great Hall, Northern Ireland Parliament Building

TUES  
13

Please pray about ongoing efforts in both the Scottish and Westminster Parliaments to change the law regarding end of life issues, particularly in view of Lord Falconer's Commission's recommendations to legalise assisted dying.

WED  
14

*Lord, we pray about the consultation promised by the Government about providing independent counselling for women considering an abortion. May the end result of this process be greater opportunities for them to receive the compassionate care and help available from organisations such as CareConfidential. Amen.*

THURS  
15

Pray that parliamentarians will heed submissions that were sent to the Government's proposed consultation, opposing the marriage of same-sex couples. Ask God to grant insight to those at Westminster and the Scottish Parliament - where a similar consultation has already taken place - as they consider the long-term consequences of redefining marriage.

FRI  
16

**THANKSGIVING:** for the successful Second Reading of Lord McColl's Bill which calls upon the Government to provide better support for victims of trafficking in the UK. Pray that it will continue to draw attention to the plight of such people.

SAT  
17

Pray about next week's Budget Day, that the Chancellor and his advisors will take this opportunity to honour the longstanding commitment the Government has made to recognise marriage in the tax system.

A total of 650 MPs sit in the Westminster Parliament. There are 129 MSPs in the Scottish Parliament, 108 MLAs in the Northern Ireland Legislative Assembly and 60 Assembly Members in Wales (AMs).

MARCH  
18-24



# Women's Lives

'May you be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord ... bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy.' COLOSSIANS 1:9-11 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)

SUN  
18

## MOTHERING SUNDAY

*Loving Lord, thank You for the commitment and love of motherhood. Please grant strength and hope to those in particular need, comfort anyone who has lost a child and console those who long to become mothers, but are unable to do so. Amen.*

Give thanks for many inspiring female role models in every area of society. Pray that these women's example of moral integrity, hard work, caring for others, family commitment, personal fulfilment and faith will greatly encourage other girls and women.



Remember women in ethnic communities who are isolated, unable to speak English and with few relationships beyond their own family and circle of friends. Pray especially for those affected by forced marriages, domestic violence and sexual abuse to find help to break free.

*Lord, please lift up those women in poor rural areas of the world who provide 70 per cent of agricultural labour, produce almost all the food, but have little economic and political influence. We pray too for those working long hours far from home to support their families. Amen.*

Ask God to provide for the emotional and practical needs of women who are facing an unplanned pregnancy with no-one to support them. Pray too for mothers who are struggling to bring up their children alone, especially in the current economic climate.

**THANKSGIVING:** for the increased freedom and equality enjoyed by women in the UK compared with a century ago. Pray for relationships between men and women increasingly to reflect mutual appreciation and respect: in the workplace, public life, the Church and at home.

Ask God to bless and strengthen Christian women known to you with leadership roles in: politics, finance, business, health, education, the armed forces, policing, justice and social care, the Church, media, arts and entertainment and service industries.

SAT  
24

'God is more concerned with conforming me to the likeness of His Son than leaving me in my comfort zones. God is more interested in inward qualities than outward circumstances - things like refining my faith, humbling my heart, cleaning up my thought life and strengthening my character.' (Joni Eareckson Tada)

MARCH  
25-31



# Schools, Colleges and Universities

'Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. Esteem her, and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honour you. She will set a garland of grace on your head and present you with a crown of splendour.' PROVERBS 4:7-9 (TODAY'S NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION)

SUN  
25

*Lord of all wisdom, knowledge and understanding, please grant wisdom to all who teach, mentor and facilitate students throughout our education system. Help those seeking to learn to be conscientious and focused, even when their circumstances are difficult. Amen.*

MON  
26

Remember the Association of Christian Teachers which aims to inspire all Christians in education to live out their faith positively, influencing the culture, values and environment of their place of work and in wider society. ([www.christian-teachers.org.uk](http://www.christian-teachers.org.uk))

TUES  
27

Pray for students planning to attend university or college and those already there, as they make important decisions about courses, accommodation, leisure time and financial support. Especially remember those who will be leaving home for the first time.

