

JULY to OCTOBER 2017

# CARE Prayer Diary

Making a Christian difference through prayer



**'My life is but a weaving  
Between my God and me'**  
(Corrie Ten Boom)

My life is but a weaving  
Between my God and me.  
I cannot choose the colours  
He weaves so steadily.

Of't times He weaveth sorrow;  
And I in foolish pride  
Forget He sees the upper  
And I the underside.

Not 'til the loom is silent  
And the shuttles cease to fly  
Will God unroll the canvas  
And reveal the reason why.

The dark threads are as needful  
In the weaver's skilful hand  
As the threads of gold and silver  
In the pattern He has planned.

He knows, He loves, He cares;  
Nothing this truth can dim.  
He gives the very best to those  
Who leave the choice to Him.

(Corrie Ten Boom 1892-1983)



The CARE Prayer Diary is written by Celia Bowring.

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Celia Bowring

# RESCUE AND RESTORATION



'You are my rock and my fortress. For the honour of your name, lead me out of this danger. Pull me from the trap my enemies set for me, for I find protection in you alone. I entrust my spirit into your hand. Rescue me, Lord, for you are a faithful God.'

PSALM 31:3-5 (NEW LIVING TRANSLATION)

**SUN } WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS**

**30** Merciful Father, we bring to You the tragedy of human trafficking that exploits millions of women, children and men for forced labour and sex, and affects every country as places of origin, transit or destination for victims. We pray for rescue and restoration. Amen.

**MON } 31** Pray for a better response from governments and other UK agencies to the urgent practical needs of human trafficking victims like housing help and money for food. Pray they will be given the support they need like housing help and money for food, more time to recover in a safe environment, and for the successful prosecution of those who exploited them.

**TUES } AUGUST IS NATIONAL ROAD VICTIM MONTH**

**1** Remember the hundreds of bereaved families and tens of thousands in the UK who are injured each year on our roads. Pray for efforts to reduce this terrible toll through education, improved safety and tougher penalties for reckless drivers.

**WED } 2** Lord, may the faith of our Christian brothers and sisters who are being persecuted in many countries in the world remain steadfast, even in the midst of great suffering. Please grant success to those providing advocacy and practical help to their communities. Amen.

**THURS } 3** Remember those who work with police, ambulance, firefighting, lifeboats, air-sea, cliff, mountain and other emergency and rescue services. Ask God to grant protection, especially to those responding to terrorist attacks, as they help those who are injured and in danger.



**FRI } 4** **THANKSGIVING:** for the amazing work of organisations that provide refuge and ongoing support to women, children and men escaping domestic violence. Pray that victims will find courage and the opportunity to seek protection and help. ([refuge.org.uk](http://refuge.org.uk), [womensaidni.org](http://womensaidni.org), [scottishwomensaid.org.uk](http://scottishwomensaid.org.uk))

**SAT } 5** Pray for the rescue and restoration of those who have become addicted to activities that are harmful both to themselves and often others; for example pornography and other compulsive sexual activities, misuse of alcohol, drugs and substance abuse and gambling.

A refuge is a safe place for women and children who need to get away from violence, threats, intimidation or bullying from a partner, ex-partner or a relative • Approximately 13 per cent of the overall crime in Northern Ireland is related to domestic abuse • There are about 60,000 recorded incidents of domestic abuse in Scotland each year • An average of 4,600 victims of domestic abuse in England and Wales are given support every day.



**AUGUST 6 – 12**

## **CHILDREN IN POVERTY**

'For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me ... Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

MATTHEW 25:35-40 (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

**SUN 6** } **Lord Jesus, although You were rich for our sake You became poor, so that by Your poverty You could make us rich. Help us to reach out to children and young people, sharing the message of truth and grace in words and through loving action. Amen.**

**MON 7** } Pray that over the next few years the Government will prioritise finding effective strategies to alleviate the serious problem of poverty in the UK that affects around four million children – two thirds of them from working families.

