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Revd. Celia Bowring

### **JANUARY 19 - 25**

### ADULT SOCIAL CARE



Helping people who are frail, have disabilities, neurodiversity, mental health issues, substance abuse problems to stay independent, safe and well to live as they want to. The help also extends to the carer.

Father, all good gifts come from above. We ask that men and women who require extra help in this season of their lives will turn to You in their need, and we pray for churches and other Christian groups and individuals to be ready and willing to come alongside them. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Lord, we ask for anyone who needs a mental health assessment to be assisted and enabled to access services and benefits to support them and their carers. We particularly pray that those in crisis situations can be seen quickly and helped to find a way forward to manage their lives. In Your mercy, Amen.

God of grace, please encourage those in local authorities with responsibility for adult social care as they wrestle with increasing, more complex demands, rising costs and staff shortages. Help them to cooperate with other stakeholders; utilising technology and data well and finding solutions to each day's challenges. By Your grace. Amen.

Lord, we remember the 1.5 million individuals working in adult social care within nursing homes, retirement villages, daycare centres, people's own homes and other community settings in Britain. We ask for fair pay and

conditions, and for enough workers to come forward to fill these important roles. In Jesus' name, Amen, sake, Amen.

'Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.' GALATIANS 6:2 (ESV)

THURS 23

Good Shepherd, we pray especially for everyone who is caring for a person suffering from Alzheimer's ner conditions and injuries that

and other conditions and injuries that affect the brain and body. Please give them the physical and emotional strength to keep going, especially in the dark times. In Your mercy. Amen.

FRI 24 Father, thank You for every person whose role it is to look after those who need extra support,

including the UK's 5.7 million unpaid carers – 9% of the population. Please grant them strength, peace, patience and hope to carry out daily tasks well and with compassion. For Christ's sake. Amen.

**SAT** 25

Lord, please bless the dozens of integrated care systems (ICPs) throughout the UK that bring

together partners from the NHS, local councils and voluntary community groups to share and develop plans to improve people's health and wellbeing, including adult social care. In Jesus' name. Amen.

The King's Fund believes in four principles for a good social care system.

- Availability: the right services available in the right place.
- Personalisation: all care personal to the needs, wants and ambitions of those who draw on it.
- Quality: all care of high quality and delivered by properly trained staff who are fairly paid.
- Eligibility: everyone to receive the care and support they need to live a comfortable and independent life costs shared between the state and, if they can afford it, the individual.

### **JAN 26 - FEB 1**

# PURSUING PEACE



Jesus, Prince of peace, through the cross You reconciled us to Your Father and broke down the wall of hostility that divided Jew from Gentile to make a new people – the Church. Please inspire and empower us to live as peacemakers in Your world and not be drawn into its warring ways. By Your grace. Amen.

**HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY –**'For a better future'

God of compassion, we grieve that 80 years on from the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and 30 years after Bosnia's genocide, antisemitism, racism and hatred is still rife across the world. May we always speak up for truth and honour the memory of victims of the Holocaust and other genocides. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

Lord, please help those trying to negotiate a ceasefire so that humanitarian aid can be sent into Gaza and Lebanon. We give thanks for every delivery of essential relief items that has made it across the borders and pray they will reach the people who so desperately need them. In Christ's name. Amen.

Sovereign God, we intercede for righteousness and peace to prevail in countries governed by tyrannical leaders motivated by a lust for power, or extreme religious and political views. Please grant courage and authority to those who oppose them and seek justice and truth. In Your mercy. Amen.

'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; His ears are open to their cries for help. But the Lord turns His face against those who do evil; He will erase their memory from the earth.'
PSALM 34:14-16 (NLT)

Father, please encourage people who cannot forgive an offence to lay their grievance before You and be open to receiving mercy and grace themselves. May they find help to reach a place of genuine peace and reconciliation that also acknowledges the need for

iustice. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Lord, we thank You for family mediators helping couples with broken relationships to resolve practical issues fairly, especially regarding children's welfare. Please grant wisdom and patience, healing and peace to everyone involved in the distress around separation and divorce. In Your mercy. Amen.

Dear God, we remember institutions and communities where there is little or no peace: some prisons, deprived areas ruled by gangs, places where individuals are oppressed and coerced through domestic violence and modern slavery, and other situations. We beseech You to bring freedom and justice to victims through the courageous work of peacemakers in their midst. For Christ's sake. Amen.

