



Prayer  
Network

# Prayer MATTERS

March 2026



# Dear Prayer Matters readers

Welcome to the March edition of Prayer Matters, where we are very much looking forward to the end of winter!

Our Care for Creation reflections on Saturdays are brought to you courtesy of some of the most famous poets of all time, writing about the joys and the significance of spring.

We continue our focus on praying for the elimination of violence against women and girls, in partnership with this year's Helping Hand Appeal, and we're also taking inspiration from this year's Lent Resources, 'Hidden to Whole', for our Sunday Sabbath prayers.

We're praying for the Wales Division and the East of England Division this month, as well as lending our prayer support for a few different events happening this month.

As ever, thank you for praying with us, and may March be a month of springtime joys for you.

Lyndall Bywater and the UKI Boiler Room Team

# March



## **SUNDAY 1 MARCH: SABBATH PRAYER** **Lent Focus: Hidden to Whole - Hidden boldness**

Lord, I bring to you the places where boldness has become hidden in my heart. I name the insecurities, fears and pressures that have caused me to shrink back. Forgive me for the moments when I have doubted your calling or forgotten who I am in Christ. Renew my mind and free me from the patterns that keep boldness hidden. Holy Spirit, come and renew my heart. Awaken the boldness you have planted within me and shape it into a courage strengthened by Christ.

Taken from [www.salvationist.org.uk/resources/lent](http://www.salvationist.org.uk/resources/lent)



## **MONDAY 2 MARCH: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS** **Five Year Confirmation in Officership (3-5 March)**

Loving God, we give thanks for the officers who are marking five years since their Commissioning. We thank you for the treasures of grace which they have gathered throughout their lives, and for the gifts and talents they offer to your service. In these days together, we pray that you will confirm and strengthen them in their calling, and renew their vision for the ministry you have given them.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



## **TUESDAY 3 MARCH: SERVING AND CARING** **East of England Division - Spiritual leaders**

Pray for our spiritual leaders as they gather for our Divisional Retreat this month. We pray that this time together will offer deep refreshment and spiritual rest. We also ask for a strengthening of our partnership in the gospel, that we may return to our appointments united in purpose, modelling the Kingdom of God through supportive relationships, with renewed strength for the journey ahead.

Major Howard Russell (Divisional Leader, East of England Division)

# March



## **WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION**

### **Helping-Hand Appeal – Sensitive leadership**

Violence against women and girls is not confined to any country, culture, class or generation. As corps and groups use the Helping-Hand 2026 resources, may leaders be mindful and sensitive to those affected by the stories they hear. May those with lived experience of abuse feel safe to seek help, and give leaders wisdom to listen well, offer compassionate support and signpost clearly, so that those affected may know healing and restoration.

Hayley Still (UK Engagement Coordinator, Salvation Army International Development)



## **THURSDAY 5 MARCH: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY – Taiwan Region**

We give thanks for the work of The Salvation Army in Taiwan, where there are currently six worshipping communities and two social centres. We pray that these will be places of hope and peace for those living in a nation which faces uncertainty over its future. We pray for the territorial leadership team: for Regional Commander Major Sara Tam and Regional Secretary for Women's Ministries Major Grace Weng.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



## **FRIDAY 6 MARCH: GROWING IN FAITH Encounter Prayer Gathering (6-8 March)**

The theme of the Encounter Prayer Gathering this year is 'Deeper', and the event includes a 'Prayer Festival' where delegates can dip into seven different 'streams' to try out different ways of praying. This is a new venture, so pray for those leading the streams, that they will have wisdom and courage. Pray that those who attend will encounter God in healing, refreshing and empowering. Pray that we will see a ground swell of prayer which doesn't peter out when we go home, but which builds into a fresh wave of prayer across the territory.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)

# March



## SATURDAY 7 MARCH: CARE FOR CREATION **Spring Poems**

Here's an excerpt from Christina Rossetti's poem 'Spring', to help you reflect prayerfully on the turning of the season.

Frost-locked all the winter,  
Seeds, and roots, and stones of fruits,  
What shall make their sap ascend  
That they may put forth shoots?  
Tips of tender green,  
Leaf, or blade, or sheath;  
Telling of the hidden life  
That breaks forth underneath,  
Life nursed in its grave by Death.



