



Prayer
Network

Prayer MATTERS

MARCH 2025



Dear Prayer Matters readers

We wish you a very warm welcome to this March edition of *Prayer Matters*.

We hope you will find plenty in here to help you pray for The Salvation Army, its mission and ministry.

Lent starts in just a few days, and you'll find some prayers based on the Lent resources which Mission Resources have created for this year. It's also the World Day of Prayer on Friday 7th, and our Friday Justice and Reconciliation prayers are drawn from the resources created for that event.

We're getting practical in our Saturday Care for Creation prayers this month. We've asked the Connect Group at Brighton Congress Hall to tell us how we can pray for them as they lead the corps towards greater environmental awareness and to making choices which are kinder to the planet. You might even find their prayer requests give you a few ideas of things you could do in your own corps.

Our divisional focus takes us to Wales and to the East of England, and we're also providing prayer cover for a few events this month too: the Children and Youth Conference, the Divisional Leader Training, the Five-Year Officership Confirmation and a 15-Year Officer Reunion. And as if that wasn't enough, we're giving some special focus to praying for heralds – those faithful folk who sell the *War Cry* and *Kids Alive!* on our streets.

Thanks for praying with us, and may we see God do amazing things as we commit ourselves to this daily rhythm.

Blessings,

Lyndall Bywater
and the UKI Boiler Room Team

MARCH



SATURDAY 1 MARCH: CARE FOR CREATION **Recycling**

Over the past few years, our local council has given us a free waste disposal service, but it hasn't included recycling. Despite the cost, we felt that paying for a recycling service was important for us as a community. Pray that as this begins, the many people who use our hall and shops will understand the need for this important practice and will understand why we're asking them to separate their waste. Please pray that all our small endeavours will make a huge Kingdom impact for this world. Pray too that the example we set will encourage people to do more recycling at home.

(Captain Kate Newland and the Brighton Congress Hall Connect Group)



SUNDAY 2 MARCH: SABBATH PRAYER **Gender Equality**

We join with the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Team in their prayer for the month:

Lord, your word is clear that we are all equal in your sight. It is a human right that all men, women, boys and girls of all classes and races should have equal access to freedom and opportunities in this world. We ask you to bless us with an understanding that all people are equal, and that you have blessed us with that right.

(Prayer taken from the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Prayer Calendar)



MONDAY 3 MARCH: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS **Praying for the Heralds**

'Heralds' is the name we give to those who sell the *War Cry* and *Kids Alive!* on the streets. Thank you, Lord, for the heralds who each week freely give up their time to distribute the papers. Please give them the health and strength they need to tell people who may be without any faith of the good news of your love for everyone. Be with the heralds in their work and bless them with more good weather than bad.

(Andrew Stone, Editor of *War Cry*)



TUESDAY 4 MARCH: SERVING AND CARING **Five-Year Confirmation in Officership conference** **(4-6 March)**

Pray for the lieutenants attending the Five-Year Confirmation in Officership conference. There will be opportunity for them to pray, share Bible study and reflect on their first five years in ministry since commissioning. Pray particularly for the moment when they share with the session some of their learning and experience of the first five years. This session was commissioned in lockdown, so they will have unique stories to tell.

(Major Lisa Lloyd Jones, Assistant Secretary for Personnel)



WEDNESDAY 5 MARCH: GROWING IN FAITH **Ash Wednesday**

Gracious God, today begins a period of inner reflection and examination. The days stretch before me and invite me inward to that silent, holy space that holds your Spirit. This special time beckons me to see my life through Christ's eyes, and the truth and reality of your love incarnate. Give me the grace to enter the space of these days with anticipation of our meeting. And, when I open my soul to your presence, let your loving kindness flow over me and seep into the pockets of my heart. I ask this for the sake of your love.

(Prayer taken from www.catholic.org/prayers/prayer.php?p=3107#content)



THURSDAY 6 MARCH: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION **ARMY - USA Eastern Territory**

The United States Eastern Territory serves communities in Connecticut, Delaware, Northeast Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands. Pray for the territory's work with those who have survived disasters and those who are particularly vulnerable in the coldest weather. Pray for the leadership team, Commissioners Ralph and Susan Bukiewicz and Colonels Ivan and Christine Rock.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



FRIDAY 7 MARCH: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION - **World Day of Prayer**

Today is World Day of Prayer - a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. This year's material has been prepared by women from the Cook Islands (a New Zealand territory in the Pacific Ocean), and the theme is 'I made you wonderful' (Psalm 139:14). The 2025 programme invites us into the knowledge that each one of us was made with care and love by God. When we can receive this profound truth, everything in our life changes. Reflect today on how you might receive this truth more deeply in your own life.