### FEBRUARY 2 - 8

## FAMILY MATTERS

MON



Father, we celebrate the many joys and blessings of family life and the love that You breathe into human hearts that draws us together. Help us to nurture and cherish those in our families and also understand more of what it means to be adopted by You as co-heirs with Christ. By Your grace! Amen.

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK begins

God our healer, please help children and young people who are struggling with mental health issues and finding it difficult to cope with school, relationships, and the stresses of everyday life. Please give them hope, strength and the support needed to better their situation. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Holy God, we praise You for bringing together Your Family from every nation, tribe, people and language throughout all generations who have been redeemed to live with You forever! We pray for our brothers and sisters throughout the world to be filled by Your Spirit with the faith, hope and love we have in You. Through the grace of the Lord Jesus. Amen.

Heavenly Father, we remember

families who are living through great grief, anxiety and fear because someone they love is very ill, missing, facing great trouble or undergoing some other suffering. May they know how deeply You care and seek Your comfort and peace to strengthen them in this trial. In Your mercy. Amen.

'Put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, long suffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another ... even as Christ forgave you ... But above all these things put on love ... And let the peace of God rule in your hearts ... and be thankful.' COLOSSIANS 3:12-15 (NKJV)

Loving Saviour, we intercede for families where children and vulnerable adults are suffering neglect, abuse and relationship breakdown. We pray for mistreatment to be brought to light and wise action taken to protect them from harm and restore their confidence and trust in others. May they turn to You for help. Through Your great mercy. Amen.

NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK begins Father, thank You for ordaining marriage and for the many benefits that flow from it, for men, women, children, extended family members and society at large. We pray for marriage once again to be 'honoured by all'\* and that more couples will commit to this lifelong faithful partnership and flourish within it. In Jesus' name. Amen. (\*Hebrews 13:4)

Lord, please guide the
Government to find ways to raise
levels of benefits and other
resources to help those who live in
poverty, an estimated one in five of our
population – families lacking basic needs,
and often trapped by debt, experiencing
poor physical and mental health. For
Christ's sake. Amen.

In 2023 there were 28.4m households in the UK. 8.4m were people living alone – half of them aged 65 or over. Two-thirds of households consisted of one family including 11% headed by a lone parent. 1% of households were made up of two of more families living together and 3% of two or more unrelated adults. (ONS)

### FEBRUARY 9 – 15

## **PRAYING FOR SCHOOLS**



February 2-16: 'Love Our Schools Fortnight' when those who are regularly praying are encouraged to take action to bless their schools in practical ways. (prayforschools.org/loveourschools)

Sovereign God, please encourage SUN many more churches to pray for their local schools: asking for Your protection, provision and blessing on the children and young people, teachers and other staff so these crucially important communities can flourish and be fruitful. Please send Your Spirit to bring restoration to broken situations and transformation to individual lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Father, please grant empathy, MON wisdom and skill to all who work with children with additional needs. pupils in special units or at home because they cannot attend school, those battling with poor mental health and newly arrived refugees who need a huge amount of extra support. In Your mercy. Amen.

SAFER INTERNET DAY - 'Too good to be true? Protection from scams.' God of all knowledge, we pray that children and young people will be wellequipped to recognise deceptive and unsafe material online and take wise action to protect themselves from any loss or other harm. We ask too for schools to be vigilant and install protective measures against cyber threats. In Your mercy. Amen.

schools struggling financially to recruit staff, maintain buildings, and meet pupils' needs. May Your favour rest upon headteachers as they seek funding, and please help all who make decisions to ensure that resources are allocated and used wisely. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Lord our Provider, we pray for

'Try as much as you can to add these things to your lives: faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, the ability to hold on, service for God, kindness for your brothers and sisters in Christ, and love. If all these things are in you and are growing, they will help you never to be useless.' 2 PETER 1:5-8 (INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S BIBLE)

God of truth, please guide

THURS

headteachers, senior staff, and governors and school board members as they shape their schools' Relationships and Sex Education curriculum and especially consider their stance on gender issues. Give them a desire and determination to present pupils with content that is in harmony with biblical teaching on identity, sex, marriage and

Lord, thank You for Christians who serve school communities

as chaplains, Open the Book and Prayer Spaces teams, youth and schools' workers and other visitors who share biblical truth, encourage Christian young people and mentor struggling pupils. Grant them fruit by Your grace. Amen.

healthy family life. In Christ's name. Amen.

