

APRIL to JULY 2018

CARE Prayer Diary

Making a Christian difference through prayer



'Your unfailing love, O LORD, is as vast as the heavens;
your faithfulness reaches beyond the clouds.'

PSALM 36:5 (NEW LIVING TRANSLATION)

Timothy Keller describes how a Sunday school teacher's simple illustration changed his life.

'Let's assume the distance between the earth and the sun (92 million miles) was reduced to the thickness of this sheet of paper. If that is the case, then the distance between the earth and the nearest star would be a stack of papers 70 feet high. And the diameter of the galaxy would be a stack of papers 310 miles high. The galaxy is just a speck of dust in the universe, yet Jesus holds the universe together by the word of his power.'

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your faithfulness reaches beyond the clouds.'**

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The CARE Prayer Diary is written by Celia Bowring.

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Celia Bowring

ENVIRONMENT MATTERS



'The whole earth is filled with awe at Your wonders; where morning dawns, where evening fades, You call forth songs of joy. You care for the land and water it. You enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with corn, for so You have ordained it.'

PSALM 65:8,9 (NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION)

SUN 22 EARTH DAY – End Plastic Pollution

Creator God, we are sorry for the thoughtlessness and neglect that have caused serious damage to our natural environment – especially in our oceans. Please help governments to halt irresponsible disposal of plastics and other toxic materials. Amen.

MON 23 Remember impoverished communities living in arid areas that are being steadily degraded through damage caused by poor farming practices, the destruction of vegetation, war, droughts and floods. Pray that they will receive help to restore their land and to improve productivity.

TUES 24 Pray for all who care for wildlife that is in danger because of poaching, illegal trade, climate change, loss of habitat and other factors. Ask God to grant knowledge, expertise, financial and other support to help them to protect endangered animal, marine and bird populations.

WED 25 Lord, we marvel at Your creation – how everything is so intricately balanced and so wonderfully sustained by Your eternal wisdom and mighty power, on Earth and throughout the unfathomable reaches of the universe that You have made. Amen.

THURS 26 Pray for China's President Xi Jinping and other national leaders who are determined to clean up their countries' industrial practices and find less polluting ways of sourcing and processing raw materials.

FRI 27 **THANKSGIVING:** for a major change in people's attitudes and an increasing desire to protect and care for the natural world. Please show each of us how we could make a difference through recycling, reducing waste, planting, and supporting initiatives to clean up our local environment.



SAT 28 Pray for the growing number of global and local initiatives to clean up oceans, beaches and rivers, and to reduce unnecessary use of plastics. Give thanks for the amazing progress in reducing the Great Pacific Garbage Patch by organisations like theoceancleanup.com, and for sas.org.uk who mobilise scores of UK communities to clean their coastlines.

Plastics make up 60 to 90 per cent of pollution in the ocean, mostly made up of cigarette butts, plastic bags, fishing gear, and food and drinks packaging. Every year 100,000 marine mammals and a million seabirds die due to plastic debris, mostly by eating it.



APRIL 29 – MAY 5

URBAN LIVING

‘Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.’

JEREMIAH 29:7 (NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION)

SUN 29 } Heavenly Father, please protect and bless the places where we live. May churches increasingly shine beacons of truth and love, graciously sharing the gospel, serving those in need and reaching out to people from other faiths and cultures. Amen.

MON 30 } Remember the 20 UK City Missions, XLP, Message Trust, Street Angels, Street Pastors and many other organisations ministering within urban communities. Pray for their staff and volunteers as they bring the Good News to the people they meet.



TUES 1 } Ask God to grant vision, insight and skills to people working in government agencies, contractors and local authorities that are responsible for providing infrastructure and services in our towns and cities. These include: water, sewerage, transport, power, communications, education, health, housing, social services and policing.

WED 2 } Lord, we pray that those in authority over the 200,000 empty homes, worth £43 billion, will be able to make many of them available to relieve the desperate shortage of housing in urban areas. Draw near to everyone who is homeless today. Amen.

