We have just launched our brand new Church Army podcast. Join your hosts, Chris and Hannah each month as they interview special guests and explore some of the most pressing questions about evangelism and talking about Jesus in the 21st Century.

It’s not too late to listen to our December episode with special guest, Maureen Greaves talking about her new book Murder on Christmas Eve.

Find out how to listen by visiting www.churcharmy.org/podcast
Happy New Year! As we step into 2020 we are looking forward to seeing God do some exciting new things. One of our values is being expectant - expectant that we will see God change lives and transform communities as we support our 500 evangelists and staff in partnership with churches across the UK and Ireland in sharing the gospel in words and action.

In Hebrews 10:23 it says ‘Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful’. So as you begin to pray through the following pages, for our work, be expectant that God will use your prayers to bring real, lasting change to people’s lives.

And thank you, as always for standing with us and supporting us. Know that we are praying for you also.

Yours in Christ

Des Scott
Interim Chief Executive
New Term

With a new year comes a new school term. For many homes, morning routines will soon be; packing bags, making sandwiches and hurrying everyone out of the house for the school-run. And just as parents and children all over the UK and Ireland are preparing for the new term, so are many of our evangelists who regularly go into schools to hold assemblies, run clubs, mentor students and walk young believers through communion preparation. Join us this week as we pray for everyone who is going back to school.

HOW MUCH BETTER TO GET WISDOM THAN GOLD, TO GET INSIGHT RATHER THAN SILVER!

*Proverbs 16:16

Sunday 29 December

King Jesus, “the Rock on which I build, my Shield and Hiding Place, my never-failing treasury filled, with boundless stores of grace”. As we start to think about the new year ahead, tune our hearts to your will and the work of your Kingdom. Amen.

*Hymn, How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds, John Newton
Monday 30 December
Pray for Dorothy Needham in Lancashire, as she continues her ministry in schools, that the pupils will continue to bring enthusiasm and a desire to know more about Jesus in both faith and community schools.

Tuesday 31 December
Pray for more opportunities for us to build connections with schools around the UK and Ireland.

Wednesday 1 January
Pray for Aidan Greenwood in Halifax and as he tries to build relationships with schools in the area, particularly one that is resistant to the gospel. Pray that those barriers will be removed to open the way for a new school ministry to begin.

Thursday 2 January
Pray that church buildings can be used as a resource for children and young people to experience being in God’s house, and learn more about being a follower of Christ.

Friday 3 January
Pray for Cherith Withington at our Liverpool Centre of Mission, as she looks into establishing a toddler church in partnership with a local church with the aim of reaching out to families.

Saturday 4 January
Give thanks for the young people and their families whose lives have been changed by our ministries within schools. Give thanks for the schools that have opened their doors to us to talk about faith in assemblies and school clubs.
The Mission Community

There are many ways to be part of Church Army’s vision, and all over the UK and Ireland Church Army members are bringing their individual skills, giftings and experiences to share God’s love, empowering people to transform their communities. Whether it is being a Commissioned Evangelist, Mission Community member, volunteer or member of staff, we love the passion and vibrancy that the Church Army family brings to making Jesus known to a hurting word. Join us this week as we pray for our workers.

JUST AS A BODY, THOUGH ONE, HAS MANY PARTS, BUT ALL ITS MANY PARTS FORM ONE BODY, SO IT IS WITH CHRIST.

1 Corinthians 12:12

Sunday 5 January

Dear Lord, you have made us all different but given us the same Spirit, many parts but one body. Please bless every pathway of Church Army; in whichever way they serve, increase their love for everyone who does not know you. Amen.
**Monday 6 January**
Pray for our Commissioned Evangelists and the numerous ministries they are involved in, that God will increase their opportunities to share the gospel and see lasting change in their communities.

**Tuesday 7 January**
Give thanks for our Companions, who stand with us and support us through prayer and financial giving. Thank God for their commitment to us and their passion for our vision.

