

RESOURCES & DIARY DATES

Bible Sunday – helping the church celebrate the Bible and helping those outside of the church engage with the Bible. www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/bible-sunday

Harvest – food with friends - an opportunity to make new friendships as we share a meal. www.hopetogether.org.uk/harvest

HOPE 2018 – words and action to make Jesus known in villages, towns and cities across the UK in 2018. www.hopetogether.org.uk 01788 542782

HOPE Revolution – encourages young people to live radically, be different and step out of their comfort zones... enabling them to use their energy, passion and uniqueness to share eternal hope with their friends, school and community. www.hopetogether.org.uk/hoperev

National Prayer Weekend 29 September – 1 October – is an opportunity for Christians to show God's love to those around them in a real and tangible way by asking people whether they would like prayer and then praying for the requests during this weekend. Resources include the booklet: Why Pray? www.national-prayer-weekend.com/resources

Movement Day UK – 6-7 October – a two-day event bringing together Christian leaders in all areas of society and from many cities and towns to worship, dialogue and pray. www.movementday.uk

Pray for Five – The Talking Jesus report (www.talkingjesus.org) shows that one in five of the people we talk to about Jesus wants to know more. www.hopetogether.org.uk/Groups/284190/Pray_for_five.aspx

Prison Hope 2017-2018 – a two-year partnership of denominations, prison chaplains and organisations involved with prisoners, former prisoners, prison staff and their families encouraging prayer, volunteering and giving. www.prisonhope.org.uk

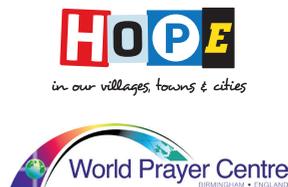
Speak Life – Eastbourne Prayer Centre is the home of Revival, a Christian media organisation spreading the Good News about Jesus Christ all around the world. www.speaklife.org.uk/resourcing-the-church/eastbourne-prayer-centre/

trypraying – is for people who don't do church. It's an invitation to begin talking to God. There is a website, a smart phone app, and a booklet for adults, young people and children. www.trypraying.co.uk

World Prayer Centre – resourcing, mobilising and encouraging prayer for our nations and for the world. www.worldprayer.org.uk

FRIDAY FOCUS PARTNERS

24-7 Prayer, CWR, Evangelical Alliance, Every Home for Christ, Ffald-y-Brenin, HOPE, JustOne, Neighbourhood Prayer Network, Prayer Spaces in Schools, RCCG, Salvation Army Prayer Network, Thy Kingdom Come, Trypraying, World Prayer Centre



September - October 2017

FRIDAY FOCUS

Prayer themes for the
2017 Year of Prayer

“Devote yourselves to prayer,
being watchful and thankful.
And pray for us, too, that
God may open a door for
our message, so that we
may proclaim the mystery
of Christ, for which I am in
chains.”

*Paul's letter to the Colossians
chapter 4 verses 2-3*

Friday Focus is published bi-monthly through 2017 as a resource for churches preparing for HOPE 2018 and a year of mission together, in words and action, to make Jesus known.

Free versions of this bi-monthly Prayer Focus are available to download: colour, black & white, large print from www.hopetogether.org.uk/pray

A subscription to *Prayer* magazine (bi-monthly) contains Friday Focus as a pull-out prayer resource. Order by phone: **0330 332 6257** or online: www.prayermagazine.com

SEPTEMBER

September 1 Hope for those on the margins

Matthew 25:35-40

We rejoice to see the many Christian charities in our towns and cities that have sprung up over recent years, reaching out to serve the marginalised in our communities. Surely our hearts' desire is to see these broken needy ones welcome Jesus to be Lord in their lives.

Father, thank you for where we see your Church serving all those on the margins of our communities. As we go out, pour out your Spirit upon us, let us see Jesus in those we serve, and we pray that they will see Jesus in us. Amen.

Linda Owen, Speak Life

September 8 Visionary leadership

Philippians 2:1-5

In 2015 40 Christian leaders gathered in the Lake District for 24 hours of prayer and reflection. Next week leaders gather once again at the invitation of HOPE, Evangelical Alliance and the Church of England, to seek God for his strategy to make Jesus known.