THURS 3 } Praise God that so many new churches are being planted to show His love and reach out to the 32 million people in the UK who have no church contact, especially in urban areas. Pray for those who are being called to be part of this movement to be filled with faith, wisdom, grace and love.

FRI 4 } **INTERNATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS’ DAY. THANKSGIVING:** for the courage and skill of over 45,000 firefighters in the UK, responding to around 700,000 incidents a year. Pray for those who have suffered physical and mental health problems in the course of their work.

SAT 5 } Intercede for the poorest inhabitants of cities worldwide, so many of whom lead precarious lives in unsafe and overcrowded conditions lacking proper healthcare, educational and employment opportunities or hope for the future. Pray for those who seek to help them.

The UN reports that today half of humanity – 3.5 billion people – lives in cities. By 2030, almost 60 per cent of the world’s population will live in urban areas, with almost all this expansion happening in the developing world. There are 828 million people living in slums today and the number keeps rising.

MAY 6 – 12

YOUR KINGDOM COME!



'Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.'

MATTHEW 6:33 (NEW LIVING TRANSLATION)

THY KINGDOM COME – GLOBAL WAVE OF PRAYER: 10 – 20 MAY (thykingdomcome.global)

- SUN 6** Glorious King, we worship You today and recommit ourselves to follow You. Thank You Holy Spirit that You live within us, giving us wisdom, grace and strength to put Christ's kingdom first in our lives and to trust the Father for all we need. Amen.
- MON 7** Give thanks for everyone engaged in evangelism, Christian discipleship and Bible teaching, using every means of communication to people throughout the world. Pray that they will be inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit in their words and deeds to walk closely in the ways of Christ.
- TUES 8** Pray for the Church of Jesus Christ to grow in love and unity across the world and to advance His kingdom. Pray especially for Christians who are finding this a difficult challenge because of traditions, disagreements over theology and different views on issues around sexual morality.
- WED 9** Remember Pray for Schools – a partnership between CARE and six other Christian organisations. Pray that in the next fortnight many more Christians will pray for their local schools. (prayforschools.org)
- THURS 10** **ASCENSION DAY**
Almighty God, Your ascended Son has sent us into the world to preach the good news of Your kingdom. Inspire us with Your Spirit and fill our hearts with the fire of Your love, that all who hear Your Word may be drawn to You, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (This prayer will be said at thousands of 'Thy Kingdom Come' events across the world)
- FRI 11** **THANKSGIVING:** for Christians who are steadfastly living out their faith at home and at work; be it politics, the civil service, education, health and social care, industry and innovation, commerce and banking, the arts and media – and other areas.
- SAT 12** Intercede for our brothers and sisters suffering persecution because of their faithful allegiance to God's kingdom. Pray for courage to persevere in the midst of their trials and ask God to meet their needs, bestowing His grace and love on each one of these precious believers.



'I place no value on anything I have or may possess, except in relation to the kingdom of God. If anything will advance the interests of the kingdom, it shall be given away or kept, only as by giving or keeping it I shall most promote the glory of Him to whom I owe all my hopes in time or eternity.' (Dr David Livingstone, pioneer medical missionary with the London Missionary Society, explorer in Africa and British hero of the Victorian era.)



MAY 13 – 19

ISSUES IN EDUCATION

'Asking that you may 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, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power.'

COLOSSIANS 1:9-11 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)

SUN 13 } **Holy God, please pour out Your Spirit on the students and staff within our universities, colleges, schools and other places of learning, especially where traditions and values within them are contrary to Your truth. Strengthen and inspire those engaged in every kind of evangelism in the field of education. Amen.**

MON 14 } Please remember everyone who is preparing to take exams over coming weeks. Pray for energy and good health, self-discipline, peaceful and conducive circumstances in which to study, and for teachers to be patient and encouraging as they help their students with revision.



