

JULY – OCTOBER 2024

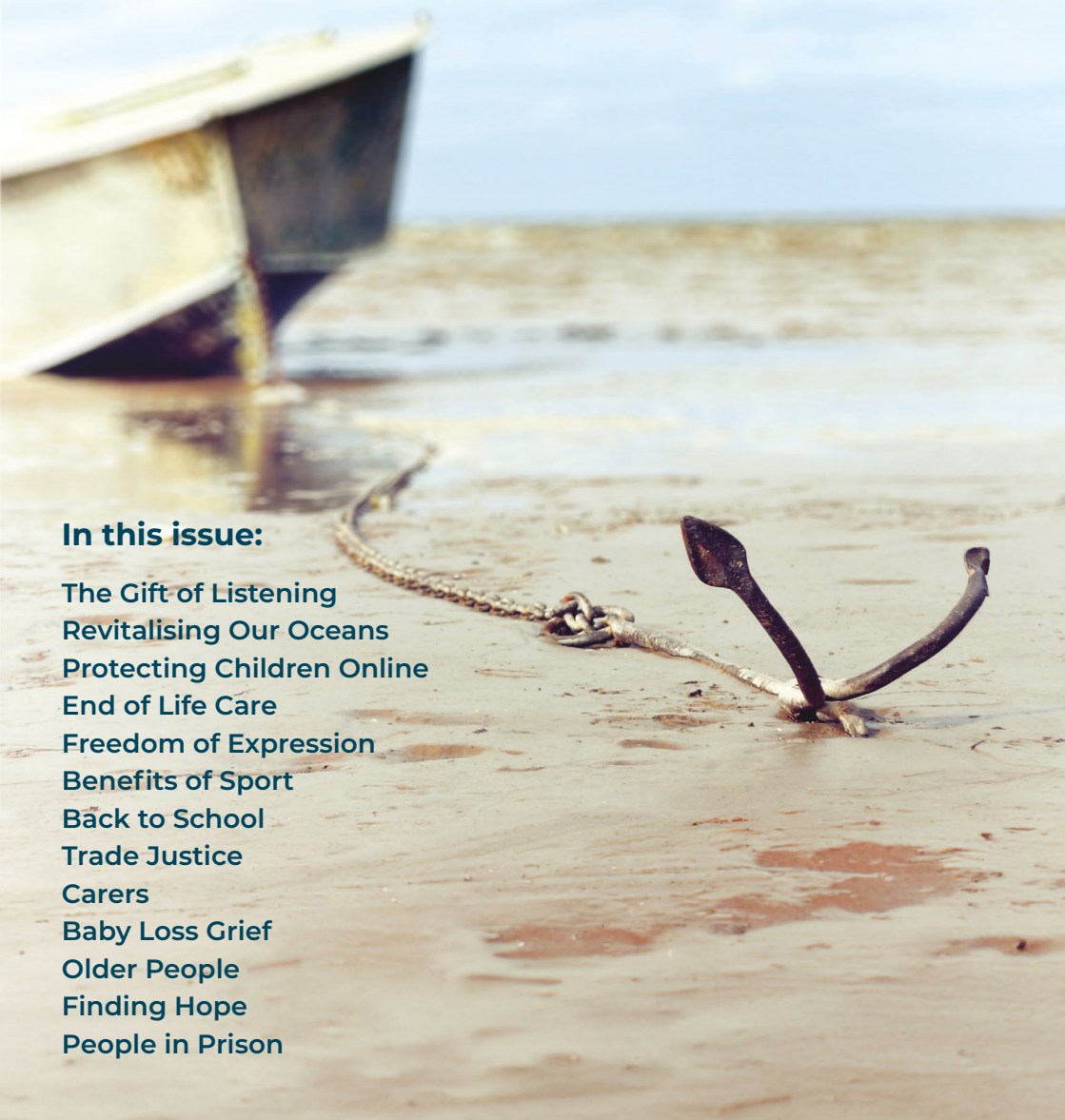


CARE
FOR WHAT
YOU BELIEVE

CARE Prayer Diary

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Anchors hold ships safely, keeping them from being wrecked on rocks, buffeted by storms and drifting with currents. Sometimes boats come to land and someone carries the anchor up the beach to a strong fixed place so the vessel doesn't float back out to sea.

Our anchor, our hope of eternal life in the glorious presence of the King of kings is secured in heaven! When Jesus died, the curtain to the holiest part of the Temple was ripped from top to bottom opening the way for us. Rising and ascending He went ahead to prepare our eternal home.