(Based on information at www.worlddayofprayer.net)



SATURDAY 8 MARCH: CARE FOR CREATION **Repurposing**

We are in the process of reconsidering how we dispose of unsold items in our charity shop. We'd like to partner with a local college or school who will use the unsold fabrics, making them into something beautiful that can be featured in our store, and perhaps even in a fashion show. Pray that, as we seek to partner with a local organisation, they will be inspired by the challenge of keeping fabrics out of landfill. Pray that we can keep being inspired with different ideas for making an impact with our waste, and that we can find ways to make those ideas missional.

(Captain Kate Newland and the Brighton Congress Hall Connect Group)



SUNDAY 9 MARCH: SABBATH PRAYER **Courage for the journey (Judges 6)**

As we consider the theme of 'Courage' in our Lent reflections this year, we begin by reading the early part of Gideon's story, and we give thanks that being a courageous disciple doesn't mean doing things in our own strength. With God's strength and guidance, we commit to standing against what is evil. Having seen all that God has done, we trust him to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us (Ephesians 3:20). We pray for guidance to know how we can step out in God's strength this week.

(Prayer based on Lent resources at www.salvationist.org.uk/resources/key-dates/lent)



MONDAY 10 MARCH: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS **Praying for the Heralds**

Those who sell the *War Cry* and *Kids Alive!* on the streets of our towns and cities are in a unique place to appreciate how much The Salvation Army means to people. The phrase 'I won't give to anyone except The Salvation Army' is one they hear often, and they get the privilege of hearing many stories of how the Army has made a difference in people's lives and the lives of their families. Pray that, as these stories are retold, they would ignite a spark of curiosity about faith in those who don't otherwise give any thought to God.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team, inspired by a conversation with a herald)



TUESDAY 11 MARCH: SERVING AND CARING **East of England Division - Officer appointments**

Pray for all those receiving new appointments this month, that they will have a sense of peace in knowing that they are in God's hands, and that he goes before them to prepare the way. Join us in thanking God for all who are exploring spiritual leadership, that they will be able to discern the voice of God. Pray that love, grace and generosity will be evident in all our corps, centres and relationships as we share the good news of Jesus Christ.

(Major Pam Pitt, Divisional Leader)



WEDNESDAY 12 MARCH: GROWING IN FAITH **Wales Division - Growing Leaders**

The division launched its first Growing Leaders course in September, which includes teaching, mentoring and practical application. Thank God for those who are taking part. And, as the course nears its end, pray that they will continue to develop their leadership potential, and discover how and where they can put it into practice.

(Lieut-Colonel Jonathan Roberts, Divisional Commander)



THURSDAY 13 MARCH: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION **ARMY - Norway, Iceland and the Faeroes Territory**

We pray today for The Salvation Army in Norway, Iceland and the Faeroes, that God's Spirit will bring Salvationists to life wherever they feel dry or drained. Renew your people, Lord, and cause them to bubble over with the good news of Jesus.

We pray for the territorial leadership team, Commissioners Knud and Lisbeth Welander and Colonel Paul Waters and Colonel Jane Brakstad Waters.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



FRIDAY 14 MARCH: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION **'I made you wonderful'**

We continue reflecting on the theme of this year's World Day of Prayer, 'I made you wonderful'. Women from the Cook Islands have spent the last few years digging deeper into this theme, based on Psalm 139:1-18. When we truly believe that God sees us as wonderful, we begin to radiate and shine from within. We also learn how to treat every other person as made wonderful by God. Do we need to look at someone through different eyes today, to see them as 'made wonderful' by God?

(Based on information at www.worlddayofprayer.net)



SATURDAY 15 MARCH: CARE FOR CREATION **Jumble sales**

Last year we started to have jumble sales, to give 'one last chance' to clothes and bric-a-brac which haven't sold in our charity shop. These have been great opportunities to meet people, and each time without fail we've had wonderful conversations with people over a cuppa and a bacon roll. We want this to continue, but we really need more people to attend to purchase these things that will otherwise go to the tip to be recycled or burned for electricity. Please pray that people will see the adverts and commit to attending these jumble sales so that we can keep as many items out of the tip as possible.