TUES 15 } Ask God to grant wisdom to Secretary for Education Damian Hinds MP, his counterparts in Scotland and Wales: John Swinney MSP and Kirsty Williams AM, and also Derek Baker, Permanent Secretary for the Northern Ireland Department of Education.

WED 16 } **Lord, we ask that many more Christians will be prompted to pray regularly for the children, teenagers and staff in their local schools. Please bless the ministry of Pray for Schools, which encourages and resources such individuals and groups. Amen.**

THURS 17 } Pray for the thousands of Christians who work in and visit schools: leading assemblies, teaching, helping in the classroom, presenting drama and music, organising sports, and mentoring children. Pray that many staff members and students will be touched by God's love because of their valuable input.

FRI 18 } **THANKSGIVING:** for teachers and others who are involved in the education of children and young people with learning disabilities, physical impairments, behavioural challenges and other issues. Pray for understanding and patience.

SAT 19 } Remember the 781 million adults in the world who cannot read and write, almost two-thirds of them women. Pray that, alongside the provision of schooling for children, many good education projects that can lift them out of poverty will be set in place.

'Education is a human right with immense power to transform. On its foundation rest the cornerstones of freedom, democracy and sustainable human development.'
(Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations 1997- 2006.)

SERVANT LEADERSHIP



'Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom ... first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.'

JAMES 3:13-17 (NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION)

SUN } **PENTECOST SUNDAY**

20 Holy Spirit, we ask that the rushing wind of Your power, the pure flame of Your love and the living water of Your truth might come upon Your people. Please grant Your wisdom to those who have been called to be servant leaders within the Church across the world. Amen.

MON } Pray for Christians in leadership throughout the country having to make strategic decisions every day. Pray that they would lead with love, courage and humility. Ask God to give them wisdom and authority as they serve and influence society.

TUES } Ask God to guide all those who are involved with the process of Britain's departure from the EU. Pray especially for David Davis MP – the 'Brexit Secretary', Prime Minister Theresa May, Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson and others responsible for these important and complex negotiations.

WED } God of time and eternity, we give You thanks for Elizabeth, our Queen. Grant her Your gifts of love, joy and peace as she continues in faithful obedience to You and in devoted service to her lands and peoples, now and all the days of her life. Amen. (from the prayer for her Diamond Jubilee in 2012)



THURS } Pray about the revelation of some aid workers sexually exploiting and abusing women and children to whom they had a duty of protection and care. Pray for such vulnerable people to be treated with respect and compassion, and that charities doing outstanding work will not be adversely affected by this publicity.

FRI } **THANKSGIVING:** for this year's group of graduates on CARE's Leadership Programme and the hundreds of alumni who now work in a wide range of political, business, education, media and charity sectors. Ask God to fill them with His wisdom and love as they serve Him.

SAT } Ask God to encourage and strengthen parents who seek to exercise servant leadership within their families. Pray for those who are having difficulties in these relationships and experiencing other challenges with health, finances, accommodation and employment.

So let us learn how to serve
And in our lives enthrone Him
Each other's needs to prefer
For it is Christ we're serving.

*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)



MAY 27 – JUNE 2

RESPECT AND EQUALITY FOR WOMEN

‘This is the family tree of the human race: When God created the human race, he made it godlike, with a nature akin to God. He created both male and female and blessed them, the whole human race.’

GENESIS 5:1-2 (THE MESSAGE)

SUN 27 Loving Saviour, thank You for the countercultural way in which You honoured and cared for women and girls when You lived among us, and for Your love for them throughout the ages. Please help women today who suffer discrimination, injustice and abuse. Amen.



MON 28 Pray that the Church worldwide will increasingly promote respect for women. Remember all who serve: as ordained clergy and in other leadership roles, through preaching and evangelism, social action and pastoral care, strategic planning and creativity through music, the arts and writing.

TUES 29 Thank God for the many civil rights that have been won for women since they were first permitted to vote one hundred years ago. Pray for men and women today who continue to champion the cause of sexual equality in the workplace and in many other areas of daily life.

