



Prayer
Network

Prayer
MATTERS

APRIL 2026



Dear Prayer Matters readers

Welcome to April's edition of Prayer Matters, where we begin with Holy Week, and the opportunity to watch some truly thought-provoking videos to help us pray.

Then we spend our Justice and Reconciliation Wednesdays praying for the Core Recovery programme which is a network of communities supporting people to explore spirituality while in recovery from addiction, health conditions and life struggles.

For our Care for Creation Saturdays we are considering issues around food waste and the impact it has on our world. Our Sabbath Sunday prayers are all about quietness, and our divisional focus takes us to the East Midlands Division.

We're also praying for pioneer ministry in our territory, and providing prayer cover for plenty of events this month, so please do join with us and add your prayers to ours as we bring before God the mission and ministry of The Salvation Army.

Blessings and a very Happy Easter!

Lyndall Bywater and the UKI Boiler Room Team

APRIL



WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL: HOLY WEEK

Judas - Too late

As we journey through Holy Week, we are thinking about the people who were with Jesus in those last days before his death. Today we're thinking about Judas, whose story is powerfully depicted in the video created by the Music and Creative Arts team: [Through the Eyes of... Judas](#)

Judas only understood the terrible thing he had done when it was too late to undo it. Lord, have mercy on us when we act without truly considering the consequences. Lord, have mercy on all who have cause to regret their actions, and who long for repair and restoration. Lord, have mercy on all who feel that the only way out is to end their own lives.

God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on us, deliver us from evil and keep us in eternal life.

Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team

Visit www.salvationist.org.uk/resources/easter-reflections

THURSDAY 2 APRIL: HOLY WEEK

Pontius Pilate - What on earth do I do?

Pilate was a leader with a problem, watch this video, created by the Music and Creative Arts team, to get to grips with his dilemma: [Through the Eyes of... Pilate](#)

God, we long for wisdom. When circumstances seem to tie us up in knots, we long for your voice to cut through the confusion and tell us what to do. When we're stuck between a rock and a hard place, or we can't seem to do right for doing wrong, we crave your presence to break through the blockages and help us find a way through. We pray for all those who have difficult leadership decisions to make today. Help them find the place of greatest integrity.

Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team

Visit www.salvationist.org.uk/resources/easter-reflections

FRIDAY 3 APRIL: HOLY WEEK

Mary Magdalene - It's not about me



Today we think about Mary Magdalene, the woman who saw Jesus die, then met him in the garden, fully alive again. Watch the telling of her story here, in this video created by the Music and Creative Arts Team: [Through the Eyes of... Mary](#)

Jesus, our Redeemer, we give you thanks for the work of salvation in our own lives: your wounds bringing us healing; your punishment bringing us peace; your death cancelling the debt we owe. And Jesus, giver of life, we pray for all who fear: who fear the traumas of the past and the terrors of the present; who fear what might be or what will be. You who faced death on our behalf, lift the tyranny of fear and fill us with confident hope.

Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team

Visit www.salvationist.org.uk/resources/easter-reflections

SATURDAY 4 APRIL: HOLY WEEK

The Silent Day

What do we do when there's nothing to be done? On that day after Jesus' crucifixion, the disciples started talking about going back to their old jobs, while the women waited to be able to complete the important work of embalming Jesus' body. Waiting is tough, especially when wrapped in grief. God, who holds us in the silence, give us courage to stay where we are and wait for what you will do next. Forgive us when we look for a Plan B, or a retreat to more familiar ground. Comfort us when we feel the pain of having to leave things undone, unfinished, incomplete. Give us Holy Saturday determination to wait for resurrection.

Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team

SUNDAY 5 APRIL: HOLY WEEK

Easter Sunday - Everything has changed

Watch this video, created by the Music and Creative Arts Team, for an inspiring reminder of all that Easter Sunday means for us and for the world: [Through the Eyes of... Post Resurrection](#)

God of wonder, we rejoice to stand again at the fulcrum of history, remembering that morning which changed the course of our world. We receive the miracle of resurrection in our own lives; we choose to walk in the power of your resurrection as we engage with our local communities, and we look for the signs of resurrection in our world.

Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team

Visit www.salvationist.org.uk/resources/easter-reflections



MONDAY 6 APRIL: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Pioneer Ministry - Boldness

We give thanks that the pioneering Spirit of God is bubbling away all over the territory, prompting people to reimagine what it means to be involved with God's mission in their communities. We pray for a boldness to step out in faith to try new and innovative ways of reaching people with the good news of Jesus Christ through words and actions.