(Captain Kate Newland and the Brighton Congress Hall Connect Group)



SUNDAY 16 MARCH: SABBATH PRAYER **Courage to step into the unknown (Genesis 12:1-5)**

Lord, your call to all disciples necessitates a willingness to step out of our comfort zone and into any new thing that you call us to. We lay down our own agendas and look for your new plan. Help us to listen to you and to do what you ask us to do, even if it will disrupt our present lifestyle. Help us to long for the adventure you have prepared for us more than we long for the familiar and the comfortable. Show us what it means to step into the unknown this week.

(Prayer based on Lent resources at www.salvationist.org.uk/resources/key-dates/lent)



MONDAY 17 MARCH: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS **Praying for the Heralds**

Those who take up this ministry tend to find they get to know lots of people in the local community, with many becoming 'regulars' – stopping each week to buy a paper, to give a donation or simply to chat. While the money is useful, the connections are what matter most. Pray that our heralds will be bold and inspiring in the way they share their faith, and in the conversations they have with people week on week.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team, inspired by a conversation with a herald)



TUESDAY 18 MARCH: SERVING AND CARING **Wales Division – Children's work**

We recently appointed a divisional children's officer, Major Steve Wilson, who supports children's workers across the division as they equip and inspire children to become passionate followers of Jesus. Pray for him, and pray too for corps children's workers as they disciple our young people and reach out to others. Pray for all the children in our corps and those we contact in our communities.

(Lieut-Colonel Jonathan Roberts, Divisional Commander)



WEDNESDAY 19 MARCH: GROWING IN FAITH **Children and Youth Conference (21-23 March)**

On 21st March, around 200 children's and youth workers from across the territory will gather for a weekend of insightful sessions, faith, fellowship and worship – exploring how we can hold and grow the potential of our children and young people! We pray for each delegate, speaker and team member, that they would be inspired by God as they consider their ministry with children and young people.

(Hayley Bailey, Children's Specialist - Discipleship)



THURSDAY 20 MARCH: INTERNATIONAL **SALVATION ARMY – Bangladesh Territory**

'Much of The Salvation Army's history in Bangladesh has been helping bring disaster relief and working with those in the greatest need. It was only registered as a church some 12 years ago. Pray that this relatively new status will open doors for the gospel which have never been possible before. Pray for wisdom and boldness for the leadership team, Lieut-Colonel Elizabeth Nelson and Majors Gabriel and Chaya Dewri.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



FRIDAY 21 MARCH: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION **'I made you wonderful'**

The Scripture focus for this year's World Day of Prayer was Psalm 139:14, which talks about us being 'fearfully and wonderfully made'. This resonates with Genesis 1 and 2, where we see God's creative acts and learn that human beings are made in the image of God. God called the creation 'very good' in Genesis, which resonates with the word 'wonderful' in this psalm. A new insight into God creating us as human beings shows up in the psalm with the word 'fearfully'. The Hebrew word is 'yare' which can be translated as 'to be afraid'; but it also means 'to stand in awe and reverence'. We learn that God created and breathed life into us with great honour and respect. How does it change your view of yourself and those around you to know that God stood in awe and wonder when each of us was created?

(Based on information at www.worlddayofprayer.net)



SATURDAY 22 MARCH: CARE FOR CREATION **Ethical purchasing**

Running costs for our café can be quite high, but we feel it's vitally important that we ensure our food is ethically produced. Sometimes this costs more, and this can have an impact on the cost to the customer. Pray that we will know how to communicate our ethical standpoint while also ensuring that our prices are affordable for those on lower incomes who have chosen to be part of our community.

(Captain Kate Newland and the Brighton Congress Hall Connect Group)



SUNDAY 23 MARCH: SABBATH PRAYER **Courage in the face of opposition (Numbers 13 and 14)**

Gracious God, we ask for your help as we tackle the important matter of forgiveness. When we find ourselves facing difficult people, help us to forgive, so that bitterness doesn't set in. We confess that we find it hard to forgive, yet we draw on your perfect peace, especially in the face of opposition. We pray for persecuted Christians, and for those in our churches who are often opposed, or who experience hurt in their various settings. Finally, we pray that our behaviour day by day will be authentic, forgiving, caring and welcoming to all we meet.

(Prayer based on Lent resources at www.salvationist.org.uk/resources/key-dates/lent)



MONDAY 24 MARCH: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS **East of England Division – Officers retreat** **(24-26 March)**

Pray for all the leaders who will be attending our divisional retreat this month, that we will be refreshed as we share together in worship, teaching and fellowship, and for an unmistakable outpouring of God's Holy Spirit. Pray for abundant blessing on those who will not be able to attend for various reasons.