**Wednesday 8 January**
Pray for the Covenanted members of our Mission Community who are committed to sharing with those around them the Good News that “the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus” (Romans 6:23).

**Thursday 9 January**
Pray for our many volunteers across the UK and Ireland who give their time, skills and energy so that more people have the opportunity to meet the living God.

**Friday 10 January**
Pray for our retired evangelists, many of whom only increase their ministry activity with each year of retirement.

**Saturday 11 January**
Throughout this week we have prayed for just some of the people who believe in our vision but the truth is, there are many more in Church Army’s family who are sharing the gospel and impacting lives around the UK and Ireland. Spend some time giving thanks for them today.
In the autumn of 2018 we launched the Hackney Centre of Mission (CoM) in partnership with the Diocese of London. Lead Evangelist Stephen Plumb moved into the area with the calling “to serve people from difficult backgrounds and share God’s love through words and action, with them”. Now, after a whole year of taking root in one of London’s most diverse boroughs and, joined by Pioneer Evangelist Andrena Palmer, the Hackney Centre of Mission is seeing real change. Join us this week as we pray for them.

**He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.’**

Mark 16:15

**Sunday 12 January**

Wonderful God, Jesus spent much time showing your love to the lowly of this world. Equip the Hackney Centre of Mission to fulfil its calling of serving people in difficult situations in a diverse London borough. Amen.
Monday 13 January
Pray for new Pioneer Evangelist, Andrena Palmer, that Hackney quickly becomes home and that she has a fruitful ministry engaging with young people in schools and on the housing estates.

Tuesday 14 January
Psalm 33:1 says “sing for joy”. Pray for the Hackney Can Sing Community Choir who meet on Tuesday evenings, as they get into full swing for the year ahead following their first anniversary.

Wednesday 15 January
Pray for the Barney’s Café Wednesday drop-in, for the guests who come, that they will know the love of God and for the friendly team that make it happen each week.

Thursday 16 January
Pray that God will gather together a group of people with a heart for mission and evangelism in Hackney, to become a missional community which reaches out to others.

Friday 17 January
Pray that Church Army’s Faith Pictures resource, which will be rolled out across the Deanery following its successful pilot project in the Hackney Marsh parish.

Saturday 18 January
Give thanks for everyone who prays for, and supports the Hackney Centre of Mission and for the positive engagement with the Evangelism Support Scheme (ESS) which is growing and enabling ministry to continue.
Fresh expressions of Church

Fresh expressions of Church (fxC) are new forms of church that emerge within contemporary culture, they often don’t look like traditional churches and engage primarily with those who don’t usually go to church. Many of our own evangelists and Mission Community members either run, shape or are involved in fresh expressions. Join us this week as we pray for some of them and for fxC.

DECLARE HIS GLORY AMONG THE NATIONS, HIS MARVELLOUS DEEDS AMONG ALL PEOPLES.

1 Chronicles 16:24

Sunday 19 January

Wonderful Saviour, when churches grow, your Kingdom grows. Bless fresh expressions of Church and our evangelists who are involved with them. Let their creativity and vibrancy reach people who would otherwise not come to church. Amen.
Monday 20 January
For many people, fresh expressions is their first encounter with church. Pray that their experience leads them to meet God and know His love for them.

Tuesday 21 January
Pray for Mission Community member Charmaine Slade, who is involved with Lantern - a fxC which supports those with learning difficulties and those experiencing issues with their mental health.

Wednesday 22 January
Pray for Phil and Chris Baul in Plymouth, whose fxC held on a bus has created a strong sense of community. Their constant prayer is that God will move powerfully in the lives of all those who visit the bus.

Thursday 23 January
Pray for The Edge on the Flaxley Road estate, run by our Selby Centre of Mission, for their Connect! services and once a month Messy Church service.