## SUNDAY 8 MARCH: SABBATH PRAYER **Lent Focus: Hidden to Whole - Hidden peace**

Lord, I bring to you the places where peace has become hidden in my life. I name the distractions, fears and pressures that have drawn my attention away from you. Forgive me for the moments when I have relied on my own understanding rather than trusting in your presence. Restore what has become unsettled within me and draw me back into your peace. Holy Spirit, come and renew my heart. Draw me gently back toward God and restore my awareness of his presence. Guide me in the quiet ways of peace, and lead me forward in step with God's purposes.

Taken from [www.salvationist.org.uk/resources/lent](http://www.salvationist.org.uk/resources/lent)

# March



## **MONDAY 9 MARCH: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS** **'Multicultural World, Intercultural Mission' Training Course (10-13 March)**

This course explores the meaning of intercultural mission and intercultural church, helping delegates to understand something of the history of immigration, the theology of intercultural mission and the practice of helping to build a church which welcomes all peoples and all generations. Pray for teachers and delegates, that the time together will be honest and hope-filled. Pray too that all who participate will grow in confidence to be a prophetic voice for intercultural church and mission in The Salvation Army.

(Information taken from the William Booth College 'Learning and Development' website)



## **TUESDAY 10 MARCH: SERVING AND CARING** **Officer Appointments Announcement (12 March)**

We pray for those officers who are expecting to hear news of a new appointment this week. As they await the news, we pray for peace of mind and a deep awareness of the loving presence of the God who knows every step of their journey. As they prepare to move later in the year, we pray for grace over every detail of the transition. We pray particularly for those who need to find schools for their children, or who have other family circumstances that need accommodating, that God will give them abundant faith for the miracles and abundant energy for the planning.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



## **WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION**

### **Helping-Hand Appeal - Women in Jashore, Bangladesh**

God of healing, we pray for women who have experienced forced marriage, poverty and violence. As they journey with The Salvation Army, may they find freedom from exploitation and recovery from trauma, and may they create safe, secure and sustainable futures for themselves and their families.

Hayley Still (UK Engagement Coordinator, Salvation Army International Development)

# March



## **THURSDAY 12 MARCH: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY - Uganda Territory**

We pray today for The Salvation Army in Uganda. We pray for a spirit of boldness, particularly in those places where it is hard to share the gospel. We pray for favour with the authorities and for many open doors of opportunity for The Salvation Army to bless local communities. We pray for the territorial leadership team: Colonels Chatonda and Joyce Theu and Lieut-Colonels Emmanuel and Irene Sichibona.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



## **FRIDAY 13 MARCH: GROWING IN FAITH** **Wales Division - Mission development**

Pray for corps in the division that are reviewing and reflecting on their mission. Ask God to help them listen carefully to him, be aware of the needs around them, empower people to use their gifts and abilities, be open to innovative approaches and rely on the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

Major Jonathan Roberts (Divisional Commander)



## **SATURDAY 14 MARCH: CARE FOR CREATION** **Spring Poems**

Today, we borrow some 'Lines Written in Early Spring' by William Wordsworth to help us reflect on springtime.

The birds around me hopped and played:  
Their thoughts I cannot measure,  
But the least motion which they made,  
It seemed a thrill of pleasure.

The budding twigs spread out their fan,  
To catch the breezy air;  
And I must think, do all I can,  
That there was pleasure there.

If this belief from heaven be sent,  
If such be Nature's holy plan,  
Have I not reason to lament  
What man has made of man?

# March



## **SUNDAY 15 MARCH: SABBATH PRAYER** **Lent Focus: Hidden to Whole – Hidden love**

Lord, I bring to you the places where love has become hidden in my heart. I name the fear, self-protection or unworthiness that have shaped how I see myself and you. Forgive me for the times I have believed love must be earned rather than received. Soften what has grown guarded within me. Heal the places where trust has been difficult, and draw me closer to your heart. Holy Spirit, come and renew my heart. Gently reshape how I understand your love.

Taken from [www.salvationist.org.uk/resources/lent](http://www.salvationist.org.uk/resources/lent)



## **MONDAY 16 MARCH: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS** **East of England Division – Mission and innovation**

Pray for a spirit of holy boldness across the East of England as we embrace new expressions of mission this spring. As we strive for 'fullness of life for all with Jesus', we ask for courage to step into the 'new things' God is revealing. May our corps and centres fearlessly innovate to connect with their communities in fresh, transformative ways.