WED 30 Father God, please bless every initiative that seeks to protect, rescue and restore women who have been subjected to abuse such as female genital mutilation, forced marriage, domestic violence, rape and sexual harassment. May these victims be comforted and find healing and freedom. Amen.

THURS 31 Pray about the outcome of American film producer Harvey Weinstein’s multiple acts of sexual harassment and abuse of women over many years. Intercede that truth and justice will prevail for those who have courageously come forward to report similar attacks by other perpetrators.

FRI 1 **THANKSGIVING:** for the success of Restored, an international Christian alliance founded by Tearfund. Restored seeks to end violence towards women in difficult circumstances and situations through the amazing work of its member organisations. (tearfund.org)

SAT 2 Ask God to help those who promote the rights of women and girls in the developing world to receive education and training, own land, run businesses, have economic opportunities and live in freedom from those who would oppress them. Pray for growing success in these endeavours.

Around one in ten (120 million) girls worldwide have experienced sexual violence at some point in their lives. At least 200 million girls and women alive today in 30 countries have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM). In most countries women earn on average 60-75 per cent of men’s wages. Fewer than 20 per cent of landholders are women. Women make up just 23.3 per cent of the world’s parliamentarians. (womankind.org.uk)

FEEDING THE WORLD



‘He made heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them. He keeps every promise forever. He gives justice to the oppressed and food to the hungry. The LORD frees the prisoners. The LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are weighed down.’

PSALM 146:6-8 (NEW LIVING TRANSLATION)

SUN 3 | **Lord, the scale of global poverty is beyond our understanding. Give bread to those who are hungry, and hunger for justice to those of us who have bread. In Jesus’ name. Amen.**
(Tearfund prayer)

MON 4 | Give thanks for the life-saving work of foodbanks. About 2,000 are now operating in UK towns and cities, most of them affiliated to The Trussell Trust and organised by churches. Pray that as need increases, donors and volunteers can continue to supply food to people in need.

TUES 5 | Pray for humanitarian organisations distributing food to the poorest of the poor. Ask God to strengthen and sustain aid workers when they encounter heart-breaking situations and only have limited resources to give. Ask God to show them ways to meet the needs of displaced people and others who cannot support themselves.



WED 6 | **Lord Jesus, the Bread of Life, we pray for people who are spiritually hungry and need to receive the forgiveness and eternal life that You offer so freely. Please help everyone engaged in evangelism and Bible teaching as they share Your truth and grace through word and deed. Amen.**

THURS 7 | Ask God to inspire scientists with innovative ideas for new food production methods to feed the world’s growing population over the next few decades. Pray that these processes will be safe for human consumption and good for the environment.

FRI 8 | **WORLD OCEANS DAY. THANKSGIVING:** for the growing practice of setting sustainable fishing limits that allow fishermen to make a living and encourage them to be responsible stewards of the oceans by restricting the size of their catch and using environmentally friendly methods.

SAT 9 | Remember countries that have been ravaged by armed conflict where people are hungry and need urgent assistance: especially Yemen, Syria, South Sudan, Somalia, northeast Nigeria, Burundi and Central African Republic.

The world produces enough food to feed everyone, yet one in nine people suffer from hunger. Hunger kills more people every year than malaria, tuberculosis and AIDS combined. Around 45 per cent of infant deaths are related to malnutrition. One third of the food produced worldwide is lost or wasted.



JUNE 10 – 16

WOUNDED LIVES

‘Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’

MATTHEW 11:28-30 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)

SUN 10 Heavenly Father, each one of us experience feelings of fear, sadness, regret and disappointment in our lives. For some, this burden is too much to bear. Send Your Spirit to help all who need to trust Jesus with their worries, so that they may know His love, mercy and grace. Amen.



MON 11 Remember the 200 million girls and women globally who have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM) including an estimated 137,000 in the UK. FGM can happen after birth, during childhood or adolescence, just before marriage or during pregnancy and causes lifelong suffering and physical and psychological scars.