Friday 24 January
Our Research Unit, in partnership with the Diocese of Leicester recently completed a report to discover the effects of fxC in Leicester. Pray that the report would be a useful tool for growing more churches and strengthening the wider church.

www.churcharmy.org/godatwork

Saturday 25 January
Praise God for our involvement with many fresh expressions Churches and the families we have connected with through them.
St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Cluster

Around the UK and Ireland, members of Church Army gather regularly in clusters to encourage and pray for each other, the work of Church Army and the wider church. This week we are praying for the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich cluster and the ministries they are engaged in.

JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME YESTERDAY AND TODAY AND FOR EVER.

Hebrews 13:8

Sunday 26 January

Lord Jesus, you are never-changing and the message of your gospel stays the same forever. Strengthen the hearts of those who engage in various ministries in the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocese so that more people may come to know you. Amen.
Monday 27 January
Pray for Evangelist, Cathy Bourner as she goes into schools in the Ipswich area to lead assemblies using Bible Society’s *Open the Book*, a project which gives school children the opportunity to hear stories from the Bible.

Tuesday 28 January
Pray for Andrew Payne in his role as Diocesan Adviser for Evangelists, as he supports and trains those who are preparing for a life devoted to evangelism.

Wednesday 29 January
Pray for everyone in the cluster who is currently exploring either training or joining one of Church Army’s Mission Community pathways, that God will guide their path and give them wisdom and direction.

Thursday 30 January
Pray for Andrew and Cathy as they continue to resource and equip newly licensed evangelists within the diocese.

Friday 31 January
Pray that God will use the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich cluster powerfully to attract those who feel the call to be evangelists and take the Good News of Jesus beyond the church walls.

Saturday 1 February
Give thanks for the many resources that are being used to reach people in the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich area and that God will continue to raise up more people who are passionate to be evangelists in Suffolk.
Evangelists-in-Training

Evangelists are people whose lives have been changed by Jesus and, in response to His infinite love are desperate to tell other people about Him. Our Evangelists-in-Training are already evangelists in their own right; they are on the ground, passionately spreading the gospel, seeing communities transformed and lives changed, but they are also working towards being commissioned as Church Army Evangelists.

...GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH THE GOSPEL TO ALL CREATION.

Mark 16:15

Sunday 2 February

Heavenly Father, you command us to preach the gospel to all creation, please empower those who are training to be bold in telling the world about you. Amen
Monday 3 February
Pray for Paul Ogunyemi as he leads various activities in Vicars Cross, Boughton and Huntington, particularly the Campbell Hall drop-in where he uses games and hospitality to engage with people and share the love of Jesus.

Tuesday 4 February
Pray for Jo Leslie in Leicester as she works with a charity supporting the homeless, that those using the service will know Jesus’ love through the charity’s support.

Wednesday 5 February
Pray for Judith Bawtree in East Sussex, as she manages a range of local mission initiatives including; working with women, the Good Book Group and outreach through a local tennis club.

Thursday 6 February
Pray for Ronan Walker in his role as Chaplain at Doncaster prison, that lives will be transformed through his work, which includes leading chapel services, Bible studies and pastoral duties.

Friday 7 February
Pray for Chloe Sheppard as Team Leader of Close Pastors, engaging visitors to Winchester Cathedral in conversations about issues of faith and also working with the area’s homeless community.

Saturday 8 February
We have 27 evangelists training in the UK and Ireland. Spend some time today giving thanks for them and for the lives of the people who will encounter Jesus for the first time through their ministries.
Retired Evangelists

The word *retired* often brings to mind the idea of resting from a life of paid work or ministry. The reality is, even though our Church Army evangelists do retire from paid ministry, they never retire from the commission to tell people about the love of God. Many don’t consider themselves to be retired and continue to go from strength to strength in ministry and in love for God and people.