WED  
28

*Father, please bring new hope to schools that are under-achieving: facing difficulties of social deprivation, the lack of secure, supportive families, unrest and poor discipline, disheartened staff and students and insufficient resources. Amen.*

THURS  
29

Ask God to continue to bless the vision of Pray for Schools: to see every UK school a prayed-for school. Pray that more groups will join this ever-growing network which seeks to encourage and equip Christians to support their local schools through prayer. ([www.prayforschools.net](http://www.prayforschools.net))

FRI  
30

**THANKSGIVING:** for Christians visiting schools and colleges to encourage students to consider the gospel, grow in discipleship, share their faith and lead God-honouring lives amongst friends and in their studies. Remember the ministries of Agape, Fusion, Navigators, New Generation, Scripture Union, UCCF, Youth Alpha, YFC and many others.

SAT  
31

Please remember children attending special schools and colleges, unable to cope in mainstream education because of their severe and complex physical, mental and social needs. Ask God to inspire, energise and equip staff to give these young people the best possible education and community life.



Since 1995, the number of undergraduate and postgraduate students at higher education institutions in the UK has risen by 59 per cent. In 2009/10 almost 2.5 million students enrolled on full- and part-time courses. Just over 400,000 of these were from abroad.



# Human Dignity

'Count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Christ Jesus ... did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped ... and being found in human form, humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.' PHILIPPIANS 2:3-8 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)

SUN  
1

## MARCH 28-APRIL 13: FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

*Loving Father, who created us in Your likeness and sent Your Son to live as a human being, please fill us with Your compassion towards those who are most vulnerable. Prompt us to speak and act on their behalf when that is appropriate. Amen.*

MON  
2

Remember sick and disabled people in hospitals and care homes, especially where resources are scarce. Pray that staff members will be able and willing to attend to their patients' needs so they feel respected, comfortable and safe.

TUES  
3

Please lift up the thousands of women and children who have been trafficked into and within the UK, tricked and coerced into a degrading life of sexual exploitation by criminal gangs and individuals. Pray for freedom, restoration and justice to prevail.

WED  
4

Intercede for severely handicapped and frail elderly people living in care homes who are ill-treated and neglected because they have no close family or friends to make sure they are properly looked after. Pray that staff and others with concerns will inform the authorities of such cases.

THURS  
5

*Lord, may Fairtrade Fortnight inspire us to continue to make good ethical choices when we buy goods. Please help those in authority within multi-national companies, banks and governments to be just in their dealings with those in the poorest nations. Amen.*

## GOOD FRIDAY

**THANKSGIVING:** Lord Jesus, thank You that as You hung on the cross You bore our griefs, You were wounded for our transgressions and by Your stripes we were healed – although we did not deserve this amazing sacrifice. May many people discover this Good News for themselves this Easter. Amen.

FRI  
6

SAT  
7

## WORLD HEALTH DAY Theme: Ageing and Health

Remember the frailest elderly people, especially those in developing countries where there are insufficient resources to look after them. Pray that families will increasingly be able to protect and care for older relatives who are unable to live alone.



APRIL 8-14



# Redemption and Rescue

'The Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God.' ISAIAH 61:1,2 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)

SUN  
8

## EASTER DAY

*Christ Jesus, we offer our worship and praise, for You have defeated death, conquered evil and cancelled sin through Your glorious resurrection! Thank You for the sure hope that whatever happens, we too will be raised to eternal life with You. Amen.*



MON  
9

Pray that the Holy Spirit will continue speaking into the hearts of men, women and children from every background who are searching for spiritual truth and freedom from guilt and fear. Ask Him for the boldness to share the gospel with more of the people we meet.

TUES  
10

Remember those who suffer persecution because of their Christian faith. Pray for Christians in prison, in physical danger and experiencing prejudice and rejection because of what they believe, to know how to show God's love to their enemies.

WED  
11

*Lord, please show Your mercy in this time of economic turmoil that is affecting many individuals and nations, threatening the stability and security of the global financial community. Grant wisdom and courage to those who are seeking solutions to this situation. Amen.*

THURS  
12

## INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR STREET CHILDREN

Remember the tens of millions of children who work and live on the streets and are victims of violence, poverty, diseases and addictions, with little hope for the future. Intercede for their lives to be redeemed and rescued.

FRI  
13

**THANKSGIVING:** for the dozens of organisations dedicated to helping people affected by alcohol, drug and other forms of substance abuse to break free from their addictions. Pray for many to experience the healing power of Christ transforming their lives.