TUES 12 **UNITED NATIONS DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR** Remember those throughout the world campaigning for the rights of children. Pray for them to be protected from economic exploitation and from being made to work in conditions that are hazardous, interfere with their education, or harm their health and development.

WED 13 Lord, please comfort children who have been subjected to cruelty and exploitation and set them free from feelings of shame and worthlessness – as well as the painful effects of physical, sexual and emotional abuse. Draw them close to those who can help them find healing for their wounded lives. Amen.

THURS 14 Remember war veterans, police and emergency service workers, and survivors of assault, abuse, accidents, disasters and other shocking events who are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. Pray that they will receive all the support they need to recover.

FRI 15 **THANKSGIVING:** for everyone whose medical, nursing and therapy skills help people with physical illnesses and injuries, and those with mental and emotional health problems. Pray for Christians who are involved in counselling and prayer ministry.

SAT 16 Pray about the estimated one in four adults and ten per cent of children who, at some point are prone to mental illness: anxiety, depression, neurotic and psychotic disorders, self-harming and behaviour problems.

‘You don’t really know Jesus is all you need, until Jesus is all you have.’
(Timothy Keller, American pastor, theologian and Christian apologist)



‘For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being.’

EPHESIANS 3:14-16 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)

SUN } **FATHER’S DAY**

17 Heavenly Father, we pray that Your attributes of love, strength, justice and grace will be mirrored in men who are earthly fathers and grandfathers. Please help those who especially need Your power, patience and guidance today. Amen.

MON } Pray for more Christians to offer themselves as foster or adoptive parents. Ask God to grant wisdom, understanding and insight to those responsible for screening potential carers, matching children with new families and giving support throughout the process.

18

TUES } Remember families that are living through the pain and sorrow of losing a loved one. Pray for friends, relatives and others to know how best to support the children and adults involved and for many to contact Care for the Family’s ‘Widowed Young Support’ and ‘Bereaved Parents Support’. (careforthefamily.org.uk)

19

WED } **WORLD REFUGEE DAY**

20 Remember the plight of refugees in Britain seeking asylum, who are living on £37.75 of government support per week. Pray especially for unaccompanied children, who have reached safety in the UK but are uncertain whether close family members can join them here.

THURS } **God of love, please strengthen relationships between wives and husbands and grant special grace to marriages that are experiencing difficulties. Help cohabiting couples, especially those with families, to develop flourishing relationships that are founded on love and commitment. Amen.**

21



FRI } **THANKSGIVING:** for all those who support families facing difficulties: doctors, social workers, counsellors, carers and people from Christian churches and other organisations. Ask God to grant them the compassion and discernment they need in each situation.

22

SAT } Pray that older relatives will feel included by their families, especially if they live far away from their children and grandchildren and find it difficult to travel. Ask God to encourage each generation to find creative ways to stay in touch and to offer help as needed.

23

Government statistics tell us that in 2017 there were about 27 million households in the UK. Just over 19 million of these were families (mostly couples living together), almost eight million of which included one or more dependent children. Almost 4 million people aged 16 to 64 years and 3.8 million aged 65 and over lived alone.



JUNE 24 – 30

FOR THE SAKE OF **THE FUTURE**

'For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you.'

JEREMIAH 29:11,12 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)