Sarah Butler, Territorial Pioneer Officer



TUESDAY 7 APRIL: SERVING AND CARING

Territorial Advisory Council (10-12 April)

The Territorial Advisory Council (TAC) is composed of more than 30 Salvationists and adherents, representing each division across the UK and Ireland Territory. The Council serves as a sounding board, offering insight and recommendations on topics brought forward by the Territorial Leaders. As TAC gathers this coming weekend at William Booth College, pray for smooth journeys and good health for everyone attending, and that each person will feel able to fully engage throughout the weekend.

Sonya Pascoe, Chair of the Territorial Advisory Council



WEDNESDAY 8 APRIL: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

Core Recovery - Radical hospitality

Core Recovery Groups all feature three main elements: welcome, belonging and healing.

At the heart of each group there is radical hospitality, where all are included and barriers are broken down. Father God, as Core Recovery Groups practise radical hospitality, we pray that everyone who attends will be valued and acknowledged. Thank you that every individual is seen as your child, loved by you and fully included. Thank you that obstacles are overcome and hearts are opened through acceptance.

Major Jill Miller, member of the Core Recovery 'Heartbeat Strand' Prayer Group



THURSDAY 9 APRIL: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY

Australia Territory

'Wherever there is hardship or injustice, Salvos will live, love and fight, alongside others, to transform Australia one life at a time with the love of Jesus.' (The Salvation Army Australia, salvationarmy.org)

We bless The Salvation Army in Australia to live up to this inspiring mission statement and pray that they will be delighted as they discover that God meets them far more than half-way. We pray for the territorial leadership team of Commissioner Miriam Gluyas and Colonels John and Lani Chamness.

Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team



FRIDAY 10 APRIL: GROWING IN FAITH **Territorial Advisory Council (10-12 April)**

As TAC gathers this coming weekend at William Booth College, pray for discerning minds and clear thinking as discussions take place and recommendations are made. Pray for God's wisdom to be evident throughout the weekend.

Sonya Pascoe, Chair of the Territorial Advisory Council



SATURDAY 11 APRIL: CARE FOR CREATION **Food Waste**

Around one third of all food produced globally is wasted each year, and the average UK household wastes food costing around £470 annually.

God of our daily bread, help us to treasure and use wisely your provision of good nourishment. Teach us to savour it and to eat (and buy) no more than what we need.

Major Heather Poxon, Territorial Environmental Officer



SUNDAY 12 APRIL: SABBATH PRAYERS **Noise**

There is no doubt about it, our world can get noisy: traffic, chatter and music all invade our hearing in a relentless onslaught. We knowingly (and sometimes unknowingly) long for quiet. Amid the noise, God implores us to be still and know him (Psalm 46:10).

Feeling the noise? Longing for quiet? Then head into the presence of God, where his powerful stillness is freely available. '...who stills the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples' (Psalm 65:7 ESV).

Activity: Find a quiet spot where you are, and take a moment to switch off. Savour the stillness and quiet of the Lord.

Major Gary Lacey, Assistant Secretary for Spiritual Life Development



MONDAY 13 APRIL: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS **East Midlands Division - Strategy**

After a period of readjustment within the division, prayers are needed as we look to the future. We pray for discernment as we revisit the Divisional Strategy, and that we will be bold enough to make the decisions needed, and open enough to recognise Kingdom-building opportunities. With an ever-growing list of unofficered corps, we pray that God will continue to speak to those who have potential for local leadership.

Major Martin Sayer, Divisional Leader



TUESDAY 14 APRIL: SERVING AND CARING **Fifteen-Year Celebration of Officership (13-17 April)**

Lord, we give thanks for those marking 15 years of faithful ministry as Salvation Army officers. May they know renewed strength, deep joy and fresh encouragement as they continue to serve you, loving you and loving your people. Bless their households, their leadership and the communities they nurture. Grant them wisdom for today and hope for all that lies ahead.
Major Donald Montgomery, Assistant Secretary for Personnel



WEDNESDAY 15 APRIL: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION **Core Recovery - Welcome**