*I thought, “Age should speak; advanced years should teach wisdom.”*

Job 32:7

**Sunday 9 February**

Almighty God and merciful Father, thank you for the wisdom of our retired evangelists who have spent many years faithfully serving you, help us to learn from their experiences of speaking Good News in frontline ministry. Amen.
Monday 10 February
Pray for Jennifer Gowen in Folkestone, as she continues to host people for meals in her flat and witness to other residents in her building.

Tuesday 11 February
Pray for Charles McNutt in Harrogate as he continues to be actively involved at church and is always seeking opportunities to be evangelistic.

Wednesday 12 February
Pray for Pauline Connelly in Bridlington, for peace and clarity as she makes the decision to move back to Sheffield and closer to her Church Army connections.

Thursday 13 February
Pray for Barry Amis in Norfolk, for blessings and improved health.

Friday 14 February
Spend some time today praying for some of our older retired evangelists who are experiencing ill health, isolation, loneliness or are coping with the loss of a partner.

Saturday 15 February
Thank you for the wealth of wisdom and experience that our retired evangelists have passed on through years of faithful service in frontline ministry and for everything that we are able to learn from them.
Wilson Carlile Centre

This week we are praying for some of the newest members of staff to join the Wilson Carlile Centre (WCC) in Sheffield. God has brought together a remarkable range of skills in our Sheffield office and it has been great to welcome some incredible people into that mix. Join us as we pray for those taking up new roles.

Sunday 16 February

Loving God, encourage those who are starting new roles at the Wilson Carlile Centre. Strengthen them as they become part of Church Army’s journey to see more people reached for your name. Amen.

THE LORD IS RIGHTEOUS IN ALL HIS WAYS AND FAITHFUL IN ALL HE DOES

Psalm 145:17
Monday 17 February
Pray for David Craig who has started the new role of Reunion Community & Systems Coach, that he will facilitate those who are part of Reunion and help to take it forward. Visit www.myreunion.org.uk

Tuesday 18 February
Pray for Emma Taylor as our Xplore Evangelism Coach, that God will give her wisdom and insight in her role. Visit www.xplore.org.uk

Wednesday 19 February
Pray for Carolyn Kinsman who has returned to our Communications Team after time away on maternity leave, that she will have joy and energy as she balances her work and home life.

Thursday 20 February
Pray for our new Leadership Development Officer as they take up the role of enabling leaders to make disciples who will, in turn, make disciples.

Friday 21 February
Pray for our new Church Resources Officer as they begin to develop resources which will equip individuals and groups to talk more openly about faith and the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Saturday 22 February
Give thanks for everyone who works behind the scenes at our office in Sheffield to facilitate our frontline work. Ask that God would fill positions where we have spaces.
Covenanted Members

This week we are praying for some of our Covenanted members of Church Army. These are pioneering individuals, passionate about the gospel, with hearts to see lives transformed and see people meet Jesus. As part of the Church Army Mission Community, Covenanted members make the same promises as our Commissioned evangelists and are committed to our vision. The Covenanted pathway includes people from various vocations including those who are ordained and also those who are currently training to be commissioned.

He remembers his covenant for ever, the promise he made, for a thousand generations.

Psalm 105:8

Sunday 23 February

Covenant keeping God, you remember your promises to your people. Give wisdom and insight to our covenanted members as they give themselves to making you known. Amen.
Monday 24 February
Pray for Matt Arnold in Nottinghamshire, for wisdom and direction as he listens for guidance from God for the next stage of ministry. Pray for new opportunities to make an impact for the gospel.

Tuesday 25 February
Pray for Steve Hollinghurst as he attends mind, body and spirit fairs and talks with people who have left their church and helps them to stay connected to Jesus as they explore their faith.

Wednesday 26 February
Pray for Peter Graystone in his role as Training Officer in South Croydon, as he helps Christians to become more confident in what they believe and to talk confidently about their faith with others.

Thursday 27 February
Pray for Kathy Hyde as she continues to work with our Southampton Centre of Mission to reach out and meet the needs of a constantly changing city.