**TUES 8** } Pray about India's Hindu nationalist Government's deeply concerning decision to block foreign funding to thousands of non-profit organisations, which has led to ministries such as Compassion International being forced to close down their vital sponsorship programme that cares for more than 145,000 children.

**WED 9** } **Lord our Provider, we intercede for families that have next to nothing to live on. Please lead them to secure jobs with a living wage and sincere and kind people who will support them through difficult times by offering practical help, advice and counselling, spiritual encouragement and friendship. Amen.**

**THURS 10** } Intercede for the hundreds of millions of street children around the world who are living in abject poverty. Pray for Christian organisations like Compassion, Tearfund, Toybox, Street Child and World Vision working with them.



**FRI 11** } **THANKSGIVING:** for the growth of well-organised compassionate church-led projects that provide food and other essentials to needy families. Pray for more initiatives to develop that can help to lift people out of poverty through education, mentoring relationships and practical support.

**SAT 12** } **INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY**  
Give thanks for every effort of United Nations and other initiatives and of thousands of Christian agencies, to support young people who are victims of hunger, illiteracy, poor health, exploitation, abuse, conflict, displacement, criminality and many other tragic factors.

'Poverty means not being able to heat your home, pay your rent, or buy the essentials for your children ... waking up every day facing insecurity, uncertainty, and impossible decisions about money ... facing marginalisation – and even discrimination – because of your financial circumstances. The constant stress it causes can lead to problems that deprive people of the chance to play a full part in society.' (Joseph Rowntree Foundation)

COUNTRYSIDE CONCERNS



‘You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills; they give drink to every beast of the field ... Beside them the birds of the heavens dwell; they sing among the branches ... You cause the grass to grow for the livestock and plants for man to cultivate, that he may bring forth food from the earth and wine to gladden the heart’

PSALM 104:10-15 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)

**SUN 13** } **Father, please inspire church leaders and congregations in Britain’s villages and remote communities – that often lack transport, internet access, shops, schools and other vital services – to persevere in sharing the Gospel and try to meet practical, social and spiritual needs. Amen.**

**MON 14** } Pray for ‘Refuel’ – a family festival in the Scottish Highlands happening this week, and for other holiday events in rural settings throughout Britain this summer, that will inspire, encourage and equip Christians in their everyday lives.

**TUES 15** } Ask God to grant insight to those working in the Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs as they address issues of rural isolation, poverty, an aging population and other concerns. Pray too for churches offering support to their communities.



**WED 16** } **Lord, we pray for help for farmers and other rural businesses in the poorest parts of the world, especially where people suffer as a result of bad weather conditions and diseases affecting crops and livestock. Amen.**

**THURS 17** } Pray about the future of Britain’s farming and fishing industries in the light of Brexit negotiations – that effective and just measures will be put in place to support each sector of the rural economy when EU subsidies come to an end.

**FRI 18** } **THANKSGIVING:** for the Woodland Trust’s work of campaigning, planting new trees and restoring ancient woodland. Pray that the process of deforestation affecting so many countries can be reversed as people work together on projects like Scotland’s Trees for Life and the international Billion Tree Campaign. ([plant-for-the-planet.org](http://plant-for-the-planet.org))

**SAT 19** } Praise God for Britain’s 46 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and for National Parks UK – an initiative of 15 national parks that work together to safeguard and enhance these valuable landscapes. Pray too for resolution of disagreements about the Mourne’s becoming a Northern Irish National Park.



AUGUST 20 – 26

## CARING FOR THE CARERS

'May the Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father (who has loved us and given us unending encouragement and unfailing hope by his grace) inspire you with courage and confidence in every good thing you say or do.'