Father God, as Core Recovery Groups meet to explore the importance of spirituality in recovery, we pray that, through the welcome they receive, each one will feel comfortable to share in and receive all that is offered. Through the refreshments, the music, the talking and listening, the prayers and Bible study, may each one be encouraged on their recovery journey.
Major Jill Miller, member of the Core Recovery 'Heartbeat Strand' Prayer Group



THURSDAY 16 APRIL: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY **Zambia Territory**

We give thanks for Salvationists worshipping, serving and preaching the gospel in Zambia, praying for God's love to fill their hearts and compel their mission. We pray for the territorial leadership team: Colonels Alfred and Pamela Banda and Lieut-Colonel Ireen Hachamba.
Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team



FRIDAY 17 APRIL: GROWING IN FAITH **East Midlands Division - Leaders**

We would welcome prayers for our officers, both active and retired, and our corps leaders. We pray that as they serve their community and corps to the best of their ability, God will protect them, sustain them and give them fulfilment in ministry.
Major Martin Sayer, Divisional Leader



SATURDAY 18 APRIL: CARE FOR CREATION

Food Insecurity

An estimated 8.4 million people in the UK experience food insecurity, while edible food equivalent to tens of millions of meals is discarded each year. Bread of Life, open our eyes to opportunities to share meals with those who are hungry, and to waste less.

Major Heather Poxon, Territorial Environmental Officer



SUNDAY 19 APRIL: SABBATH PRAYERS

Inner Quiet

1 Thessalonians 4:11 says, ‘...make it your ambition to lead a quiet life.’ In a noisy world, seeking quietness in the physical space is not always possible. But it is possible to find quiet within us. In his brilliant book *Silence in an Age of Noise* the explorer Erling Kagge gives an account of chatting to a world-class footballer. He asked him how he copes in the frantic noise of a stadium full of 50,000 people. The footballer replied that when he plays, he can’t hear a single noise because he focuses on his performance. Kagge uses this to say that he believes it is possible to discover inner silence even when surrounded by constant noise. The key is to focus on something other than the noise.

Activity: In times of noise, try intentionally practising keeping your mind stayed on Jesus (especially through prayer), and you will find perfect peace (Isaiah 26:3).

Major Gary Lacey, Assistant Secretary for Spiritual Life Development



MONDAY 20 April: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Pioneer Ministry - Opportunities

We pray for opportunities to break new ground, reach new people and work in pioneering ways with other departments to restart The Salvation Army in places that have fallen barren. Give us your vision, Lord, and show us where you are working and how we can reignite a passion for you.

Sarah Butler, Territorial Pioneer Officer



TUESDAY 21 APRIL: SERVING AND CARING

Pre-retirement Seminar (21-23 April)

Let’s give thanks today for those who will attend this event: for the years of faithful service they have given, and for all that is yet to come in their lives. We call to mind the story of Jesus at the wedding at Cana, where the best wine came in the last hours of the celebration, and we thank you that the best is yet to come for those who gather to prepare for retirement. We pray that these days together will be like reaching the top of a hill and seeing a whole new vista of possibilities for the future.

Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team



WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION **Core Recovery – Belonging**

Dear Lord, as Core Recovery groups celebrate joys and recognise setbacks, we pray that trust will be nurtured through a sense of belonging. We thank you for the diversity within each group, and for the way group members grow and learn from each other. We give thanks that belonging brings courage to share experiences and receive understanding.

Major Jill Miller, member of the Core Recovery 'Heartbeat Strand' Prayer Group



THURSDAY 23 APRIL: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY **USA Eastern Territory**

'The Salvation Army exists to share God's love and meet human need in Christ's name wherever, whenever, and however we can, without discrimination. Our presence in the Eastern US serves communities in 12 Northeastern states, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands.' (The Salvation Army USA www.salvationarmyusa.org)

We pray God's blessing on the USA Eastern Territory, asking the Holy Spirit to restore, refresh and renew lives through their work and worship. We pray that God will bless Territorial Leaders Commissioners Ralph and Susan Bukiewicz.

Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team



FRIDAY 24 APRIL: GROWING IN FAITH **Exploring Leadership Day (25 April at William Booth College)**

God, who calls and empowers us, we pray today for all those who will gather to explore your calling on their lives. May they find joy as they notice the seeds of vocation which you have already planted along their journey, and may they hear you clearly as they seek direction for the future. We pray for those who will lead sessions, lead worship and give talks; may they sense the nearness of your Spirit as they offer their gifts.

Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team



SATURDAY 25 APRIL: CARE FOR CREATION **Food and Global Warning**

Food waste is responsible for around 25 million tonnes of CO₂-equivalent emissions annually in the UK. Lord, make us mindful of the impact of our behaviour on those who are struggling to survive a warming world. Help us to tread more softly.

Major Heather Poxon, Territorial Environmental Officer



SUNDAY 26 APRIL: SABBATH PRAYERS

Outer Quiet

Identifying a physical place of silence and solitude with no interruptions is vital. Jesus demonstrates this throughout the Gospels. In Luke alone there are at least nine instances of Jesus withdrawing to a quiet place to pray. Luke 5 clarifies that Jesus constantly seeks a quiet space: 'Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed' (Luke 5:16). He does this to obliterate distraction and noise, and it makes sense that this should be an example to us all.

Activity: Find a quiet place in your house, out in the countryside or at work. Reflect on this question: Do I regularly seek out quiet places to be alone in the presence of God, without distractions? How could I plan this into my routine?

Major Gary Lacey, Assistant Secretary for Spiritual Life Development



MONDAY 27 APRIL: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Homelessness Conference (27-29 April)

Father, as colleagues gather for the 2026 Homelessness Conference, we recognise that our mission requires us to serve 'the whosoever', and so we remember people who are facing the trauma of experiencing homelessness. Through the work and ministry of our Homelessness Services throughout the UK and Ireland Territory, may you bring a deep sense of comfort to those we are privileged to serve. May our practical and pastoral interventions help people to start to experience life in all its fullness through Jesus.

Mitch Menagh, Assistant Secretary for Mission



TUESDAY 28 APRIL: SERVING AND CARING

Homelessness Conference (27-29 April)

Lord, as we bring staff together from across the UK and Ireland Territory for the 2026 Homelessness Conference, we sincerely pray that you will be in the very centre of the conversations, presentations, discussions and fellowship that are shared throughout the days together. May you be honoured and glorified as we seek ways to enhance knowledge, improve practice and ensure that your mission remains our primary focus in whatever is said or done.

Mitch Menagh, Assistant Secretary for Mission



WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

Core Recovery - Healing

Jesus, we pray your healing touch on every person in our Core Recovery Groups. We thank you that healing from addiction, abuse, fears and everything that blocks life in all its fullness, can be found through hope and faith in you. We give thanks and celebrate that dignity and confidence can be restored, and that there is hope for everyone through your teaching, your death and your resurrection.

Major Jill Miller, member of the Core Recovery 'Heartbeat Strand' Prayer Group



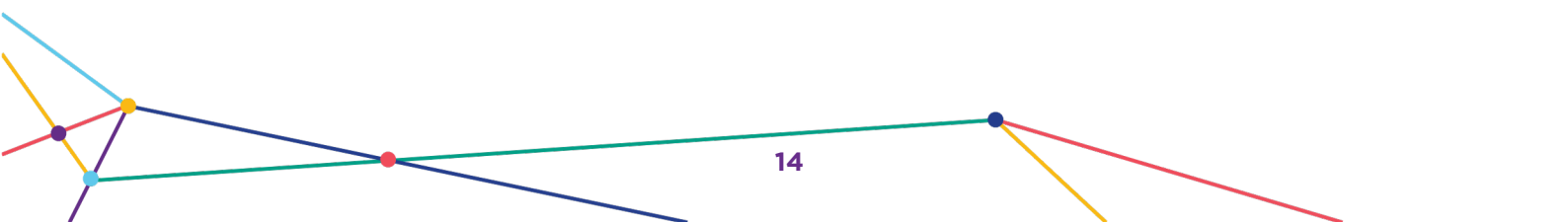
THURSDAY 30 APRIL: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY Netherlands, Czech Republic and Slovakia Territory

'We are an Army of people in The Netherlands, Czechia and Slovakia, fighting for the most vulnerable people in our society. Everything we do is inspired by the words and deeds of Jesus.' (The Salvation Army International Headquarters www.salvationarmy.org)

We pray for all those involved with The Salvation Army's worship and work, that many will encounter the risen Jesus through their love and service. We pray for the territorial leadership team of Commissioner Bente Gundersen and Lieut-Colonel Richard de Vree.

Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team

NOTES





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