SAT  
14

Intercede for the liberation of hundreds of thousands of children and adults coerced into slavery. This may be domestic servitude, begging, forced labour in agriculture and the manufacturing industry, the sex trade, forced marriages and as child soldiers.

Between 100,000 and 800,000 people are trafficked into the EU each year, at least 5,000 of them into the UK. An estimated 330 child victims will be trafficked into the UK each year. About 8,000 women work in off-street prostitution in London, 80% of whom are foreign nationals. (House of Commons Home Affairs Committee, 2009)

APRIL 15-21

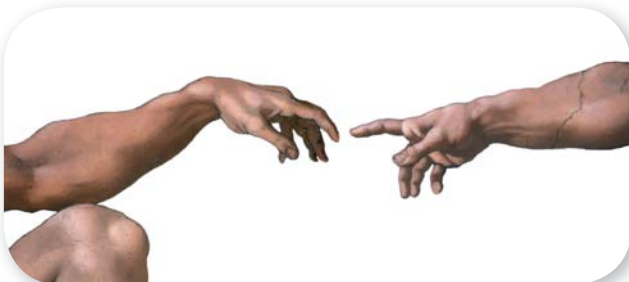


# Creativity and Innovation

'For wisdom is far more valuable than rubies. Nothing you desire can compare with it. "I, Wisdom, live together with good judgment. I know where to discover knowledge and discernment ... Common sense and success belong to me. Insight and strength are mine."' PROVERBS 8:11-14 (NEW LIVING TRANSLATION)

SUN  
15

*Lord, You have placed a spirit of enquiry and creativity within everyone and bestowed a rich variety of talents upon Your Church. Please help us to identify the gifts You have given to us. Grant us wisdom to know how we may use them to serve You and bless others. Amen.*



*The Creation of Adam, Michaelangelo, Sistine Chapel, Rome*

MON  
16

Pray that Christian songwriters, performers and others in the music industry will find ways to apply the reality of their faith to all they produce; that through their new ideas and the excellence of their work, people will be uplifted and drawn closer to God.

TUES  
17

Pray for the work of Christians in Science, an international network for scientists, teachers, students and others concerned with the relationship between science and Christian faith. ([www.cis.org.uk](http://www.cis.org.uk))

WED  
18

Dear God, please help those working to develop the necessary technology and resources to provide safe water to 900 million people who lack it and also access to basic sanitation that is desperately needed by 2.5 billion people in the poorest regions of the world. Amen.

THURS  
19

Remember researchers and others developing life-saving medical treatments and procedures; that they would succeed without engaging in any unethical activities. Pray too for those working on bioscience projects to create new agricultural, food and industrial products that may be of great benefit.

FRI  
20

**THANKSGIVING:** for every initiative that encourages young people to express themselves creatively through music, writing, movement and art. Pray particularly for those growing up in underprivileged surroundings or coping with a disability or illness.

SAT  
21

Pray for Ed Vaizey MP, Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries as he encourages growth in the areas of advertising, the arts market, design, fashion, film, the music industry and publishing, which together employ two million people.

'Art is a reflection of God's creativity, an evidence that we are made in the image of God.' (Dr Francis Schaeffer, 1912-1984, Evangelical theologian, philosopher, and pastor)

APRIL 22-28



# Sexualisation of Children

'Jesus said: "If anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone tied around his neck." MARK 9:42 (NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION)

SUN  
22

*Loving Lord, we grieve at the damage inflicted on children through sexual abuse from strangers and from people they know. May their plight be made known so that justice is done and they can receive the protection, help and healing they need. Amen.*

MON  
23

Pray about the overt sexual nature of many advertisements, music videos, magazine covers, internet sites, TV programmes and other material that is seen routinely by young children. Intercede for a radical change in public attitudes, calling for standards to be raised.