- SUN 24** } **Eternal God, as we consider what might happen in the future, please help us to pray faithfully, trusting You in the face of the challenges and threats that lie ahead. Raise up leaders of wisdom and courage who will follow in Your ways to serve Your kingdom. Amen.**
- MON 25** } Pray about Brexit: that through negotiations the British Government and EU leaders will reach just and workable agreements concerning trade, freedom of movement, immigration, border controls, security and defence, the environment and other issues.
- TUES 26** } **INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING**
Pray that today's publicity and events will increase people's awareness of the hazards of drug addiction and illegal trafficking that contribute to so much misery and death, whilst enriching the cartels controlling the manufacture and distribution of harmful substances.
- WED 27** } **Lord, please help children and adults who are working hard to gain knowledge, experience and qualifications to follow a career, develop their skills and talents and make a positive impact at every level of society. Bless them in their studies and provide for their needs. Amen.**
- THURS 28** } Pray for those engaged in futurology – dealing with future possibilities based on current trends – to tap into God's wisdom and truth as they advise governments, companies, scientists and inventors, the Church and other agencies ready to meet challenges that lie ahead.
- FRI 29** } **'FOR THE SAKE OF THE FUTURE' – CARE'S A.I. AND ROBOTICS CONFERENCE**
Please pray for this landmark conference, where Christian leaders will consider how the Church should engage with the rapid changes in technology that will radically affect our understanding of what it means to be human.
- SAT 30** } **THANKSGIVING: ARMED FORCES DAY**
Remember the servicemen and women, reservists and veterans who serve in our Armed Forces or have done so in the past. Pray that their outstanding service in times of both conflict and peace will be recognised and honoured.



'The great thing is to be found at one's post as a child of God, living each day as though it were our last, but planning as though our world might last a hundred years.'
(C.S. Lewis 1898-1963)

HEALTH SERVICE CHALLENGES



'May the favour of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us – yes, establish the work of our hands.'

PSALM 90:17 (NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION)

SUN 1 Lord, our Great Physician, please grant Your gifts of love, wisdom, integrity and knowledge to those who work in health organisations throughout the world, especially where they are impeded through lack of medical supplies, unstable and dangerous situations and other problems. Amen.



MON 2 Please remember GPs, district nurses, health visitors, midwives and other Allied Health Workers, who are often under pressure as they work in community-based services outside of hospital buildings – in local surgeries, people's homes, schools, clinics, hospices, care homes, and other settings.

TUES 3 Give thanks for the many healthcare staff who come from overseas, without whom the NHS could not function. Pray that they will flourish in their areas of expertise and feel valued for the contribution they make at every level and department of our health services.

WED 4 Lord, we pray for the NHS as demands grow whilst resources are so stretched. Give clear insight and vision to those responsible for future policies and plans, and wisdom and determination to staff who have to find solutions to urgent problems. Amen.

THURS 5 **70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE**

THANKSGIVING: for the vision of our NHS, set up 70 years ago 'to meet the needs of everyone and be free at the point of delivery', which has made an incredible difference to countless people's lives. Give thanks for the excellence and commitment of those who have worked within it over the years.

FRI 6 Pray about serious concerns that bacteria are becoming increasingly resistant to antibiotics, often wrongly prescribed, that are dangerously affecting patients with infections such as pneumonia, tuberculosis and blood poisoning. Pray that pharmaceutical companies and other health scientists will find ways to combat this problem.

SAT 7 Remember staff in A&E departments, the ambulance services and minor injury units, as each day they care for increasing numbers of patients with fewer resources. Pray that they may be able to deal firmly with abusive people and be sustained in times of particular pressure.

'The NHS has changed a great deal since Nye Bevan launched it back in 1948, but one thing has stayed the same: the dedication, skill and compassion of those who work in it and support it in other ways.

The 70th anniversary is an important opportunity to honour those people, past and present.'

(Ethel Armstrong MBE, aged 87, who was working in the NHS when it came into being on the 5 July 1948.)



JULY 8 – 14

THE GIFT OF LIFE

'You clothed me with skin and flesh, and you knit my bones and sinews together. You gave me life and showed me your unfailing love. My life was preserved by your care.'

JOB 10:11, 12 (NEW LIVING TRANSLATION)

SUN }
8

Almighty God, thank You for the gift of life: for watching over us from the moment of conception through to our final breath. Please draw near to those who are coping with a serious disability, frailty or illness and grant them peace. Amen.

MON }
9

Pray about the efforts in all parts of the British Isles to liberalise abortion. Ask God to grant wisdom and grace to those who are committed to protecting the right to life for the unborn and also support women who have unplanned, unwanted pregnancies.