Friday 28 February
Pray for Tracy Milne as she leads the Sorted Project, a church for young people, run by young people which focuses on teenagers and young adults from non-church backgrounds in Bradford.

Saturday 29 February
Give thanks today for all our Covenanted members and the various ministries that they are involved in.
St Asaph Centre of Mission

This Sunday is the celebration of St David, Patron Saint of Wales and that is why, this week we are focusing our prayers on one of our Welsh centres of mission. The St Asaph Centre of Mission was launched in 2015 and is based on the Caia Park estate in Wrexham, an area of significant poverty and deprivation. Since taking root, evangelists Chris Lawton and Josh Smith have become well-known faces on the estate, building relationships and seeing the area impacted for the gospel.

...I CONSIDER EVERYTHING A LOSS BECAUSE OF THE SURPASSING WORTH OF KNOWING CHRIST JESUS MY LORD...

Philippians 3:8

Sunday 1 March

Heavenly Father, as we celebrate St David, who devoted his life to making you known in Wales, empower the St Asaph Centre of Mission team to continue his legacy and see Wrexham transformed by the gospel. Amen.
**Monday 2 March**
Pray for the *Tin Can Youth Centre* which currently hosts two afterschool drop-ins and a youth club each week, and has now started a youth service. Pray that this will become a monthly event.

**Tuesday 3 March**
Pray for Josh in his role as a school pastor in one of the local high schools, that God will give him wisdom as he talks with the pupils.

**Wednesday 4 March**
Pray for the *Me & My Dad Club* which runs monthly at St Giles Church in Wrexham and encourages dads to spend more quality time with their children.

**Thursday 5 March**
Pray for Josh’s *Walking Football* ministry which engages some of the older members of the community, that it will be an opportunity for them to experience the love of God.

**Friday 6 March**
Pray for Chris and Josh as they take regular assemblies and are increasing their involvement with two local primary schools.

**Saturday 7 March**
Give thanks for the Holiday Hunger Clubs run by Chris, where great numbers of children and families enjoy activities, hear about Jesus and eat together.
Launched in September 2019 in partnership with the Diocese of Gloucester, Gloucester & Forest is one of our newest centres of mission. Ministering to the suburb of Matson, part of which is among the most deprived communities in the UK, Lead Evangelist Andy Wilson will be helping to establish new worshipping communities, as well as supporting and developing a lay pioneer leadership network across the diocese. Join us in praying for Andy and the Centre of Mission as it continues to take root in the area.

Sunday 8 March

Father, you delight to save and to bless. Please, bless the Gloucester & Forest Centre of Mission to impact the Matson area and to your glory, see the lost come to you. Amen.
**Monday 9 March**
Pray for good relationships in Matson for Andy and his family with other churches, community groups, and key leaders.

**Tuesday 10 March**
Pray for Andy as he starts to develop community and discipleship in Matson, that God will show the way ahead and provide opportunity for people to engage with the gospel.

**Wednesday 11 March**
Please pray for the development of a team in both Matson and Coleford, so new ministries are able to take place.

**Thursday 12 March**
Pray for the steering group as it begins to take shape and support the lead and pioneer evangelists in the Centre of Mission.

**Friday 13 March**
Pray for Community Meals, and other new discipleship groups that are starting to form.

**Saturday 14 March**
Give thanks for the positive engagement in local primary and secondary schools and pray for further opportunities to deepen relationships with schools and families.
Chelmsford Cluster

This week we are praying for Church Army members who meet to pray and encourage each other for the work they are doing in and around the Diocese of Chelmsford. Join us as we pray for some of the ministries that are happening in this area.

GLORIFY THE LORD WITH ME: LET US EXALT HIS NAME TOGETHER.