We who have fled to Him for refuge
can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us.
This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls.
It leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary.
Jesus has already gone in there for us.
HEBREWS 6:18-20 (NLT)

The CARE Prayer Diary is written by Revd. Celia Bowring.
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the Prayer Diary? Get in touch and we'll post one to them.



Revd. Celia Bowring

JULY 21 – 27

THE GIFT OF LISTENING



SUN
21

Father, please help the 12 million adults in the UK who are profoundly deaf or live with some hearing loss. We pray for good access to treatments and aids that can reduce any sense of isolation, and help them to interact meaningfully with the world around them. In Jesus' name. Amen.

MON
22

Creator God, we praise You for the amazing profusion of sounds throughout the universe and for giving us the ability to hear and interpret so many of them. Thank You especially for the gift of speech and language that enriches our relationships and causes us to connect with one another. Amen.

TUES
23

Lord God, we intercede for the vital work of GCHQ, SIS and MI5 protecting the safety and security of our country whilst guarding important freedoms – 'listening' for actual attacks and cyber-based threats from terrorists, criminals and hostile states. Please grant them success. In Your mercy. Amen.

WED
24

SAMARITANS AWARENESS DAY

Lord, may July's 'Talk To Us' campaign raise growing awareness of the Samaritans who are there 'to listen to anyone who is struggling to cope at any time of the day or night.' Please uphold the 300 staff and 22,000 volunteers as they respond to letters, emails and calls for help every ten seconds. For Christ's sake. Amen.

'Dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.'

JAMES 1:19 (NIV)

'Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future.'

PROVERBS 19:20 (ESV)

THURS
25

Holy Spirit, please teach us to listen intently as we wait in Your presence, pray and read Your Word. May its living and powerful truth, like a sharp two-edged sword, penetrate our innermost thoughts and shape the intentions of our hearts to love and obey You more each day. For Christ's sake. Amen.

FRI
26

Lord, thank You for the skills, dedication and empathy of those who listen in a professional capacity, such as GPs, counsellors, therapists, Christian ministers, mental health practitioners, social workers and specially trained police officers. Please grant them insight and patience. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

SAT
27

Gentle Saviour, may we be increasingly sensitive and caring towards others, attentively listening with an open mind, seeking to understand how they are really thinking and feeling. Please help us to be wise; 'quick to listen and slow to speak.' prayerful and ready to encourage. By Your grace. Amen.

The human ear is one of the most intricate examples of miniature and sophisticated engineering on the planet, enabling us to identify, comprehend and remember the most minuscule acoustic cues. Ears never stop hearing even during sleep; the eardrum registering sound vibrations that are received in the middle ear by the body's three smallest bones. Then the inner ear's auditory nerve carries this electrical signal to the brain, where it turns into something that we recognise and understand.

JULY 28 – AUG 3

REVITALISING OUR OCEANS



27 JULY - 11 AUGUST IS NATIONAL MARINE WEEK: theme 'Sea the Connection.'

SUN 28 Creator God, we marvel at the beauty, power and life of the oceans that You have made, praising You for the innumerable creatures and plants that live within them. Thank You for the many benefits of the world's seas. Please help us to restore and care for them. In Christ's name. Amen.

MON 29 Lord, we intercede for greater global efforts to remedy the desperate problem of plastic pollution leaking into the ocean from thousands of sources with lethal consequences for vegetation, fish and other sea-creatures. Please grant success to projects that can make a difference. In Jesus' name. Amen.

TUES 30 Father, please watch over all who travel and work upon and beneath the ocean, keeping them safe from peril: sudden violent storms, shipwreck, illness and injury, attack and being lost and adrift. Thank You for those who are ready to rescue seafarers in trouble. We commend them to You. Amen.

WED 31 Lord, we pray for ongoing success with the growing number of restoration initiatives to reverse growing serious damage to coral reefs that shelter thousands of sea animals. Please release the human, technological and financial resources needed to make this happen. In Your mercy. Amen.

O Lord, what a variety of things you have made! In wisdom You have made them all. The earth is full of Your creatures. Here is the ocean, vast and wide, teeming with life of every kind, both large and small.'
PSALM 104:24,25 (NLT)

THURS 1 Dear God, we remember the many people in developing countries who rely on the sea for their food and livelihoods. May they be well-supported through training, improved equipment and other resources both to advance their skills and protect the environment and marine habitats. By Your grace. Amen.

