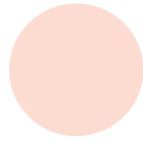


People & Places

Q2 2025

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WELCOME

Welcome to People & Places! You may be confused as you were expecting to receive inFocus for this quarter, but instead this has landed on your door. You may also recognise People & Places from the last few pages of inFocus. But to clear up any confusion I'll walk you through what to expect from this publication.

People & Places is the part of inFocus that has served as a daily prayer diary for you to pray for different staff, evangelists and members of the Church Army family every quarter. Over the last month or so, Church Army has been navigating difficult decisions and alongside operational capacity issues we thought we would take a step back, highlight some key passages in the Bible, and offer up our prayers to our Father. You'll find an excellent article as you turn the page written by Annie, our Stories Producer, on the importance of prayer, along with Bible passages to help focus your thoughts as you hold each person up to God. There is then a reflection on a verse of scripture from David Lovell, from our Research Team, followed by our usual lists of people to pray for from around Church Army, just with some added detail to help you pray.

I would like finish by saying a huge thank you for supporting Church Army, whether through volunteering, financial support or in prayer. I would also like to say to say thank you to everyone who engaged with the survey we included in the last inFocus. Rest assured we have been through every one, and will be taking your feedback into account when inFocus returns. We appreciate each and every one of you and hope to be able to bring you more updates and stories of how we are igniting faith and restoring life across the nations in the future.



Josh Boot
Brand & Content Lead

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

Prayer is often understood as a meaningful two-way conversation between ourselves and God. It goes beyond merely asking for help; it's an opportunity to express gratitude, seek forgiveness, and connect with God through worship and adoration.

¹³Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. ¹⁴Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. ¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

¹⁷Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. ¹⁸Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops. (James 5:13-18)

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:4-7)

God values the sincerity of your heart more than the way you phrase your prayers. There's no need for elaborate words or grand gestures—just speak truthfully, humbly, and with genuine intent.

⁵“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ⁷And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

(Matthew 6:5-8 This then leads into the Lord's Prayer)

As Christians we believe that we are in relationship with God, that we have a covenant. Prayer can be a way of experiencing that relationship and intentionally opening ourselves up to be aware of God's presence and listen to what God is saying to us. For many people, prayer is a way to enrich their spiritual life and faith, allowing themselves time to sit in God's presence and communicate with God.

We often use different types of prayers, that sometimes reflect how we are feeling; we can pray prayers of praise or thanksgiving, or pray when we are feeling awe at what God has done for us, we can pray for help for ourselves or others, and we pray for forgiveness. Prayer should not be transactional, like a Christmas list of what we want from God. We pray not for what we want, but for what God wants – in the Lord's Prayer we say "your kingdom come, your will be done", and all of our prayers should reflect this too.

The act of praying will look different and vary greatly depending on denominational tradition, personality, culture, and preference. Some people pray silently, in movement, aloud, in song, in writing, or in action. Different people might prefer praying alone or collectively with others. There are many instances recorded in the Bible of Jesus praying with others as well as taking himself off to be alone to pray, and often outside to the wilderness or the mountain.

"After he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone" – Matthew 14:23

Catholics use rosary beads to aid their prayer, and many Anglicans might use the Book of Common Prayer and follow liturgies and prayer for specific times and days. Other faiths have traditions of embodied prayers, dances, set prayer times, meditation, praying to different icons, saints or Gods. All of these are similar in that they are about finding and nurturing a connection between the individual and a higher power/God.

Many people find that prayer feeds and refreshes them, to allow them to live out their faith each day, particularly through difficult times. We see this in the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus, again took himself off alone to pray. Jesus said to his disciples, "my soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death" and in his state of overwhelm and sorrow, he turns to prayer (Matthew 26:36-38). Jesus prayed to God for strength, help and also for companionship when he felt so alone in his fear. We also see Jesus praising God in prayer, such as in Luke 10:21 where Jesus is 'full of joy'. Jesus didn't only pray at set times of the day and in specific 'holy' places, he prayed whenever and wherever he felt moved to, and he see this throughout the gospels.

Prayer does not have to be prescriptive or follow rules, prayer is individual and is between you and God. Many people have set times and places to pray, be that in a prayer space in the morning, on the bus to work, or on a dog walk. But many others pray when they feel moved to, when something strikes them and prayer seems the appropriate response. God doesn't mind when or how you pray.

We hope this prayer diary aids you in your prayers, and we are extremely grateful for your prayers for Church Army at this time.

“EVERY GOOD AND EVERY PERFECT GIFT IS FROM ABOVE, COMING DOWN FROM THE FATHER OF LIGHTS, IN WHOM THERE IS NO VARIATION OR SHADOW DUE TO CHANGE. OF HIS OWN WILL HE BROUGHT US FORTH BY THE WORD OF TRUTH, THAT WE SHOULD BE A KIND OF FIRST FRUITS OF HIS CREATURES.”