Psalm 34:3

Sunday 15 March

Loving God, it is by your power that lives are transformed, and cities changed. Equip the members of Chelmsford cluster to preach the gospel and seek opportunities to tell people about you. Amen.
Monday 16 March
Pray for Alison Knights in Whittlesford as she, and her husband continue to throw themselves into ministry with St Mary and St Andrew’s Church and build connections with families in the village.

Tuesday 17 March
Paul Hamilton asks: “Please pray for all the children who have just had their First Communion preparation, that their faith may grow and pray for wisdom for the local church as we learn from them and seek to nurture their faith.”

Wednesday 18 March
Pray for the Right Reverend Stephen Cottrell in his pastoral care and oversight of the Chelmsford Diocese and Chair of the Board of Church Army.

Thursday 19 March
Covenanted member, Linda Howard asks: “give thanks to God for our newly baptised and confirmed members in our church (St. Clements Parish Church, Leigh on Sea, Essex); that their love for God, and his Son Jesus Christ will grow.”

Friday 20 March
Pray for Jacquie Messinger, Geoff Box and Catherine Wellingbrook-Doswell as members of Church Army’s Mission Community.

Saturday 21 March
Give thanks for all the gospel activity that is happening in the Diocese of Chelmsford and pray that God will continue to grow His Kingdom in this part of the country.
Medway Centre of Mission

In its glory days Chatham was home to Henry VIII’s navy, but over four centuries have gone by and the town is now a place full of people with many needs, desperate for hope. Stephen Ramshaw and Mike Dare are determined that people’s lives will be better because of the centre of mission. Their vision is for the Medway Centre of Mission to be a beacon of light and love to the people of Chatham and the surrounding Medway towns; telling people how much they are loved, valued and worth.

FOR YOU WERE ONCE DARKNESS, BUT NOW YOU ARE LIGHT IN THE LORD. LIVE AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT

Ephesians 5:8

Sunday 22 March

King Jesus, the world needs to see that you are light. Help Stephen and Mike as they seek new ways to be beacons, showing your glory to towns surrounding Medway. Amen.
Monday 23 March
Pray for Medway Oaks, a café church style drop-in for the homeless, that numbers will continue to grow and that everyone who comes will realise they are not worthless, but priceless.

Tuesday 24 March
Pray for Stephen as he handles all the challenges of leading the Medway Centre of Mission, whether that is in meetings or out on the street, connecting with people.

Wednesday 25 March
Pray for Mike as he leads the youth drop-in in partnership with Medway Youth Services, that the lives of the young people who come along will be completely transformed by the gospel.

Thursday 26 March
Pray for Stephen in his role as a trained Christians Against Poverty manager as he runs Fresh Start sessions for people with lower level addictions.

Friday 27 March
Pray for Stephen and Mike as they explore potential emerging activities that will enable them to reach more people in the area and connect with those who desperately need to hear Good News.

Saturday 28 March
Give thanks for the volunteers who help with Medway Oaks and the experience they bring to working with the homeless community, which is proving invaluable as the church steadily grows in number.
“I MAY HAVE BEEN SENT TO PRISON BUT IT HAS HELPED ME ESCAPE THE PRISON OF MY LIFE.”
Freedom Behind Bars

Thank you to everyone who gave to our Christmas appeal after reading Colin’s* story of hope from behind bars. Your generosity means that we are able to help people discover freedom through Christ, wherever they are, through the work of Church Army evangelists across the UK and Ireland.

We value your gifts, but we also value your prayer. Will you please stand with us by praying for Colin on his journey of faith, and for the many other individuals who are in need of the life-saving hope that comes through knowing Jesus.

It’s not too late to give. You can still read Colin’s full story and donate** by visiting www.churcharmy.org/freedom

*not real name
**all donations go to general funds
As well as Prayer Diary being available on the Church Army website, you can join us in prayer by email each week. To sign up for this, please visit www.churcharmy.org/prayerpoints

To order more copies of Prayer Diary for your friends, church or group, please telephone 0300 123 2113 or email comms@churcharmy.org

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