FRI 2 Thank You, Lord, that after long negotiations the EU has passed a law to help to prevent overfishing and other harmful practices, especially within the hundreds of Marine Protected Areas around the British Isles that are intended to improve healthy ecosystems and restore fish stocks. We pray for full compliance to these new rules. In Jesus' name. Amen.

SAT 3 Almighty God, we pray for effective international agreements to be implemented to protect the 'high seas' – the two thirds of ocean waters beyond coastal countries' 200-mile jurisdictions – to keep activities like fishing, aquaculture and shipping within environmental limits. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

The oceans constitute the world's largest ecosystem, covering 70% of the earth's surface and containing 97% of its water, with more than 30,000 species. The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation reports that about 80% of global marine fish populations have been overexploited or depleted, whilst the world's frozen oceans are melting at a rate that is significantly quicker than previously predicted.

AUGUST 4 – 10

PROTECTING CHILDREN ONLINE



SUN
4

Father, please help young people to act wisely and stay safe to avoid harmful material and interactions online, including on social media. Guide them to discuss these issues with trusted adults and find support if they find themselves in trouble. In Jesus' name. Amen.

MON
5

God of mercy, thank you for organisations and tools that help young people who have become involved with 'sexting' (sending sexually explicit messages or images by phone) or had intimate content about themselves posted on social media and websites. Grant them success as they seek to escape from these distressing situations. For Christ's sake. Amen.

TUES
6

Gracious Father, please help parents to connect with the realities of the online world – so influential in their children's lives but maybe unfamiliar to themselves. Grant wisdom and confidence to talk about important issues with gentleness, reassurance and sound advice to help young people make good choices and benefit from the amazing resources that the internet offers. In Your mercy. Amen.

WED
7

Lord, we pray for people of wicked intent who seek to violate and destroy our children. May Your Spirit convict them of the harm they are causing and repent of it. Please grant success to the police and National Crime Agency staff as they seek to identify and stop their activities. In Jesus' name. Amen.

THURS
8

Father, we remember the team at Ofcom tasked with implementing age verification. Please enable them, as a matter of urgency, to produce robust regulations that will hold all pornography websites and social media platforms to account and protect children from harm. In Your mercy. Amen.

FRI
9

Lord, thank You for CARE's many opportunities to work with the UK's four Children's Commissioners and key organisations dedicated to keeping children safe online: Barnardo's, Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation (CEASE), Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP), ChildLine, Childnet, Internet Watch, and NSPCC. Bless them in their demanding and sensitive work. In Jesus' name. Amen.

SAT
10

Good Shepherd, please empower Christian teenagers to be a positive influence, helping their peers and friends to keep clear of harmful material online. Grant wisdom to adults who encourage and support them: families, teachers, church members, youth leaders and others. For Christ's sake. Amen.

'Some person pretended to be one of my friends online and started saying rude stuff' Girl, 12. 'I was pressured into watching horrific pornography that affects how young boys behave' Boy, 13. 'Social media pressures us all to have a perfect body, perfect face, perfect health and perfect life in general' Girl, 15. 'Social media surrounds us, it constantly is in our brain and will always be around and it puts everyone down' Girl, 13. (England Children's Commissioner Online Safety Policy Paper 2021)

AUGUST 11 – 17

END OF LIFE CARE



SUN
11

God of compassion, we pray for all who are nearing the end of their life, especially those experiencing physical pain, mental distress and fear. Please grant comfort through the care of others and draw them into an awareness of Your everlasting unconditional love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MON
12

Father, we remember people who are on life support systems, in a deep coma or with 'locked-in syndrome' – seemingly unconscious but not brain-dead. Please guide their physicians, family members and friends to know what it is right to do in such a tragic situation. In Jesus' name. Amen.

TUES
13

Christ our Healer, we pray for members of palliative care teams working in hospitals, hospice and community settings helping to manage pain and other symptoms, and providing social, spiritual and emotional support. Please encourage them as they offer help and compassion in distressing circumstances. By Your grace. Amen.

WED
14

Lord, please strengthen those who are opposing efforts to legalise physician assisted dying in Scotland, the Isle of Man, Jersey and Westminster to present persuasive arguments during parliamentary debates and in the media, that will result in the defeat of any proposed legislation. For Christ's sake. Amen.