2 THESSALONIANS 2:16,17 (JB PHILLIPS TRANSLATION)

**SUN 20** } **Loving Father, we bring to You everyone who is caring for a loved one dependent upon them. Please grant them Your wisdom, patience and strength day by day and help them to find the support and friendship they need to keep going. Amen.**

**MON 21** } Remember foster carers looking after disturbed and disadvantaged children and young people who struggle with emotional pain, mental health issues, relationship and social problems. Ask God to show them ways to bring peace and order into their lives and to make sure they themselves are supported.

**TUES 22** } Pray that more of the estimated 6.5 million people in the UK who provide unpaid care for ill, older or disabled loved ones will apply for the Carers Allowance and access help and practical advice from local authorities, charities and churches that are seeking to help them.



**WED 23** } **Dear Lord, please draw near to the increasing number of men and women in their 70s and 80s who are caring for their spouse or someone else and are suffering from financial hardship, isolation and ill health. May they receive the help they urgently need. Amen.**

**THURS 24** } Pray that more of the estimated two million people who become carers every year will register this fact with their GP so that they can be monitored and helped if the pressure of responsibility and caring begins to affect their health.

**FRI 25** } **THANKSGIVING:** for the vital work of Age UK, Care for the Family, Carers Christian Fellowship, Carers UK, Carers Trust, Counsel and Care, Crossroads Young Carers (NI) and the many local groups that support carers. Pray that government and local authority staff will value the advice of these grass roots organisations.

**SAT 26** } Remember the estimated 700,000 young carers in Britain under 18 – some as young as five years old – who provide practical care, assistance and support to a sick or disabled relative at home. A significant number of them are bullied in school, and miss out on education, leisure activities and time with friends.

'I can't go out and play with friends because I have to help my dad and my little brother who has autism.'

'I miss a lot of school as I am tired if I've been up helping my mum with her tablets during the night.'

'You feel proud you're really making a difference to someone in a good way. You learn skills about how to be independent ... more understanding and accepting of the problems faced by others.' (Quotes from Scottish Young Carers)

BREXIT



'I have heard all about you, Lord. I am filled with awe by your amazing works. In this time of our deep need, help us again as you did in years gone by. And in your anger, remember mercy.'

HABAKKUK 3:2 (NEW LIVING TRANSLATION)

**SUN 27** **Almighty God, You rule over all nations and peoples. At this time of uncertainty we beseech You to guide all involved in the process of Britain's departure from the European Union. May their judgements be fair and workable for everyone. Amen.**

**MON 28** Remember David Davis, Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union and his team responsible for overseeing negotiations and establishing the UK's future relationship with the EU. Ask God to strengthen and encourage all those working behind the scenes to achieve these objectives.



**TUES 29** Pray about the conflicting views held by the people of Scotland regarding Brexit: 62 per cent voted Remain. Ask God to lead Nicola Sturgeon and the leaders of other political parties north of the border to make wise decisions about the future in the midst of much uncertainty.

**WED 30** **Father we pray for people from EU countries who have come to the UK and British citizens living in mainland Europe and the uncertainty they are feeling about their future. Please grant wisdom and unity to those responsible for resolving this situation. Amen.**

**THURS 31** Intercede for workable solutions to the problem of a 310 mile-long 'hard' or 'soft' UK/EU border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. This cuts across properties, transport routes, and has to be crossed daily by up to 35,000 people who work, study and live in both countries.

**FRI 1** Pray about the future economic situation in Wales, which currently depends on the EU both in terms of exports and funding, especially for its farming communities. Pray that the Welsh Assembly will receive the support it needs to maintain vital services and help businesses to thrive.

**SAT 2** Pray for the Government of Estonia, which is holding the Presidency of the European Union over the second half of 2017 in place of the United Kingdom. Ask God to grant wisdom and strategic insight to its leaders, especially regarding the ongoing negotiations with Britain.