Father, You know and care about every concern of school staff. pupils and their families

throughout the country. We name before You now the schools in our own area and ask for Your blessing of safety, fruitfulness, love and peace to rest upon all who work and learn there. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### **FEBRUARY 16 - 22**

### **OUR LAW COURTS**



Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established fairness. You have acted with righteousness!\* We praise You that Jesus stood in our place and paid the penalty for our sin; so that anyone trusting in Him is justified before Your throne and may receive eternal life. Thank You, Lord. Amen. (\*Psalm 99:4)

Father, we pray for barristers (who MON mainly defend people in court), and solicitors (as they perform legal work outside court). Please sustain them in their vital roles in the justice system as they often work long hours, deal with challenging clients and juggle family responsibilities. For Christ's sake, Amen.

Father God, please grant insight TUES and impartiality for those who serve on juries to discern the truth as they hear evidence and discuss the case among themselves. Help them to balance this important civic duty with the demands of everyday life and protect them from any harm. By Your grace. Amen.

Lord, we remember magistrates WED and judges as they preside in court. May they look to You for wisdom to discern the truth and decide how to proceed in legal cases. We especially pray for High Court Judges who deal with more complex cases and those serving in the Appeal and Supreme Courts, as well as their equivalents in Scotland and Northern Ireland. In Christ's name. Amen.

'The Lord has told you what is good, and this is what He requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. Fear the Lord if you are wise!' MICAH 6:8,9 (NLT)



#### **WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE**

Sovereign God, please raise up more leaders of true faith and integrity to bring about a fairer world where people everywhere can benefit from the many resources, opportunities and privileges that You have provided in Creation. We long to see societies where everyone is valued and regarded. In Your mercy. Amen.



Almighty God, we thank You that the British justice system is founded on biblical principles.

Please inspire those in authority to maintain every individual's right to equal basic liberties and help them to ensure that each case is judged fairly. For Jesus' sake. Amen.



Lord, we intercede for justice for tens of thousands of victims and defendants who are waiting years

for justice because of the backlog of cases in UK criminal courts. Grant wisdom to the Ministry of Justice to find solutions to this and other major challenges facing our judicial system. In Jesus' name, Amen,

'The criminal justice system is in crisis with huge backlogs of cases (currently nearly 70,000 Crown Court cases and 387,000 in magistrates' courts) crumbling courts and overcrowded prisons. There simply are not enough judges and lawyers to work on all the cases.' (Nick Emmerson, President of Law Society of England and Wales)

### **FEB 23 - MAR 1**

## ARTIFICIAL **INTELLIGENCE (AI)**



Al is a machine's ability to perform tasks by simulating human abilities to perceive, problem-solve, learn, make decisions and reason. Generative AI can create new content and ideas, including conversations, stories, images, videos, and music.

God of power and love, we are thankful for the rich possibilities You have given to us to explore, invent, develop, utilise and enjoy good things through science and technology. Help us to be wise, humble stewards and turn away from any projects that could do harm. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Dear Lord, please help us to assess MON the implications of robots and AI replacing humans: improving outcomes and relieving people of

hazardous and onerous tasks but also in jobs that depend on human intellect, creativity, moral judgement and empathy. Grant wise, workable legislation that can guide us. In Your mercy. Amen.

Prince of peace, as armed forces employ drones and other autonomous weapons, we pray for civilians to be shielded and global security not further endangered by criminals and roque states. May people recognise how we need Your protection and call upon You for their lives and their souls to be saved. Through Your grace. Amen.

Lord, we pray about the growing use of AI for public video surveillance and data gathering especially by autocratic governments. Please grant wisdom to those concerned about this trend that erodes the right of privacy and other ethical issues. By Your grace. Amen.

'Cry out for insight, and ask for understanding ... Then you will understand what is right, just, and fair, and you will find the right way to go ... Wise choices will watch over you. Understanding will keep you safe. Wisdom will save you from evil people, from those whose words are twisted.' PROVERBS 2:3.9-12 (NLT)

Father, in our world's increasing social isolation and loneliness we pray for those who turn to AI for a non-human companionship - instantly available, controllable and undemanding. Help us to discern where AI interactions are beneficial or are causing deeper human disconnection. May we guard our hearts and minds. Amen.