Even to old age and grey hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim Your might to another generation ... O God, who is like You? You who have made me see many troubles and calamities will revive me again; from the depths of the earth You will bring me up again.'
PSALM 71:18-20 (ESV)

THURS
15

Lord, thank You for the outstanding service of those providing end of life care in the UK's 200-plus hospices to ensure people affected by terminal illness, dying and bereavement receive care and support. May Your blessing rest upon all who work and volunteer in them. In Jesus' name. Amen.

FRI
16

Father, we intercede for people who, rather than endure major disability and suffering, want to end their lives without risking the subsequent prosecution of anyone who would help them. Please instil peace and hope into their anguish and help them to accept the prospect of their departure according to the time and way that Your wisdom has appointed. Amen.

SAT
17

God of truth, please help us to bring clarity about what 'assisted dying' actually is – providing lethal drugs to someone with less than six months to live to commit suicide – as many wrongly think it means allowing people to stop life-prolonging treatment (already legal) and palliative, hospice care. In Your mercy. Amen.

'The existing law ... rests on a natural frontier, namely that we do not kill people. What the proponents of 'assisted dying' want, is to replace that clear and bright line with an arbitrary and permeable one ... If terminal illness, why not chronic and progressive conditions? And, if chronic and progressive conditions, why not seriously disabled people?' (Baroness Jane Campbell, disability rights campaigner.)

AUGUST 18 – 24

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION



SUN
18

God of truth, thank You for UK laws that protect the right to express our views aloud – including public protest and demonstrations and through published articles, books or leaflets, television or radio broadcasting. Please help us to preserve these important freedoms. In Your mercy. Amen.

MON
19

Lord, we are thankful for the 2023 University Freedom of Speech Act and appointment of a director to oversee free speech at the Office for Students. Please help him to establish the liberty for students and academics to engage freely in reasonable debate about controversial ideas. In Jesus' name. Amen.

TUES
20

Father, thank You for the Cass Report into NHS gender services, exposing the dangers of transitioning for children. May this undermine the promotion of gender ideology in many schools which is difficult for pupils, parents and teachers to challenge. Please shine Your light of truth upon this situation. Amen.

WED
21

Jesus, Word of God, please grant wisdom and gracious boldness to Christians seeking to speak truth and to share the gospel message in public spaces. We pray that they will not be prevented and that many people will listen and open their hearts to receive You as Saviour. In Your powerful name. Amen.

'Pray that I (Paul) will proclaim this message as clearly as I should. Live wisely among those who are not believers and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.'
COLOSSIANS 4:4-6 (NLT)

THURS
22

Father, we pray that expressing traditional biblical beliefs about marriage and issues of sexuality and gender will not result in people losing their positions or being attacked online. Please help judges and other legal professionals to defend the freedom to vocalise such views. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

FRI
23

Thank You, Lord, for the courageous work of Fiona Bruce, in her role of Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief and of CSW, Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), Open Doors and other ministries that have campaigned on this issue, advancing the God-given right to live and speak the truth, especially under oppressive regimes. Please grant them success in their endeavours. In Your mercy. Amen.

SAT
24

Lord, please help those in government and the police to find the right balance between ensuring members of the public are not deprived of their freedom because of aggressive and destructive actions, and allowing demonstrations, marches and other protests to take place. For Christ's sake. Amen.

Article 10 of the 1998 Human Rights Act, which protects our right in the UK to freedom of expression says: 'Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers.'

AUGUST 25 – 31

BENEFITS OF SPORT



28 AUGUST – 8 SEPTEMBER: PARIS PARALYMPIC GAMES

SUN
25

Creator God, thank You that our human bodies are capable of so much and for the skill and discipline athletes, dancers and other sportsmen and women that bring such pleasure to so many people. Please protect them from serious injury and other misfortunes. In Jesus' name. Amen.

MON
26

Father, we pray that efforts to encourage adults and children to engage in physical exercise and sports will result in more people enjoying the sense of wellbeing this brings. We especially remember individuals struggling with obesity and mental health challenges who will find this difficult. In Your mercy. Amen.

TUES
27

Holy Spirit, please continue to inspire Christians well known for their sporting prowess to be gracious ambassadors for Jesus. Help them to 'run with perseverance the race marked out for them, fixing their eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.' In Christ's name. Amen. (Hebrews 12:1,2)

WED
28

Faithful God, we pray for the participants of the Paris Paralympic Games, where athletes with a physical disability compete; including those with mobility disabilities, amputations, blindness and cerebral palsy. May their example of perseverance, courage and hope shine out for Your glory. Amen.