'This could be a time of liberation, of seizing and defining the future, or it could be one in which the present problems seize our national future and define us. Whether one was a supporter of Brexit or of Remain, there is now a wide and liberal choice of future for this country.' (Archbishop Justin Welby)



# Leadership Programme

Godly Leaders For Public Life

## Application Deadline for the 2018-19 Programme 13 November 2017

For more information and how to apply online  
please visit [care.org.uk/leadership](http://care.org.uk/leadership)



The Leadership Programme gives you the opportunity to work for an MP or NGO. This graduate scheme is for any Christian looking to make a difference in public life. It consists of a 10 month internship alongside weekly study days of theology and politics.

***"I know I will never experience anything quite like this year again"***

*Alumnus*



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CARE is a registered charity No 1066963 Scottish Charity: SC038911  
Executive Chairman Rev Lyndon Bowring | Chief Executive Nola Leach

EDUCATION FOR LIFE



'The revelation of God is whole and pulls our lives together. The signposts of God are clear and point out the right road. The life-maps of God are right, showing the way to joy. The directions of God are plain and easy on the eyes.'

PSALM 19:7-9 (THE MESSAGE)

Churches mark **BACK TO SCHOOL WITH GOD SUNDAY** on a Sunday at the start of each academic year. **EDUCATION SUNDAY** is 10 September. (prayforschools.org)

**SUN 3** } **Lord, please bless all the children and adults in our local schools at the start of this year. We pray that they will provide caring communities where pupils find fulfilment and success in academic, social, sporting, creative and spiritual activities. Amen.**

**MON 4** } Remember the many exciting Christian initiatives in schools seeking to engage pupils with biblical values-based learning for life. Pray for children and youth workers from local churches and organisations like: Barnabas, Chaplaincy Central, Christian Values in Education (Scotland), iSingPOP, Open the Book, Prayer Spaces in Schools, schoolworkUK, Scripture Union, and Spinnaker.

**TUES 5** } Pray that an increasing number of people approaching or in retirement will be inspired to master new skills and apply themselves to further learning for their own development and to help others. Pray for many Christians to seize such opportunities to equip them in God's service.

**WED 6** } **Father, please strengthen teachers who are educating children with serious health conditions, disabilities and other additional needs. Please help those in very challenging situations in refugee camps, conflict zones and other places of insecurity and deprivation. Amen.**

**THURS 7** } Pray for young people who are beginning apprenticeships, intern schemes, college and university courses and other educational programmes this autumn. Ask God to guide them into friendships and activities that will help them to flourish as they grow into adult life.

**FRI 8** } **INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY**  
**THANKSGIVING:** for every effort to give children and adults opportunities to improve their ability to read, write and communicate. Pray that the over 781 million people worldwide who cannot read or write and the many more with only very basic literacy will be helped.

**SAT 9** } Pray for the ten Christian graduates who are starting their year with CARE's Leadership Programme: based with an MP or NGO four days a week, with a study programme on Fridays and over three weekends. Ask God to be at work in each of their individual lives and within the group.



SEPTEMBER 10 – 16

## FREEDOM

'For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.'

GALATIANS 5:13 (NEW LIVING TRANSLATION)

### SUN } WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY

**10** Lord of life, we think of the 800,000 individuals worldwide who die by suicide each year. Please comfort those who mourn, and equip all who reach out to help people at risk, especially through sharing the truth and freedom of Your forgiveness and love. Amen.

MON } Please continue to intercede for an end to war in places  
**11** such as Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. Remember the millions caught up in these conflicts who long for the freedom to live in security and peace.

TUES } Give thanks for the precious freedoms we enjoy in this  
**12** country: to express ourselves, move around without hindrance, practise our faith and lead a private life. Pray that any measures to combat violent extremism and criminal activities put in place by the Government and security services will not erode these privileges.



WED } God of all freedom, we pray for deliverance and healing for everyone who is caught  
**13** up in an addiction to pornography. Please use the P Word conference in Glasgow on 20 September and in Belfast on 20 October to equip church leaders and others to offer practical and pastoral support. Amen. ([pwordconference.com](http://pwordconference.com))

THURS } Remember the serious decline in press freedom around the world – worst in North Korea,  
**14** Eritrea, Turkmenistan, Syria and China – and also the rise of so-called 'fake news'. Pray for deceit and slander to be exposed and for the truth about situations to be broadcast for the good of all people.