FRI 28

God our Provider, thank You that Al can have such potential for good: to improve outcomes in

farming and other food production, improve medical diagnosis and treatment, combat effects of climate change, streamline production and industry, and enhance our lives. In Your mercy, have Your way. Amen.

SAT

Father we intercede for those who must face the massive moral and practical implications of AI

advances that will affect every aspect of life. May they earnestly seek Your wisdom about how to keep our world safe and guard humanity from potential future threats. In Jesus' name. Amen.

In a recent poll, 70% of 2,778 researchers into Al had 'substantial or extreme concerns' about Al-driven 'deep-fake' videos, new weapons, manipulation of public opinion, disinformation, weakening of democracy and authoritarian control. The consensus was there is a 50% chance AI will be able to carry out all human jobs by 2116. (How AI Will Change Your Life by Christian author Dr Patrick Dixon)

### **MARCH 2 – 8**

## **VULNERABLE PEOPLE**



#### **CHURCH ACTION ON POVERTY SUNDAY**

Generous God, thank You for every Christian organisation, church and individual determined to help the UK be a place where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty and giving people dignity, freedom and hope. Please bless every good plan and project that seeks this. In Jesus' name. Amen. (church-poverty.org.uk)

God of all hope, please help those MON who are plaqued by suicidal thoughts, often exacerbated by poor mental health and difficult circumstances to seek help from family. friends, counsellors and medical professionals who can walk beside them. May they find You as their Rescuer. In Your mercy. Amen.

Lord, we pray about increasing antisemitism and hostility to others in Britain involving attacks, threats, hateful speech on the streets and online. Please guide governments and local communities to oppose such behaviour robustly and affirm respect for Jewish people. By Your grace. Amen.

**ASH WEDNESDAY** 

WED

Almighty and everlasting God, You Forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins, may obtain of You, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen. (Church of England Collect)

"Behold, my Servant whom I have chosen ... a bruised reed he will not break, and a smouldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory; and in his name the Gentiles will hope." Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see.' MATTHEW 12:20-22 (NIV)

Father, we intercede for the millions THURS of people who are heartlessly 6 trapped in modern slavery: sexually exploited, forced and bonded labour, oppressive domestic service and forced into crime. Please deliver and help them to find release, healing and restoration. For Christ's sake. Amen.

> Thank You, Lord, for everyone who is helping vulnerable people:

through friendship, practical support, counselling, healthcare provision, legal intervention, rescue efforts, financial backing and prayer. Please grant success in bringing individuals through their troubles to live in peace. In Your mercy. Amen.

> **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY** 'Accelerate Action'

God of justice, please grant strength, encouragement and wisdom to those who are speaking and taking action to promote equality and fair treatment for women throughout the world who experience discrimination, harassment, poor pay and working conditions, abuse and violence. In Your mercy, Amen.

'So enormous, so dreadful, so irremediable did [the slave trade's] wickedness appear, that my own mind was completely made up. A trade founded in iniquity, and carried on as this was, must be abolished ... Having heard all of this you may choose to look the other way but you can never again say you did not know.' (William Wilberforce's 1789 speech to the House of Commons.)

SAT

### **MARCH 9 - 15**

## INTEGRITY IN GOVERNMENT



We rejoice that You are 'Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, and Your government and its peace will never end!'\* May Your kingdom come in our lives and Your people be worthy ambassadors of integrity, compassion and truth in our world. To Your glory. Amen. (\*Isaiah 9:6,7)

**MON** 10

#### **COMMONWEALTH DAY**

Lord, please bestow blessings on all that is good about the 56

independent countries and 33 small states with a total population of 2.7 billion people that make up the Commonwealth. We pray that they will increasingly affirm its shared goals of prosperity, democracy and peace. In Jesus' name. Amen.

TUES

Sovereign God, we pray for our Prime Minister, members of the Cabinet, MPs and peers in

Westminster and elected representatives in Belfast, Cardiff and Edinburgh. Lead them into truth and virtue as they shape legislation, make decisions and work together for the common good. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**WED** 12

Lord, we commend to You all local councillors, mayors and police and crime commissioners.

Please inspire them to work together productively, promoting respect and unity in their service to those they represent across the many areas of community life for which they are responsible. By Your grace. Amen.

"Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons; He removes kings and sets up kings ... He reveals deep and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with Him." DANIEL 2:20-22 (ESV)



God our Teacher, we pray for politicians who grew up in a Christian family or have

encountered the gospel in some other way. Please re-apply Your Word to their minds as they deal with issues of ethical and moral importance that they might speak and act with integrity. Bless and strengthen everyone in national and local government who confesses You as Saviour and Lord. In Your mercy. Amen.



Father, we thank You for those responsible for upholding high standards in public life and for

the checks and balances in place to uphold transparency and probity among MPs. We pray that these will be respected and any misconduct exposed and addressed with justice and integrity. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**SAT** 15

Almighty God, who has appointed every authority, we pray for many more leaders across the world to

and follow Your ways. We ask for peace for those at war, integrity in politics, compassion for the poor, rest for the displaced and freedom for Your Church to preach the gospel and serve Your kingdom purposes. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### **RURAL LIFE**



Mighty God, we praise You for the magnificence and ordered beauty of nature and that You have entrusted us to take care of everything You have created. Please help us to be faithful stewards in our local area, and grant wisdom and vision to those responsible for more extensive areas of Your Creation. In Jesus' name, Amen.

мон 17 Father, please guide the Government's dealings with Britain's agricultural industry so

farmers are helped to overcome the considerable challenges facing them: rising costs of energy, machinery, fertiliser and food, labour shortages, unpredictable weather, and taxation worries. We pray for policies that benefit hard-working farmers and the countryside that provides the good food we need. In Your mercy. Amen.

Lord, we intercede for farmers in places that are prone to extreme weather conditions and where people are living in poverty. Grant good harvests and strengthen and provide for everyone whose livelihood depends on working the land, supplying food both locally and further afield. For Jesus' sake Amen.

**WED** 19

Creator God, please encourage everyone who is dedicated to protecting and preserving the

natural world: through animal welfare, horticulture, marine ecology, wildlife conservation, countryside management and in other ways. We pray for wise strategies to make projects succeed in their aims. In Your mercy. Amen.

'Ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you ... In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being.' JOB 12:7-10 (NRSV)

**THURS** 

Saviour, we ask You to send Your Spirit to enliven and encourage the many smaller congregations

in rural communities often meeting in buildings that are expensive to maintain and where ministers care for many churches. May Your kingdom come as people turn to You. By Your grace. Amen.

FRI 21

## INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR FORESTS 'Forests and food'

Lord, we pray for success in the global project of developing 'food forests' where large fruit and nut trees are planted to form the canopy, followed by smaller fruit trees, shrubs of berries and currants, herbs, strawberries, and other ground cover plants, root vegetables, and vines. In Christ's name. Amen.

**SAT** 22

#### **WORLD WATER DAY**

Father, please help us to find solutions to global problems of vater quality and inadequate

poor water quality and inadequate sanitation affecting the two billion people who have no access to clean drinking water – situations all made worse by the effects of climate change, population growth, pollution, and weak infrastructure. In Your mercy. Amen.

Almighty King! whose wondrous hand Supports the weight of sea and land; Whose grace is such a boundless store, No heart shall break that sighs for more. Thy providence supplies my food, And 'tis Thy blessing makes it good; My soul is nourish'd by Thy Word, Let soul and body praise the Lord! (William Cowper)

### THE ARTS



The arts are traditionally subdivided into Music, Sculpture, Painting, Literature, Architecture, Performing and Film

Maker of all beauty, composer of all harmony, builder of all that is good, giver of joyful life to all who follow You and the author of the perfect truth, wisdom and love; open our eyes, ears, minds and spirits to see, hear and experience You with thanks and praise. Amen.

Word of God, thank You for bestowing on human beings the desire and ability to communicate through artistry the ideas, knowledge, imagination, wisdom and worship within us. Please inspire us increasingly to develop our own giftings and experience the richness this brings. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Lord Jesus, You send us as light and salt to reach people from every culture. Please grant inspiration, encouragement and a desire for excellence to believers involved in 'mainstream' arts, not necessarily called to produce overtly Christian work, but always to create 'what is true, and honourable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable'\*. By Your grace. Amen. (\*Philippians 4:8)

Father, we remember artists who follow long traditions of creating visual, musical and other art forms that interpret stories and themes from Your Word that speak of the truth and beauty of Jesus Christ. Please enliven their skills and imagination. For Your glory. Amen.