'... All good athletes train hard. They do it for a gold medal that tarnishes and fades. You're after one that's gold eternally. I don't know about you, but I'm running hard for the finish line. I'm giving it everything I've got ...'

1 CORINTHIANS 9:24-27 (MESSAGE)

THURS
29

Lord, we pray that increasing numbers of older people, who are currently physically inactive, will be encouraged to take more exercise in accordance with their mobility and health. Please draw them to activities that will benefit them physically, emotionally and socially. For Christ's sake. Amen.

FRI
30

Thank You, Lord, for everyone involved in Christian mission in UK sport: through chaplaincy, youth organisations, sports associations and teams, and other ministries. Please empower them to share the gospel among the 30 million men, women and children who engage with sport. By Your grace. Amen.

SAT
31

Sovereign Lord, we intercede for worldwide sports such as football to increasingly serve as catalysts for social change: facilitating educational opportunities, bringing people together, breaking down barriers, encouraging women and girls, bringing hope and purpose to refugees, providing economic resources to fight poverty and many other benefits. In Jesus' name. Amen.

'Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope where once there was only despair. It is more powerful than governments in breaking down racial barriers. It laughs in the face of all types of discrimination.' (Nelson Mandela 2000)

SEPTEMBER 1 – 7

BACK TO SCHOOL



SUN
1

Almighty God, we pray for Your blessing upon every child, young person and adult starting or returning to school for the new academic year. You know all about each individual: their aspirations, concerns, abilities, struggles and joys. Please protect, guide, encourage and strengthen them. By Your grace. Amen.

MON
2

Father, we thank You for everyone who regularly prays for a local school. Please inspire more Christians to intercede for this generation of children and young people and those working with them, lifting up a banner of prayer over every part of the UK – especially for their salvation. In Jesus' name. Amen. (prayforschools.org)

TUES
3

Lord Jesus, please speak through youth workers, church leaders, chaplains, and others who visit schools to support Christian groups, lead assemblies and lessons, offer pastoral care and provide prayer spaces, dramas, musical performances and other activities that introduce and demonstrate Your goodness and truth to pupils and staff. By Your grace. Amen.

WED
4

Holy Spirit, we pray for mutual understanding, respect and cooperation between schools and families to be strengthened, with more parents actively involved in their children's education; working together to improve learning achievements, behaviour and attendance. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Pray that from His glorious, unlimited resources He will empower you with inner strength through His Spirit. Then Christ will make His home in your hearts as you trust in Him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong.'
EPHESIANS 3:16,17 (NLT)

THURS
5

God our Provider, we pray for schools that are struggling financially to recruit enough staff, maintain buildings and meet pupils' needs. Please grant discernment to those deciding on funding to allocate resources fairly and help governors, heads and school board members to spend it wisely. In Your mercy. Amen.

FRI
6

Lord, thank You for people who **work in schools**, from nursery level to young adulthood: heads, senior leaders, teachers, teaching assistants, nursery workers and managers, special educational needs teams, carers, caterers, cleaners and administrators. May Your blessing rest upon them. Amen.

SAT
7

Father, we pray about the rising number of children who are missing school, including the estimated 250,000 not in school at all. Please equip and encourage those who choose to home-school but also help the authorities to identify children who are deprived of the education they need and are perhaps unsafe. For Christ's sake. Amen.

Since Covid, rates of 'persistent' (less than 90% school attendance) and 'severe' absenteeism (less than 50%) have risen. These children tend to be affected by poverty, sickness, special educational needs, family issues and peer pressure to truant. Poor attendance can lead to worse health, reduced employability and the possibility of turning to crime.

SEPTEMBER 8 – 14

SOCIAL JUSTICE



SEPTEMBER 9-22 IS FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

SUN
8

Loving Father, You teach us to seek justice, to defend the oppressed and take up the cause of the fatherless and the plea of the widow. We ask for breakthrough for those facing situations of injustice across our world. May they know a sense of hope that only You can bring. Amen. (compassionuk.org)

MON
9

Generous God, we pray that Fairtrade's 30th anniversary will mark increased awareness of how unfair trade agreements affect many small-scale farmers and workers in the developing world. May more companies sign up to the Fairtrade certification that supports improvements to pay, living standards, health, and education in these communities. In Jesus' name. Amen.

TUES
10

Lord, please help us as a nation to tackle the 'hidden housing crisis' particularly affecting marginalised and disadvantaged people. We remember the 58,620 households in temporary accommodation and the many who are actually made homeless. In Jesus' name. Amen.