Father, we pray that your Church on these islands might unite to make Jesus known. May the Church and ministry leaders gathering next week be one in mind and spirit as they seek your face. May they hear your voice and act on what they hear.

Roy Crowne, HOPE

September 15 Empowering peer to peer evangelism

2 Corinthians 5:11-21

The best and most authentic evangelism takes place in the context of relationship. Mission Academy Live launches tomorrow, using 10 video-based sessions to empower 1000s of 11-18s across the country to intentionally, authentically and relationally reach out to six friends for Jesus.

Dear Lord, through Mission Academy Live may young people boldly engage in your Great Commission. May they be inspired to be whole-hearted, active, Christ-ambassadors, who are compelled by the love of Christ to bring your message of reconciliation to the world around them.

Phil Timson, Hope Revolution

September 22 Harvest – food with friends

Matthew 14:13-21

This story conveys a stunning sense of God's unrivalled generosity and provision for us. What does this tell us about the nature of God? Our God is a God of hospitality, who welcomes each of us; an incarnate God who sits at the table with us and fills us with good things.

Incarnate God, who makes his dwelling among us. May we be people of hospitality, reflecting the generous open-heartedness of your Kingdom. As we give thanks for your provision for us at harvest, may we also remember those facing famine and hunger and play our part in providing for those in need.

Chine McDonald, World Vision UK / Share a Meal

September 29 Praying for our communities

Matthew 22:39

Jesus encourages us to love the people around us – our neighbour, a stranger on the bus, a shop assistant. This weekend - the National Prayer Weekend - provides an opportunity to show God's love to people in our communities by asking if they have anything they want us to pray for.

Father, thank you for the communities you have placed us in. We praise you for the beautiful gift of prayer. We pray for courage, opportunities and ultimately, revival, as our local areas are filled with prayer and your presence this weekend and beyond.

Emily Owen, National Prayer Weekend

OCTOBER

October 6 Movement Day UK (6-7 October)

John 17:21

Movement Day UK will bring together believers from across the country to seek God together, to dialogue and to strategically explore ways in which we can pursue the transformation of our places, in all areas of society. An open prayer event involving national leaders will also meet to pray for the unity of the Body of Christ and the nation.

Father, we pray that we may be one. Teach us what it means to be your church in this land. Show us your ways and increase Christlikeness within us. Help us to engage in our places and spaces to be a light and a bearer of your truth. Lord of all, we commit our lives and our nation to you.

Sarah Haynes, Movement Day UK

October 13 Talking about Jesus

Colossians 4:5-6

It's usually easier to pray for someone than to talk with them. But the Great Commission is not, 'Go into all the world and pray...' Perhaps now is the time to start a conversation. Ask questions. Be a listener. You could maybe suggest, 'Have you ever tried praying about that?' See what opens up...!

Lord you are the God who speaks and you call us to speak too. I ask that you would give me a special Spirit-led opportunity for a conversation about Jesus this week. Help me to recognise it, and may my conversation be full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that I make the most of the opportunity.

David Hill, trypraying

October 20 Hope for ex-offenders

Philippians 4:13

Isn't it a wonderful truth that through Jesus we can be released from our past, make a new start and enter into relationship with the living God. An ex-offender has known how past actions have affected their freedom and future. We pray for their successful re-entry into society. With God's help this can be a true and lasting change.

Heavenly Father, we think of those recently released from prison. You know each of their life stories so far. We pray that they will know that you love them, and that they can have a new start and enter into relationship with you. We pray for the families they return to and for opportunities for lasting change. Amen

Michael Pollard, Prison HOPE

October 27 Hunger for God's word

Isaiah 55:1-3

This ancient invitation to God's people to feast on God's word and his promises at a time of national despair, continues to echo even today as we frantically consume perishable goods in vain. Let us be bold to draw people to the life-giving nourishment of the Scriptures, so that the deeper longings and thirst for life can be fully satisfied.

Our Father, give us the hunger and the thirst for your word, so that like the Psalmist we can all say: 'How sweet is your promise to my palate, sweeter on my tongue than honey!' And through the life-giving transformation of the Scriptures we can arouse the same hunger and longing for your word in others.

Oldi Morava, Bible Society for Bible Sunday