'God has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, He has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that He cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end ... there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live.' ECCLESIASTES 3:11,12 (ESV)

Lord, we pray for those in the creative media industry: actors, writers, producers, directors, technicians, designers and those in support roles. Please help them to work with creativity, integrity, respect for others and efficiency to make films and other material that is pleasing to You. In Christ's name. Amen.

Father, thank You for those who teach children to best express themselves through creative activities, helping them to free their

activities, helping them to free their imagination and master the disciplines needed to make music, write, draw, paint, construct and design, dance and act and other artistic ways. By Your grace. Amen.

God of all harmony, thank You for the precious gift of music in its myriad forms through human voices and musical instruments. Please especially uplift our spirits as we sing 'psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among ourselves and make music to the Lord in our hearts.'\* In Jesus' name. Amen. (\*Ephesians 5:19)

Handel composed Messiah without getting much sleep or even eating much food ... His servants would often find him in tears as he composed. When he completed 'Hallelujah,' he reportedly told his servant, "I did think I did see all Heaven before me, and the great God Himself seated on His throne, with His company of Angels."

### **MAR 30 - APR 5**

# EMERGENCY SERVICES



Father, thank You for the selfless courage, skill and determination of workers and volunteers within our emergency and rescue services. Protect them from harm, show them what to do, strengthen them if they feel overwhelmed and grant them peace as they face others' suffering. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Lord, we ask for safety and success for emergency rescue teams and other relief workers attending disaster areas following flood, wildfire, earthquake, volcanic eruption, storm, drought and other natural and manmade catastrophes. Please help them to save lives, provide shelter, food and medical care and support survivors. In Jesus' name. Amen.

God of justice, we pray for those who serve in the UK's 45 territorial police forces and three special police bodies. Grant courage and integrity to officers as they carry out their duties to protect the public and solve crimes. Please help them in volatile situations to de-escalate conflict and tension and restore peace. In Your mercy. Amen.

Lord our Healer, please grant wisdom and calm to paramedics, emergency care assistants, support staff, A&E nurses and doctors as they respond to each emergency. Help them to manage when there are high demands, staff shortages and long waits for patients who are in urgent need of care. In Jesus' name. Amen.

'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 (NIV)

Good Shepherd, please bless search and rescue teams that stand ready to locate, extricate, and evacuate individuals who are lost, injured, or trapped in remote or hazardous environments. Thank You for equipment such as helicopters, drones, trained dogs and ambulances. By Your grace. Amen.

O God, mighty to save, thank You that UK road casualty figures are declining. Please protect and guide police and other

emergency services that attend road accidents. We pray for wise laws to calm traffic and regulate the growing numbers of motor bike and e-scooters. For Christ's sake. Amen.

Father, we remember the RNLI's rescue and training work based in 238 UK and Ireland lifeboat stations. Thank You for the 146,000 lives that have been saved since the first launch in 1824. Please watch over the crews of vessels who sail from them, often in foul weather conditions. In Your mercy. Amen.

When the call for rescue comes From those in peril on this day, No matter how the storms may roll, We cannot turn our heads away. We must go where we are called Through wind and rain, through waves and foam, It's not for glory nor for gold We bring poor sailors safely home. (From 'The Lifeboat Prayer' by John Heslop)

### **APRIL 6 – 12**

## **COMPASSION FOR POOR PEOPLE**



Almighty God, You care for every individual however invisible. unimportant and abandoned they seem to be. Thank You for the thousands of Christian individuals, churches, projects and ministries that serve the poorest people in our world. May we be willing to be Your agents of love through praying, giving and bringing about positive change. In Christ's name. Amen.

**WORLD HEALTH DAY** 

Merciful Father, may this Day remind us of the plight of so many in our world who lack adequate healthcare. We pray for greater commitment and cooperation by governments and other bodies to address underlying causes and strengthen equalities in health systems. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

Lord, we intercede for individuals TUES and families who are in serious debt. Please guide them to those who can help, especially compassionate church-based initiatives that not only offer sound advice and practical support but also share the gospel of total forgiveness and new life in Christ. In Your mercy, Amen.