WED
11

Father, with family breakdown at the root of many problems – often leading to poverty and affecting children's mental health, educational achievement and social attachment – we pray for healing and a change of heart for couples planning to separate, to instead keep families together. By Your grace. Amen.

'Give justice to the poor and the orphan; uphold the rights of the oppressed and the destitute. Rescue the poor and helpless; deliver them from the grasp of evil people.' PSALM 82:3,4 (NLT)

'You shall not oppress a hired worker who is poor and needy ... You shall give him his wages on the same day, before the sun sets.' DEUTERONOMY 24:14,15 (ESV)

THURS
12

God of justice, we pray for progress on the United Nations 'Decent Work Agenda': calling for work that is productive and fairly paid, workplace security and social protection, respecting rights at work and upholding equality of opportunity and treatment for all women and men. For Christ's sake. Amen.

FRI
13

Thank You, Lord, for the think tank Centre for Social Justice.

Grant them success in their vision for those living in the poorest and most disadvantaged communities across Britain to be given every opportunity to flourish and reach their full potential. In Jesus' name. Amen. (centreforsocialjustice.org.uk)

SAT
14

Father, please grant to those engaged with agri-food systems (the chain of production, storage, transportation, processing, distribution, marketing and consumption) wisdom and unity of purpose to meet the needs of a growing global population in just and sustainable ways. In Your mercy. Amen.

Last year, 783 million people faced hunger, 2.4 billion were moderately or severely food insecure and over 3.1 billion lacked access to healthy diets. At the same time, our planet faces multiple crises that are directly linked to our agri-food systems, including conflicts, climate change, biodiversity loss, deforestation and soil degradation. (World Food Forum)

SEPTEMBER 15 – 21

CARERS



SEPTEMBER 16-20 IS PROFESSIONAL CARERS' WEEK

SUN 15 Gracious God, please help ministers and church members to reach out with friendship, compassion and concern to both professional and unpaid carers, especially in times of stress and anxiety for those they look after; by prayer, spiritual encouragement and in practical ways. For Christ's sake. Amen.

MON 16 Lord, we pray for the UK adult care workforce in the face of rising demand for social care, under-funding, care home closures, shortages of workers from both home and abroad, low wages and long hours. Please help those in government to bring about effective change and reform. In Jesus' name. Amen.

TUES 17 Father, thank You for the practical support of Community Care Assistants to people in their own homes to get up, dress, wash and go to bed, giving meals, medication and other help. Please help them to be kind and patient as they have to fit in many visits each day. By Your grace. Amen.

WED 18 Loving God, we grieve for the minority of vulnerable adults in care homes – around 70% of whom have dementia – who are neglected or dealt with unkindly, or worse. Please help concerned staff members and families to expose such treatment and bring comfort to victims. In Your mercy. Amen.

'May the Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father (who has loved us and given us unending encouragement and unending 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)

THURS 19 Father, please strengthen and encourage parents, carers and others involved with children who have complex needs and facing the challenges these bring. Guide them to find the personal support and to access the resources they need to provide the best for their families. In Jesus' name. Amen.

FRI 20 Thank You, Lord, for Action for Children, Barnardo's, Carers First, Carers Trust, Children's Society, HoneyPot, Young Minds and other organisations that support young carers. May they connect with anyone needing help regarding their mental and physical health, education and social lives. By Your grace. Amen.

SAT 21 God of compassion, we remember the 5.7 million unpaid carers revealed by the 2021 Census to be looking after some of the most vulnerable people in our society. Please strengthen and shine Your love into their lives as daily they faithfully undertake tiring and often disheartening tasks. For Christ's sake. Amen.

Carers UK (2023) manifesto for unpaid carers reports that: '82% say impact of caring on their physical and mental health is a challenge; 79% feel anxious, half are depressed and lonely. 69% find it hard to get a good night's sleep. 61% worry they won't have any breaks this coming year. 53% find it challenging to maintain relationships with family and friends. 42% need more support from healthcare professionals.'

SEPTEMBER 22 – 28

BABY LOSS GRIEF



SUN
22

Lord, we pray for churches to be increasingly places of refuge and restoration where anyone who has lost a baby can share their experience of stillbirth, miscarriage or abortion, not fearing a judgmental or unsympathetic response but heard with compassion and prayerful support. In Christ's name. Amen.