(Major Pam Pitt, Divisional Leader)



TUESDAY 25 MARCH: SERVING AND CARING **Divisional Leaders Learning and Development Days** **(23-26 March)**

This week divisional leaders are gathering for their annual Learning and Development Days. It's an opportunity for worship, prayer, Bible study, reflection, learning and good conversation. Pray that the time will be beneficial to their body, mind and soul. Pray also that they will be inspired to go deeper in their own learning and development as leaders of God's people.

(Commissioner Jenine Main, Territorial Leader for Leader Development)



WEDNESDAY 26 MARCH: GROWING IN FAITH **Mother's Day (30 March)**

As well as being a day for celebrating motherhood, Mother's Day (or Mothering Sunday) was also the day when people went back to the church where they had grown up, to give thanks for the way in which that community had helped them to grow up in the faith. As we approach Mother's Day this weekend, think back to the community you belonged to when you first started exploring what it means to follow Jesus. Whether you went to church as a child or not, call to mind those Christians who first showed you Christ, and give thanks to God for those people who 'mothered' you in your faith.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



THURSDAY 27 MARCH: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY – Australia Territory

Seven years ago, the Eastern and Southern Territories of Australia were combined back into one Australia Territory. Much of the time since then has been taken up dealing with the Covid pandemic. But now that mission and ministry have gathered momentum again, pray that the benefits of this re-merging will be felt across the country, and that there will be an excitement for what is to come. Pray for the territorial leadership team, Commissioner Miriam Gluyas and Colonel Winsome Merrett.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



FRIDAY 28 MARCH: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION **'I made you wonderful'**

This year's World Day of Prayer, marked on 7 March, focused on the theme of us being wonderfully made by God. The women of the Cook Islands, who chose the theme, also wrote a song to accompany it. As you read the words, reflect on the different nuances which emerge when the pronoun is changed in each verse:

I am fearfully made, and wonderfully made. Marvellous are your works, that my soul knows very well, and I'll praise you all my days.

You are fearfully made, and wonderfully made. Marvellous are God's works, that my soul knows very well, and I'll praise God all my days.

We are fearfully made, and wonderfully made. Marvellous are God's works, that my soul knows very well, and I'll praise God all my days.

(Based on information at www.worlddayofprayer.net)



SATURDAY 29 MARCH: CARE FOR CREATION **Care for Creation champion**

We would like to have someone in the corps who champions our 'Care for Creation' mission priority. Pray that someone with a passion for the environment will be called by God to this role. Pray too that we will be led to a place where we have a culture of caring for creation; a place where caring for creation is second nature to us in all our different expressions of community, both for those in the corps and those who hire our hall.

(Captain Kate Newland and the Brighton Congress Hall Connect Group)



SUNDAY 30 MARCH: SABBATH PRAYER

Courageous women (Esther 7:1-4)

Jesus, when we accept you into our lives, we are repurposed by you. You accept our invitation to come and dwell within us, and we make ourselves available to you. Today, help me to see your purpose for me: to see where you have placed me to represent you, and to see what you need me to do in this place. It is not by chance that I am here; it is by God's appointment. Help me to be willing to stand up for you and do your work.

(Prayer based on Lent resources at www.salvationist.org.uk/resources/key-dates/lent)



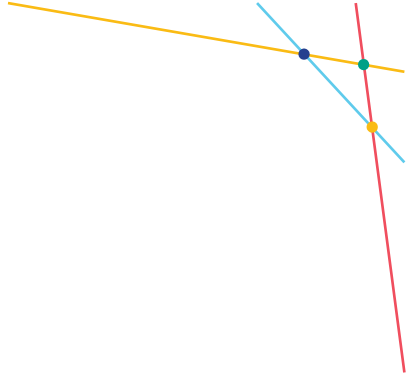
MONDAY 31 MARCH: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

15-Year Celebration of Officership (31 March - 3 April)

Prayers for the celebration of officership which is offered at the 15-year point are appreciated. The coming back together will be a great opportunity to acknowledge and give thanks for God's faithfulness, and to listen to one another's story. Please pray that those attending will sense a unity in service, even when their respective pathways have been very diverse.

(Major Lisa Lloyd-Jones, Assistant Secretary for Personnel)

NOTES





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