TUES }
10

Remember CARE's initiative Open which encourages churches to be places of healing, where those who have experienced an abortion can be supported with grace and understanding, and provides healing retreats. (weareopen.org.uk)

WED }
11

Loving Lord, please strengthen and sustain the thousands of trained nurses and midwives who work in the poorest areas of the world: delivering babies, vaccinating infants, teaching infant hygiene and nutrition, and giving other life-saving support, especially in refugee camps and isolated communities. Amen.

THURS }
12

Continue to pray that any attempt in the UK to legalise euthanasia in any form will be unsuccessful. Pray too for medical and nursing professionals, who are caring for people who are terminally ill, to know how to diminish their pain in their last days with compassion and integrity.

FRI }
13

THANKSGIVING: for staff, volunteers and family members who care for frail elderly people, keeping them safe and well looked after and providing friendship and entertainment to enrich their lives. Pray especially for those ministering to patients with dementia and other demanding illnesses.

SAT }
14

Remember staff in hospital Intensive Care Units – multi-disciplinary healthcare teams looking after people with life-threatening conditions, often providing specialist treatment because organs, such as their heart, lungs or kidneys, are not working properly. Pray that they will succeed in their fight to save their patients' lives.

'Lord, help me to bring comfort where there is pain, courage where there is fear, hope where there is despair, acceptance when the end is near, and a touch gentle with tenderness, patience and love. Amen.'
(Nurse's prayer, author unknown)

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES



‘Young people, it’s wonderful to be young! Enjoy every minute of it. Do everything you want to do; take it all in. But remember that you must give an account to God for everything you do. So refuse to worry and keep your body healthy.’

ECCLESIASTES 11:9,10 (NEW LIVING TRANSLATION)

SUN } **WORLD YOUTH SKILLS DAY**

15 Creator God, please make a way for more young people who live in dire poverty and have very limited opportunities, to learn and develop their skills so that they can find fulfilling employment and contribute to the wellbeing of their communities. Amen.



MON } Remember children and dependent adults with learning disabilities, visual and hearing impairment and other additional needs. Pray that those who teach them will find ways to unlock their students’ potential and encourage and inspire them to fulfil attainable dreams and ambitions.

16

TUES } Pray for young people aged 16 to 24 – there are almost 800,000 in the UK – who are not in education, employment or training, especially those living in disadvantaged households and communities. Ask God to grant success to the many individuals and schemes offering hope and practical support to help change their lives.

17

WED } Lord, we lift to You the children and young people who will attend Christian camps, festivals and holiday clubs this summer. Please equip and inspire their leaders to bring the message of Your transforming love to life. Amen.

18

THURS } Please remember young people embarking on gap year adventures: travelling, volunteering, teaching English and engaging in many other activities that will enrich their lives and enable them to serve others. Ask God to keep them safe and to grant them opportunities to grow in their understanding of the world and to discover His purposes for them.

19

FRI } **THANKSGIVING:** for the many opportunities local churches and Christians organisations provide for children in the UK and abroad to enjoy and compete in sport. Pray that through these activities they would learn and grow in God’s ways.

20

SAT } Give thanks for the scores of child sponsorship charities working in developing countries to provide for the basic needs and education of the poorest children and their communities. Pray especially for Christian agencies that offer holistic care in partnership with local churches.

21

Research by Compassion found former sponsored children were: 13 per cent more likely to finish primary school, 41.6 per cent more likely to finish secondary school and 82.6 per cent more likely to finish university. They were 17.6 per cent more likely to have a salaried job and 75 per cent more likely to be community leaders. (compassionuk.org)



Making a Christian difference



- equips individuals and the local church for prayer and action
- impacts the political world
- provides research and briefings for parliamentarians
- trains Christian graduates through the CARE Leadership Programme
- supports the vulnerable through advocacy



Edinburgh



Belfast



Cardiff

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twitter.com/careprayerdiary

 PrayerMate: praynow4.org/care