James 1:17-18



David Lovell
Researcher


When I am feeling anxious, one of the best things I can do for myself is to hop on my bike and go somewhere that has trees and birds and grass and water. The pigeons, pastures, poplars and ponds of the Peak District have many times been to me a kind of medicine, inviting me to remember and that the God who made the world is still tending to it, and that he can likewise care for me.

James, the brother of Jesus, invites us here to look up beyond the trees and to the stars - the great 'lights' that God has fathered. These, too, can be a kind of medicine for our souls. Our world is full of things that change and fade, but the stars belong to an elevated, unchanging and beautiful world of their own: if a star was shining yesterday, then it will still be shining today. And although you might sometimes see the ugly side of some people (or even yourself), you will only ever see one side of a star, because stars are complete and unchanging light.

James wants you to know that God is like that. He is the 'Star Father': all light, no change. Whatever happens, we can trust that his will for his children is only good. And in fact, the God who willed the stars into being is now 'bringing forth' his children so that our faith and love will be as perfect and as persevering as even the light of the stars. May God give us grace to 'consider it all joy' (James 1:2).

PEOPLE & PLACES

Praying daily for the Church Army network



And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Ephesians 6:18

Church Army is going through a challenging period. Changes are having to be made that means for some, jobs are at risk, and some projects are looking for new oversight. Our passion is for people to come to know God for themselves, and to follow him as members of a worshipping community. Church Army could not achieve our mission without the ongoing faithful prayer of our supporters, and we need it now more than ever. We give thanks for all those who support us in this way.

Again this quarter, we offer a different list of names of people. Some are Commissioned Evangelists (working or retired) identified by CA after their name, others are members of the Mission Community, or employed staff, as at the start of March 2025.

Please remember these people in your daily prayers for each day of the month, and start again at the beginning of May and June.



Captain Neil Thomson CA
Chaplaincy Team

day 1

Mary Bittles CA, Rickmansworth
Jonathan Brooks, Community member, Aylesbury
Heidi Lewis CA, Newton Abbot
Hannah O'Neill, Community member, Bundoran
Alan Rainford CA, Morecambe

day 3

Don Egan CA, Stowmarket
Craig Grocock CA, Shuttery
Phaedra Pamphilon-Green CA, Bletchingley
David Worley, Community member, Wolverhampton

day 5

Sean Andrews CA, Staff, Scunthorpe
Steve Eccleston, Community member, High Peak
Irene Lees CA, Birmingham
Neil Walpole CA, Dewsbury

day 7

Martin Hartley CA, Norwich
Kelvin Knowles CA, Aldershot
Doreen Wheatley CA, Bradford
Yvonne Williamson, Community member, Chesterfield

day 2

Gerry Dillon, Staff, Glenrothes
Jon Durley CA, Bridgend
Andy Falconbridge CA, Bridgwater
David Wells, Community member, Bedford
John Worsfold CA, Lowestoft

day 4

Janet Arnold CA, Woodchurch
Richard Diamond CA, Southampton
Mike Griffin CA, Liverpool
Gordon Lamb CA, Plymouth

day 6

Ian Chapman CA, Northallerton
George Lings, Community member, Sheffield
Neil Thomson CA, Staff, Sheffield
Brian Wisener CA, Coleraine

day 8

Jane Emson CA, Middlesbrough
 Alison Knights, Community member,
 Cambridge
 Ade Prescott CA, Knottingly
 Karen Saunders CA, Staff, London

day 10

Julia Crathorn CA, Gillingham
 Mike Dare CA, Haverfordwest
 Gladys Finlayson CA, Luton
 Neil Ward, Community member,
 Chesterfield

day 12

Dorothy Bush CA, Nottingham
 Alan Roberts CA, Prestatyn
 Wendy Saunders, Community member, Norwich
 Paul Warren CA, Portland

day 14

Tim Anderson, Community member, Sutton
 Martha Botros CA, Colwyn Bay
 Neil Obbard CA, Staff, Leeds
 Gemma Payne, Community member, Sheffield
 Leslie Tennant CA, St Neots

day 9

Philip Johanson CA, Bournemouth
 Paul Kinlock CA, Preston
 Steve Martin CA, Frithelstockstone
 Sue Nutt, Community member,
 Brandon

day 11

John Hotchin CA, Hull
 Michael Joint CA, New Milton
 Paul Knight CA, Maerdy
 Chloe Lefore CA, Winchester

day 13

Cynthia Kerr CA, Gloucester
 Vanessa Kirby CA, Middlesbrough
 John Menagh CA, Belfast
 Robin Webb, Staff, Sheffield
 Tony Williams CA, Coleford

day 15

Michael Angus CA, London
 Gaynor Drost CA, Rotherham
 John Marrow CA, Epsom
 Heather Thomas CA, Stowmarket

day 16

Keith Bell CA, Ludlow
Cora Connell, Community member, Bury
St Edmunds
Ken Gaskell CA, Ossett
Andy Wier, Staff, Sheffield

day 18

Carrie Bowman CA, Plymouth
Jo Bowyer CA, Westhill
Stephen Ramshaw CA, Staff, Sheffield
David Thorp CA, Filey