Major Howard Russell (Divisional Leader, East of England Division)



## **TUESDAY 17 MARCH: SERVING AND CARING** **Appointment Changes**

We pray today for corps and centres who are preparing for a change of leadership in the coming months, whether because they will be receiving new officers or because they will be transitioning to lay leadership. Where there is sorrow, pour out your comfort. Where there is anxiety, give your peace. As people come to terms with change, plant the seeds of new vision for the future.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)

# March



## **WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION**

### **Helping-Hand Appeal - Men and Boys as Allies**

God of peace, raise up boys and men who honour women's dignity, challenge harmful norms and choose respect over control. Shape hearts that seek mutual respect, equality and partnership. We pray for men to speak out against violence, reflect on their own behaviours and challenge misogynistic attitudes.

Hayley Still (UK Engagement Coordinator, Salvation Army International Development)



## **THURSDAY 19 MARCH: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY - USA Central Territory**

The USA Central Territory covers 11 Midwest States and has 228 worshipping communities. We pray that God will grow these communities, both in number and in depth of love for Jesus. We pray that the Holy Spirit will energise every expression of social care in the territory too, so that millions of people encounter the life-changing power of the gospel. We pray for the territorial leadership team: Commissioner Evie Diaz and Colonels Julie and Thomas Loudon.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



## **FRIDAY 20 MARCH: GROWING IN FAITH Children and Youth Conference (21 March)**

This year's Children and Youth Conference has the title 'Influenced' and takes place tomorrow. Children's and youth workers, volunteers and officers will consider the influences on children and young people's lives, and how we can encourage and empower them to be 'Kingdom influencers', joining in with God's mission and shaping the world around them. We thank God for all those committed to investing into the lives of children and young people. Pray that God will inspire and challenge those gathered.

Captain Jonny Whitmore (Territorial Youth and Children's Secretary)

# March



## SATURDAY 21 MARCH: CARE FOR CREATION Spring Poems

This week's poem to help us reflect on this new is 'Spring' by Gerard Manley Hopkins.

Nothing is so beautiful as Spring –  
When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush;  
Thrush's eggs look little low heavens, and thrush  
Through the echoing timber does so rinse and wring  
The ear, it strikes like lightnings to hear him sing;  
The glassy peartree leaves and blooms, they brush  
The descending blue; that blue is all in a rush  
With richness; the racing lambs too have fair their fling.

What is all this juice and all this joy?  
A strain of the earth's sweet being in the beginning  
In Eden garden. – Have, get, before it cloy,

Before it cloud, Christ, lord, and sour with sinning,  
Innocent mind and Mayday in girl and boy,  
Most, O maid's child, thy choice and worthy the winning.



## SUNDAY 22 MARCH: SABBATH PRAYER Lent Focus: Hidden to Whole – Hidden joy

Lord, I bring to you the places where joy has become hidden in my life. Forgive me for the times I have measured joy by how I feel or tied it to my circumstances. Where my attention has drifted, gently turn my heart back toward you, the source of all joy. Holy Spirit, come and renew me. Reawaken within me the joy you have already planted, rooted not in circumstance but in your presence.

Taken from [www.salvationist.org.uk/resources/len](http://www.salvationist.org.uk/resources/len)

# March



## MONDAY 23 MARCH: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS Easter Outreach

Lord Jesus, as we look towards the Easter season, we pray for the many Easter outreach events which will happen in corps and centres up and down the UKI Territory. We pray for those who will go into schools over the coming weeks to tell the Easter story. We pray for the lunch clubs, friendship groups, Messy Church sessions and Easter parties where the message of Easter will be shared. We pray that this wonderful news will land in people's lives as never before.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



## TUESDAY 24 MARCH: SERVING AND CARING Wales Division - Children and young people

Pray for the two new children and youth workers in the division: Andi, a Starfish regional coordinator in the east, and Mike, a youth and student outreach worker in the west. Pray that they will flourish in their roles - making connections, giving support and enabling children and young people to encounter Jesus.

Major Jonathan Roberts (Divisional Commander)



## WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION Archbishop of Canterbury

As Dame Sarah Mullally is installed as Archbishop of Canterbury, we give thanks for the women you have called to lead in your Church. Strengthen and sustain them, and furnish them with humility, discernment and courage. May girls and young women be inspired by godly women who answer your call and step forward in their own contexts, not seeking power but a ministry marked by service, justice and reconciliation.