MON
23

Loving God, we remember the precious women, each known and loved by You, behind stark statistics of almost ten million abortions carried out in the UK since 1968. Please help them to seek and receive Your compassionate healing and forgiveness for any pain, guilt or regret. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

TUES
24

Spirit of grace, please touch the lives of those attending OPEN's Loved Miscarriage Healing Days, and Healing Retreat weekends following an abortion where they can pray and work through their experience in the light of their Christian faith within a safe peaceful environment. In Your mercy. Amen. (weareopen.org.uk)

WED
25

Lord, we pray for those employed within the British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS), MSI (previously Marie Stopes) Reproductive Choices, and National Unplanned Pregnancy Advisory Service that undertake 200,000 abortions each year. May they come to know Your mercy and forgiveness in the context of their work. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

'I cry out to the Lord; I plead for the Lord's mercy. I pour out my complaints before Him and tell Him all my troubles. When I am overwhelmed, You alone know the way I should turn...' PSALM 142:1-3 (NLT)

THURS
26

Father, may growing numbers of those who have lost babies and children attend and find comfort through 'Saying Goodbye' events of music, poetry, readings, a Christian message and a shared symbolic act of remembrance – held in cathedrals where all are welcome to acknowledge their grief. In Jesus' name. Amen. (sayinggoodbye.org)

FRI
27

Thank You, Father, for the Pregnancy Centres Network encouraging and equipping 80 UK centres that provide professional and undirected support to women facing unplanned pregnancies and those struggling with pregnancy and child loss concerns. Please guide and provide for this ministry. For Christ's sake. Amen. (pregnancycentresnetwork.org.uk)

SAT
28

Lord, we remember couples who have lost a baby through miscarriage, stillbirth or neonatal death within the first 28 days. Please strengthen them through each stage of this distressing experience and help them to lay these children to rest with dignity, peace and hope. In Your name. Amen.

Baby Loss Awareness Week (9-15 October) raises awareness of pregnancy and baby loss. Its Alliance provides support to anyone affected, working with health professionals and services to improve bereavement care, and reducing preventable deaths. Events during the week offer comfort to those touched by this tragedy, encouraging them to find a safe space to share their experiences and feel that they are not alone. (babyloss-awareness.org)

SEPT 29 – OCT 5

OLDER PEOPLE



SUN
29

Lord, please help older Christians to discern how in this season they can best serve their local church and the wider community. Show them which ministries and roles to lay down and take up, and how to enrich others through their testimony of Your faithfulness and love. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

MON
30

Loving Father, who places individuals in families, we remember those older people who live alone who can feel isolated and lonely. May they find company and friendship through local church fellowships, clubs and other social groups with friends and neighbours. By Your grace. Amen.

TUES
1

WORLD DAY FOR OLDER PERSONS

God our Creator, we pray for today's activities to raise awareness of the impact of an ageing population on our world – both positive and problematic – and the need to ensure that people everywhere can grow old with dignity and continue to participate in society as citizens with full rights. In Jesus' name. Amen.

WED
2

Dear Lord, we lift to You those facing major changes in their lives: finishing work, moving to other accommodation, caring for someone who is frail, supporting family members through testing times, living with health issues, having less money, and other challenges. Please grant them Your mercy. Amen.

THURS
3

Lord, we lift to You everyone involved in supporting older people who require extra health support, social care and other services. We pray that central and local governments will be able to provide sufficient financial and human resources to meet this growing need across society. In Jesus' name. Amen.

FRI
4

Eternal Father, we give thanks for people who down the years have contributed so much to our world that continues to benefit others: through music, art, literature and other creative fields, entertainment, inventiveness, science and technology, education, medicine, politics, and much more – particularly Christians who have done it in the name of Christ. Amen.

SAT
5

Sovereign God, we intercede for those responsible for future planning across the world who are considering the implications of major demographic changes taking place. Grant them wisdom, boldness, and imagination to address issues of health and social care and other concerns. In Your mercy. Amen.

'... You whom I have upheld since your birth and have carried since you were born. Even to your old age and grey hairs I am He, I am He who will sustain you ...'
ISAIAH 46:3-4 (NIV)

The World Health Organization predicts that between 2015 and 2050, the proportion of people aged 60 or over will nearly double from 12% of the global population to 22% including a tripling of those of 80+ to reach 426 million. Four priorities are: to challenge ageism attitudes, develop communities that foster their abilities, deliver person-centred integrated care and health services and provide access to quality long-term care for those who need it. (who.int)

OCTOBER 6 – 12

FINDING HOPE



SUN
6

Christ Jesus our Hope, in this world so riven with conflict, afflicted through injustice, stricken by suffering and all creation 'groaning' we rejoice that through Your death, resurrection and ascension You destroyed death, overcame the devil and cancelled sin forever. We worship You! Amen.