### FRI } INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEMOCRACY

**15** **THANKSGIVING:** for the world's 123 democracies, with all their imperfections, where people elect their governments and enjoy a degree of freedom, respect and protection. Intercede for Christians and others who are persecuted by oppressive authoritarian regimes to be given grace and courage.

SAT } Pray about all the Sunday services in churches and other places tomorrow, when the message  
**16** of the true freedom we have in Christ will be shared throughout the world. Ask God to grant His power and love to all who communicate this gospel, and for many hearts to respond.

'Long my imprisoned spirit lay, Fast bound in sin and nature's night; Thine eye diffused a quickening ray, I woke; the dungeon flamed with light; My chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose, went forth, and followed thee.'  
(John Wesley 1703-1791)

DEMENTIA



'Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. God will make this happen, for he who calls you is faithful.'

1 THESSALONIANS 5:23,24 (NEW LIVING TRANSLATION)

Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia, which is a set of symptoms that may include memory loss and difficulties with thinking, problem-solving or language.

**SUN 17** } **Loving Father, we pray for men and women who have dementia, and their loved ones. In the midst of frailty and confusion, may Your love touch their innermost being and impart hope that at the right time You will bring them to be in Your House forever. Amen.**

**MON 18** } Pray that the Scottish Government's latest National Dementia Strategy will lead to policy decisions that will improve rates of diagnosis and services, the quality of ongoing care and encourage communities to be 'dementia friendly'.

**TUES 19** } Pray about the almost 50 million people who live with dementia, a figure predicted to double every 20 years at an astronomical economic cost. Intercede for a major breakthrough to diminish this escalating tragedy that particularly affects countries in Asia.



**WED 20** } **Lord, please grant courage to those with early onset dementia. May they experience Your help and strength as they come to terms with this, tell their family and friends, cope with growing limitations in their lives and face an uncertain future. Amen.**

**THURS 21** } **WORLD ALZHEIMER'S DAY**  
Ask God to continue to provide resources and grant success to organisations such as Age UK, Alzheimer's Research UK, Alzheimer's Society, Dementia UK and Young Dementia UK that are engaging in research, campaigning and providing support for patients, their families and carers.

**FRI 22** } **THANKSGIVING:** for those working in a wide range of health and social care professions that provide people with dementia with medical and practical support. Ask God to grant them patience and hope as they deal with many challenges and sad situations each day.

**SAT 23** } Pray that the message of Livability's free resource 'Developing a Dementia-Friendly Church' will result in many church congregations welcoming people with dementia and their carers and knowing how to accommodate their needs with kindness and compassion. (livability.org.uk)

There are 850,000 people in the UK who have dementia, this is set to rise to over one million by 2025 and two million by 2051. An estimated 225,000 individuals will develop dementia this year, that's one every three minutes. One in six people over the age of 80 have dementia and 70 per cent of people in care homes have dementia or severe memory problems.



SEPTEMBER 24 – 30

## ROBOTICS AND THE FUTURE

'Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace, and work to maintain it. The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right, and his ears are open to their prayers. But the Lord turns his face against those who do evil.'

1 PETER 3:11,12 (NEW LIVING TRANSLATION)

**SUN 24** } **God of infinite wisdom and power, please help scientists, engineers and technicians engaged in developing robots and Artificial Intelligence (AI) always to turn from evil and do what is right. Help them as they tackle the complex challenges that will arise as this technology makes rapid advances. Amen.**

**MON 25** } Pray about the ethical, social, economic and public policy implications as robots increasingly take on human jobs and leave many people unemployed like drivers, factory, agricultural and office workers. Ask God to help governments to prepare for this over the next 20 years.