Redeemer God, please help individuals leaving care and also those recently released from prison who have no employment, home or other vital support and are very vulnerable. We pray for them to be kept safe and to find help to re-establish themselves. May many seek Your face, connect with Christians and put their trust in You for salvation and new life. In Christ's name. Amen.

'What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?' JAMES 2:14-16 (NLT)

Father, as Christians demonstrate THURS practical generosity to those in need, may they also share how this springs from their faith in Jesus. Please inspire and equip Your Church to reach out with the gospel to the spiritually poor by the power of Your Spirit, Amen.

**Generous God, thank You for every** FRI initiative that is making food and other essential items available to people who cannot afford to buy them. Please continue to provide enough donations to meet society's growing needs and encourage those involved in Christian charities like Trussell Trust and other groups. In Your mercy. Amen.

> INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR STREET CHILDREN

We intercede for an urgent global response to the tragic plight of up to 150 million street children - defined as homeless, living outdoors in a city and surviving by begging or stealing - to put pressure on governments of countries where they are to do more to rescue and rehabilitate them. For Jesus' sake, Amen.

712 million people, nearly 1 in 11 people globally, live in extreme poverty on less than £1.70 a day. Nearly 90% of children living in extreme poverty reside in either sub-Saharan Africa or South Asia. Around 3.5 billion people, 44% of the global population, live today on less than £5.50 a day, the poverty line relevant for upper-middle-income countries. (World Bank Report, 2024)

### **APRIL 13 - 19**

## CHRISTIANITY AND CULTURE





Four fundamental British values underpin what it is to be a citizen in a modern and diverse Great Britain: Democracy, Rule of Law, Respect and Tolerance, Individual Liberty.

#### **PALM SUNDAY**

Lord of majesty, who entered Jerusalem to shouts of 'Hosanna' just one week before You died on the cross, we worship You, who reigns over all, and rejoice that we have been redeemed by Your loving sacrifice and triumphant resurrection. Hallelujah! Amen.



Word of God, thank You that the biblical foundations of our culture still resonate and help shape

British people's values, even though they may not acknowledge You as Lord and Saviour. O Holy Spirit, please move across our land to awaken fresh hunger for Your truth and kindle saving faith in the gospel of Christ. By Your grace. Amen.



Lord, we pray for Christians in positions of influential leadership within the spheres in our society: of

family, economics science technology and business, government, faith, education, media and celebration – arts, entertainment and sport. May they speak wisdom and peace into these important areas of national life. In Christ's name, Amen.



Lord of all, inspire Your Church to seek to desire more of Your presence, pursue holiness, proclaim

Your gospel, and do justice, love mercy, walking humbly with You!\* May Christians increasingly share Your grace and truth with those around them. To Your glory! Amen. (\*Micah 6:8)

'Go out into the world uncorrupted, a breath of fresh air in this squalid and polluted society. Provide people with a glimpse of good living and of the living God. Carry the light-giving Message into the night.' PHILIPPIANS 2:15,16 (THE MESSAGE)



Holy God, we pray against secular philosophies persuading people to embrace world views contrary

to Your ways, such in issues of sanctity of life, sexual ethics, gender theory, and freedom of thought and religion. Speak prophetically through Your servants. By Your Spirit's power. Amen.



Father, thank You that the UK being a more multi-cultural society means that tens of

thousands of Christians have come here, revitalising the Church with their powerful testimony and commitment to prayer. Please help us to warmly welcome and learn from them. In Jesus' name. Amen.



Lord, we intercede that millions of the world's rising generation will be converted, transformed by faith

to serve and love Jesus and be moved by the Spirit to seek Your kingdom and its righteousness through prayer, evangelism and sacrificial love for others. In Your great mercy. Amen.

'Few in the UK know the basics of the Christian story and even fewer actually set foot in church. Yet ... I still see the values we have inherited from the Christian story bubbling away subconsciously in our moral instincts for compassion, equality and freedom. I still see people searching for justice, beauty and meaning in their lives, often in quasi-religious ways. The Christian story has not been buried so deep that it cannot surface again in our country. I see hopeful signs that it will.' (Justin Brierley)

# At CARE, our vision is simple:

## we want to see politics renewed and lives transformed.

For more than 40 years, we have sought to bring truth and grace into the public square.

We believe Christians have a better story to tell than what our broken world can offer, rooted in Scripture and modelled by Jesus. We long to see a society in which everyone can flourish as God intends them to.

## WHAT WE DO













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