Hayley Still (UK Engagement Coordinator, Salvation Army International Development)

# March



## THURSDAY 26 MARCH: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY - Italy and Greece Territory

We pray today for The Salvation Army in Italy and Greece, a territory which has vast experience in caring for displaced people. We give thanks for the many thousands who have tasted something of the love of God through the practical and spiritual care offered by Salvationists, and we pray that God will provide the resources required to keep meeting the needs of those who have lost everything. We pray for wisdom and strength for the territorial leadership team of Lieut-Colonels Andrew and Darlene Morgan and Majors Cinzia and Samuel Walzer.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



## FRIDAY 27 MARCH: GROWING IN FAITH Social Media

Creator God, who made us in your image, help us to use the gifts of the online world with care and wisdom. Keep us alert to those times when we are tempted to compare ourselves to others, to covet what they have or resent how they live. Nudge us when we are tempted to lose precious time in endless scrolling. Help us to use the platforms we occupy to speak truth and grace to a bewildered world, and help us to support those for whom the online space is addictive or unhelpful.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



## SATURDAY 28 MARCH: CARE FOR CREATION Spring Poems

Our last poem for reflecting on spring is 'I saw a blackbird' by Thomas Hardy.

I watched a blackbird on a budding sycamore  
One Easter Day, when sap was stirring twigs to the core;  
I saw his tongue, and crocus-coloured bill  
Parting and closing as he turned his trill;  
Then he flew down, seized on a stem of hay,  
And upped to where his building scheme was under way,  
As if so sure a nest was never shaped on spray.

# March



## **SUNDAY 29 MARCH: SABBATH PRAYER**

**Palm Sunday: Hidden to Whole – Hidden righteousness**

Lord, I bring to you the places where righteousness has become misplaced in my heart. I name the pride, certainty or self-assurance that has shaped how I follow you. Forgive me for the times I have depended on myself instead of you. Holy Spirit, come and renew my heart. Soften what has grown guarded and keep me open to your leading. Restore righteousness as something I receive by faith, and lead me again into a deeper life with Christ.

Taken from [www.salvationist.org.uk/resources/lent](http://www.salvationist.org.uk/resources/lent)



## **MONDAY 30 MARCH: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS**

**Telling the Story**

As we journey through Holy Week, how might we connect to the story at the centre of our faith: the story of Jesus' death and resurrection, the story of our own salvation, and the redemption of all things? As we journey through Holy Week, who might we tell this astonishing story to? Are there people around us who've never heard it? Are there people around us who've got so familiar with it that they've lost the wonder of it?

Lord Jesus, help us to tell your story this week, in our words, our deeds and our lives.

One way to connect afresh with this remarkable story is to watch the videos produced by the Music and Creative Arts Department, telling the story of Jesus' death and the days leading up to it by imagining the thoughts and feelings of those who were there.

Visit [www.salvationist.org.uk/resources/easter-reflections](http://www.salvationist.org.uk/resources/easter-reflections)

# March



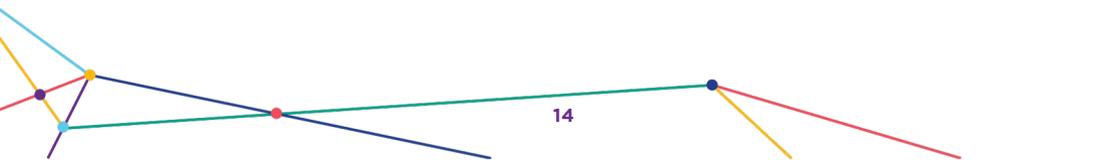
## TUESDAY 31 MARCH: SERVING AND CARING Living the Story

Holy Week is a twisting, turbulent story, with moments of anger and sorrow but also moments of deep love. Somehow the full spectrum of human emotion is here, and we are comforted once again to know that we don't need to put a brave face on our pain or hide those emotions which feel less acceptable, less holy. If Jesus expressed anger and sorrow, so can we.

Today, read Matthew 11:12-25 and watch the video in the Holy Week series which features Peter's perspective.

Visit [www.salvationist.org.uk/resources/easter-reflections](http://www.salvationist.org.uk/resources/easter-reflections)

# NOTES





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