TUES  
24

Pray that many parents and others who are concerned about inappropriate material in the media will express their views and lodge complaints on the [www.parentport.org.uk](http://www.parentport.org.uk) website set up by the UK's media regulators, and by visiting [www.care.org.uk/resources/mediacontacts](http://www.care.org.uk/resources/mediacontacts)



WED  
25

*Father, please help us to shield children and teenagers from explicit images, language and cultural influences that threaten to rob them of the innocence of childhood. Prompt us to pray more and to voice our concerns to the appropriate authority. Amen.*

THURS  
26

Remember the work of The UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) bringing together over 170 organisations, including CARE, and individuals from government, industry, law, academia and charities. Pray that it will succeed in keeping children and young people safe online. ([www.education.gov.uk/ukccis](http://www.education.gov.uk/ukccis))

FRI  
27

**THANKSGIVING:** for the positive impact of the Independent Review of the Commercialisation and Sexualisation of Childhood, Letting Children be Children by Reg Bailey, Chief Executive of Mothers Union. Pray for Sarah Teather MP, Minister for Children and Families, as she considers its findings and recommendations.

SAT  
28

Give thanks for every Christian initiative in schools, churches and youth clubs teaching young people that they are of value, helping them to recognise the emptiness of sexual involvement divorced from a loving relationship – preferably marriage. Please pray especially for CARE's **evaluate** programme. ([www.evaluate.org.uk](http://www.evaluate.org.uk))

Claire Perry MP's parliamentary review into children's and teens ease of access to pornography online and via mobile phones, found that those as young as 11 are addicted to pornographic websites. One in three under-10s has seen pornography on the web and a staggering 80 per cent of children aged 14 to 16 admit to looking at it frequently.

APRIL 29 -  
MAY 5



# The Natural World

'May your glorious name be praised! You alone are the Lord. You made the skies and the heavens and all the stars. You made the earth and the seas and everything in them. You preserve them all, and the angels of heaven worship you.'  
NEHEMIAH 9:5,6 (NEW LIVING BIBLE)

SUN  
29

*Creator God, in this spring season we are reminded of Your creative wisdom and power, and the beauties of earth, sea and sky. Please forgive us when we neglect to care for our world and help us to renew our determination to be good stewards of it. Amen.*

MON  
30

Pray about the worrying disappearance of billions of honey bees throughout the world and the serious consequences for crop pollination. Pray that the causes will be understood and solutions found to reverse the situation.



TUES  
1

Remember those at the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), including Richard Benyon MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary for the Natural Environment and Fisheries. Pray for DEFRA as it seeks to reduce the UK's annual 280 million tonnes of waste, which causes serious environmental damage and is very costly to manage.

WED  
2

*Dear Lord, we bring to You those attending the UN Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro this June. Please grant them wisdom to respond to the environmental challenges facing us and to begin to implement the goals that are already agreed. Amen.*

THURS  
3

Intercede for people caught up in natural disasters, such as earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, drought, hurricanes and other extreme weather conditions. Pray particularly for the poorest populations - who are the worst hit as they have the least resources to cope and rebuild.

FRI  
4

## **THANKSGIVING: INTERNATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS DAY**

Give thanks for these brave men and women who rescue and protect us from danger caused by fire, flood, storm, accidents and other incidents. Ask God to watch over them and their families and remember those who have died or been injured. ([www.firefightersday.org](http://www.firefightersday.org))

SAT  
5

Pray for much stricter regulation of fishing vessels engaged in unscrupulous and irresponsible overfishing and destructive trawling methods. This is seriously depleting fish stocks, damaging marine life and can obliterate entire habitats found on the ocean floor.

Over 70 per cent of the world's fisheries are either 'fully exploited', 'over exploited' or 'significantly depleted'. Some species have already been fished to commercial extinction, and more are on the verge of disappearing altogether.



# Making a Christian difference for the sake of the future



## CARE

- equips individual Christians and the local church
- impacts the political world
- provides briefings for parliamentarians
- trains Christian graduates through the Leadership Programme
- supports the vulnerable through caring initiatives



.....  
[www.care.org.uk](http://www.care.org.uk)



[www.facebook.com/careorguk](http://www.facebook.com/careorguk)



[www.twitter.com/careorguk](http://www.twitter.com/careorguk)  
[www.twitter.com/careprayerdiary](http://www.twitter.com/careprayerdiary)

**CARE** (Christian Action, Research & Education)  
53 Romney Street | London | SW1P 3RF  
020 7233 0455 [mail@care.org.uk](mailto:mail@care.org.uk)

Charity No: 1066963 Scottish Charity: SC038911