**TUES 26** } Please ask God to guide and envision CARE as we consider how advances in robotics, nanotechnology and AI will affect attitudes to the value of human life. Pray that we can bring a clear, biblical voice to this important debate through our communications and public policy work.

**WED 27** } **Lord, we long for the developing world to gain from these technologies, and for the poverty gap to be closed as food, education, healthcare and other benefits are delivered more efficiently. May there be growing harmony and cooperation internationally to achieve this. Amen.**

**THURS 28** } Pray that God will restrain those who use drones and other remotely controlled devices as weapons to destroy innocent people and pray for military leaders who decide to target dangerous extremists to consider the moral implications of their actions.

**FRI 28** } **THANKSGIVING:** for the ways that artificial intelligence and robots will benefit the world – freeing human workers from repetitive, hazardous and taxing tasks and bringing innovation to industry, transport, surgery, food production, finance and many other spheres of life.

**SAT 30** } Pray about the development of robots to serve older people in care homes, hospitals and their own homes, especially as the population ages, offering help with everyday tasks. Pray for developments to be positive and life-enhancing.



'Robots of many kinds have been taking over aspects of our lives for years. Their impact is getting bigger, they are becoming more intrusive, and they are also becoming more helpful. It's been a gradual process, although it keeps speeding up step by step, one thing at a time.' (Dr Nigel M. de S. Cameron, Consultant to CARE)

OCTOBER 1 – 7

## LIFE AFTER WORK



‘The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning. I say to myself, “The Lord is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!” The Lord is good to those who depend on him, to those who search for him.’

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-25 (NEW LIVING TRANSLATION)

**SUN 1** **Creator God, thank You for all of life’s seasons, especially the fruitfulness and maturity of the ‘autumn years’. Grant us strength and vision to serve You well at every age: in our family life, work and volunteering, worship and prayer, support for others and areas that You open up for us. Amen.**

**MON 2** Pray that older people in our churches with so much to give will find opportunities to use their time, resources and experience to be involved with initiatives such as foodbanks, debt help, night shelters, befriending isolated people, caring for children and much more.

**TUES 3** Remember those who, having given their lives to Christian ministry and mission here and overseas, are unsure what retirement and the future holds. Ask God to provide: a place to live, a church family that will cherish them, opportunities and a fresh anointing for His new challenges.

**WED 4** **Thank You Lord for the wisdom, listening ear and practical help that many grandparents can give, especially those who share their Christian faith. Please draw near to anyone who wishes they could spend more time with their grandchildren; help them to pray and find ways to communicate their love for them. Amen.**

**THURS 5** Pray about the plight of older people in developing countries that do not provide pensions or other support, many taking care of grandchildren who have been orphaned through HIV/AIDS or other disastrous situations. Intercede that help will come to meet their needs.

**FRI 6** **THANKSGIVING:** for the millions of people in Britain approaching or in retirement who volunteer, many with church-based projects. Pray that CARE’s initiative afterworknet will resource and encourage the ‘retired but active’ and inspire them to help others. (afterworknet.com)



**SAT 7** Remember those who are now passing into the stage of needing increasing support and care. Ask God to give those who are Christians strength and resolve to keep on following Him despite their restrictions and weakness, as a witness to His goodness and mercy.

In the UK, out of a population of around 65 million, 15 million people are 60 years old or older. There are 500,000 in their nineties and nearly one in five people alive today will reach their 100th birthday. There are 14 million grandparents in Britain.



OCTOBER 8 – 14

## VALUING HUMAN LIFE

'My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, God!'

PSALM 139:15-17 (NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION)

### SUN } 9 – 15 OCTOBER IS BABY LOSS AWARENESS WEEK

**8** Father, thank You for watching over us. In a world where abortion is widespread and euthanasia is increasingly accepted, please help us to defend and care for the unborn, and for those who are seriously ill and frail who are approaching the end of their lives. Amen.