day 20

Yvonne Bradbrook CA, Exeter
Kate Hatton CA, Hawick
Angela Jarvis CA, Wakefield
Sheila Samuels CA, Staines

day 22

Diana Burton CA, Bushey
David Coleman, Community member, Bradford
Joanne Milns CA, Hull
Howie Pickering, Staff, Stockport

day 17

Gordon Banks CA, Rugby
Martin Joss CA, Peterborough
Norman Pickavance, Community
member, Wetherby
Kevin Wren CA, Swanley

day 19

Brian Duckworth CA, Dover
Eve Elmes CA, Winchester
Pete Tomkinson CA, Preston
David Woodall CA, Rhyl

day 21

Keith Blinston CA, Sheffield
Dan Burrows, Community member, Purley
Steven Grasham CA, Staff, Sheffield
Val Joss CA, Peterborough

day 23

Deb Battersby CA, Sheffield
Brian Fletcher CA, Thirsk
Peter Grieve CA, Chorley
Cameron Macdonald CA, Nairn
Ian Maher CA, Sheffield

day 24

Michael Jackson, Community member, Archbishop, Vice President
 Peter Meenagh, Community member, Lisburn
 Graham Miles, Community member, Ipswich
 Daniel Ortiz, Staff, Sheffield
 Howard Schnaar CA, Witham

day 26

Ron Bradford CA, St Ives
 Sue Moore, Community member, King's Lynn
 Nick Russell CA, London
 Alan Williamson CA, Staff, Sligo

day 28

Lynda Alsford CA, Peacehaven
 Colin Brown CA, Falmouth
 Collette Dorgu CA, London
 Debbie Wilkinson, Community member, Prenton

day 30

Jane Duckitt CA, Sheffield
 Paul Fitzpatrick CA, Bletchingley & Nuffield
 Ruth Hills CA, Staff, Southampton
 Mike Reeder CA, Sheffield
 Tim Rourke CA, Chesterfield

day 25

Janet Jackson, Community member, Harrogate
 Aaron Jones, Community member, Sligo
 Simon Mason CA, Telford
 Mark Russell, Community member, Fleet

day 27

Pam Barker, Community member, Pickering
 Marie Clarke, Community member, Ashford
 Gary Shirley CA, Swindon
 James Wilkinson CA, Staff, Prenton

day 29

Laurence Bellew, Community member, Lurgan
 Kinder Kalsi CA, Staff, Sheffield
 Josh Smith CA, Wrexham
 Alan Wallace CA, Truro

day 31

Heidi Frisby, Staff, Tarbert
 Tom Keightley CA, Belfast
 Susan Melbourne, Community member, Chesterfield
 Glenda White-Miller, Community member, Mitcheldean

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Over the phone or in person: call 020 4525 3605 and quote Church Army to make an appointment



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THANK YOU:

Mikey's Story*

Mikey* was homeless at age 15 after his father went to prison and his mother moved in with someone else. Mikey was placed at Church Army's Ty Bronna hostel accommodation and has transformed his life with the support of our specialist team. He completed his GCSEs and now has two part-time jobs: one with Cardiff City Council, and the other at Ty Bronna as a Relief Support Worker, helping young people who are in the same position he was.

Mikey says: "I'm happy to be there because I get to help the young people and give them as much advice as I can, as I was once in their shoes."

Thanks to generous giving of people like **you**, Mikey was able to turn his life around at Ty Bronna, from living **a life of fear to a life full of hope**.

Your gift today could help other young people in crisis, like Mikey, to reach their potential.

*name and photo changed to protect identity



Thank you

Thank you to everyone, every church, every trust, every community group, who has donated in this last year to make a difference to so many lives across the UK and Ireland. And yet the need is so much greater than we have the resources for. We live in financially challenging times and yet we know that our God's resources are limitless and His people are generous.

- Join us in giving thanks to God for the generous support we receive every month.
- Please pray that men and women of faith will arise to meet the financial need in the year ahead.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN **DONATE**

Online

Visit churcharmy.org/donate to:

- Set up a monthly direct debit
- Make a card donation

Post

Send your cheque made payable to “Church Army” to:

Church Army, Wilson Carlile, 50 Cavendish Street, Sheffield, S3 7RZ

Phone

Call **0300 131 9200** to speak to a supporter engagement officer and make a card donation over the phone

Major Gifts

If you feel called to make a significant donation please call Ally Wenham, Philanthropy Lead, on **0114 252 1653**

Bank Transfer or Standing Order

Bank: Barclays

Account Name: The Church Army

Sort Code: 20-49-81

Account No. 80255459

Please quote your supporter ref. Quoted in our communications. If you don't know it please call us on **0300 131 9200** or email fundraising@churcharmy.org

Donating from Ireland

Bank: Bank of Ireland

Account Name: The Church Army

NSC: 900033 Account No. 59292933

IBAN: IE34 BOFI 9000 3359 2929 33

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