MON
7

Heavenly Father, we ask that our nation would be evangelised as Your people turn humbly to You in prayer and instigate mission in their communities, bringing hope to a secularised society and seeing lives transformed. We remember past revivals and cry out to You, 'Do it again Lord!' In Jesus' name. Amen.

TUES
8

Lord of the Church, we pray that 'The Send' initiative, mobilising young adults to spread the message of the gospel across the UK and Ireland will be led and empowered by Your Spirit and result in hundreds of thousands of this generation becoming faithful disciples. To Your glory! Amen. (thesend.uk)

WED
9

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

is tomorrow, 10 October. God our Healer, we intercede for the 970 million people worldwide who live with a mental disorder to find healing, peace and hope through the support of others and solutions to the underlying problems they face. Grant wisdom to health services, charities and other organisations seeking to help. In Your mercy. Amen.

THURS
10

WORLD HOMELESSNESS DAY

Father, we pray today for the millions of people across the world who do not have an adequate, safe and stable place to live. Please help governments and communities to find solutions to alleviate this deeply distressing situation that causes such damage, suffering and hopelessness. In Jesus' name. Amen.

FRI
11

Loving Saviour, thank You for all who faithfully preach the gospel of hope.

May Your Spirit grant boldness, compassion and wisdom to Christian believers witnessing for You and inspire and enable evangelists, missionaries and church ministers to win many souls through Your grace. Amen.

SAT
12

Dear Lord, please encourage anyone who today is downhearted and sad. Send your messengers to comfort and help them to entrust their lives into Your hands. We pray for strength and understanding to face their difficulties and come through their trial. In Jesus' name. Amen.

'I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in Him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.'

ROMANS 15:13 (NLT)

'Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all the darkness.' (Bishop Desmond Tutu.)

'Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all.' (Dale Carnegie.)

OCTOBER 13 – 19

PEOPLE IN PRISON



OCTOBER 13 – 19: WEEK OF PRAYER FOR PRISONS

SUN 13 Lord, please break bonds of fear and isolation. With your love, support prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care. Heal those who have been wounded, especially victims of crime. Help us all to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ. Amen. (prisonsworld.org)

MON 14 Sovereign God, we lift to You the Minister for Prisons, Director General Operations of HM Prisons and Probation Service and those who work with them. Grant wisdom to ensure the welfare of prisoners and fulfil their other responsibilities. In Your mercy. Amen.

TUES 15 Father, please bring healing to the many women in custody who come from difficult and abusive backgrounds and are now afflicted with addictions, self-harming and other painful consequences of trauma, fear and brokenness. Help them to trust people who seek to support them. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

WED 16 God of mercy, please help the over-stretched staff in HM Prisons Services, responsible for almost 100,000 inmates, in their duties to maintain security and order and provide vital services that support prisoners' physical and mental health and prepare them for release. In Jesus' name. Amen.

'Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about you. Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith...' 1 PETER 5:7-9 (NLT)

THURS 17 God of hope, please guide people leaving prison to find suitable accommodation, employment, statutory support and a community of advisors and friends during this difficult transition. We pray for more employers to give someone with a criminal record the chance to make a fresh start and that many ex-offenders will find a welcome in a local church. By Your grace. Amen.

FRI 18 Lord, thank You for the many Christian ministries that engage with people in UK prisons and Youth Offender Institutions and help those leaving custody through chaplaincy, evangelism, discipleship, education, counselling and other support. Please strengthen them in this work. In Jesus' name. Amen.

SAT 19 O God, we pray for the millions incarcerated across the world, some without trial, in unsafe, cramped and violent situations. Grant success to organisations advocating for their human rights; to put states where this is happening under international pressure to bring change. For Christ's sake. Amen.

Over 11 million people – men (10 million), women (740,000) and children (261,200) – are in prison around the world, a large proportion for minor and non-violent offences. Over 3 million of them are awaiting trial. The world prison population rate is 140 persons per 100,000 population. Prison overcrowding is a global problem, often resulting in institutions being overstretched, poorly managed and at risk of becoming dangerous places for prisoners and staff. (prisonstudies.org, UNICEF.)



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