MON } Remember mothers and fathers who are grieving the loss of a child through miscarriage  
**9** – which affects one in four pregnancies. Ask God to grant them opportunities to talk about this and to know His comfort. Pray for the Loved day retreat on 21 October. (weareopen.org.uk/loved)

TUES } Pray about the growing use of prenatal testing that detects disabilities such as Down  
**10** Syndrome, and how this affects society's attitudes to children and adults with physical and learning disabilities. Pray for these individuals to be increasingly valued and encouraged in every aspect of their lives.

### WED } INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL

**11** Lord, we intercede for girls across the world who are discriminated against and devalued because of their gender. Please grant success to those who champion their rights and freedoms to have equal access to education, healthcare, the workplace and other areas. Amen.

THURS } Please pray for CARE's event in London on 28 October to mark the 50th  
**12** anniversary of the 1967 Abortion Act – commemorating an estimated 8.5 million lost unborn lives, recognising the pain of so many women and considering past efforts and future plans to change the law to provide better protection and care. (Reserve places at [care.org.uk/event](http://care.org.uk/event))



FRI } **THANKSGIVING:** for all the family, friends, medical and social care  
**13** staff who look after people with seriously life-limiting illnesses, disabilities and age-related conditions. Pray for ongoing provision of financial and other resources to meet these needs with care and compassion.

### SAT } WORLD HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE DAY

**14** Ask God to grant strength and compassion to staff and volunteers serving in hospices and palliative care organisations in over 80 countries, caring for patients and their families in the last months and weeks of life. Pray for this movement to grow across the world.

'We believe that no-one with a life-limiting condition, such as cancer or HIV, should live and die with unnecessary pain and distress. Our vision is a world with universal access to hospice and palliative care. Our mission is to foster, promote and influence the delivery of affordable, quality palliative care.' (Worldwide Hospice Palliative Care Alliance)

THE UNITED KINGDOM



'This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful grace.'

COLOSSIANS 1:6 (NEW LIVING TRANSLATION)

**SUN 15** Lord, we praise You for the growing number of churches that are engaged in evangelism, community action and other projects – shining lights making You known! Please bless the leadership and congregations of the established Churches of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales as well as other denominations, streams and independent fellowships. Amen.

**MON 16** Pray about attempts in Northern Ireland, Scotland and at Westminster to make abortion more accessible and remove the protection and safeguards of criminal law. Ask God to grant wisdom and courage to those who defend the rights and welfare of unborn children, and their mothers.

**TUES 17** Pray about the political uncertainty in Northern Ireland following the suspension of the Assembly and the implications of the UK's exit from the EU. Remember everyone who is continuing their vital work in the nine government departments, and those seeking workable solutions for the future of the Assembly.

**WED 18** God of justice, please help us to reduce the poverty that affects so many in the UK: poor working families, people who are unemployed, living with a disability or serious illness, those who are ineligible for benefits or having to wait for this support, the homeless and others in desperate need. Amen.

**THURS 19** In these uncertain times remember the Government, the Prime Minister and Cabinet and those who advise them. Pray too for the Opposition Leader, the Shadow Cabinet and all other MPs to have true wisdom and insight.

**FRI 20** **THANKSGIVING:** for the ongoing positive efforts of the Both Lives Matter initiative in the debate about extending the Abortion Act to Northern Ireland and for CARE's Open retreat for those affected by abortion, taking place in Carrickfergus this autumn. (bothlivesmatter.org, weareopen.org.uk)

**SAT 21** Pray for Scotland as the debate about the future continues. Pray that strongly held views on important constitutional issues will not create serious division and discord.



The United Kingdom has the third largest population in Europe and the 22nd largest in the world – an estimated 65 million in 2015. Life expectancy continues to increase and net migration figures of about 300,000 a year help to raise the figures. Across the population, 83% live in England, 8.4% in Scotland, 4.8% in Wales and 2.9% in Northern Ireland.



# 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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