



Prayer  
Network

*Prayer*  
**MATTERS**

**MAY 2026**



# Dear Prayer Matters readers

Welcome to May's edition of Prayer Matters, where we have plenty of topics to help you focus your prayers in the next few weeks.

We're seeking inspiration from nature in our Saturday Care for Creation focus, and we're doing some active listening to God in our Sunday Sabbath Prayers.

Our divisional focus takes us to the North East Division and the West Midlands Division, and we join Salvationists around the world praying for India, Africa, America and the Far East in our Thursday International Salvation Army focus.

We're also praying for various events, retreats and conferences happening throughout the month, and we're taking prayer into the workplace for our Wednesday Justice and Reconciliation focus.

This is the month in which we celebrate Pentecost, so we do hope and pray you will know the infilling, overflowing, life-giving Spirit of God as you pray with us this month.

Blessings,

Lyndall Bywater and the  
Spiritual Life Team

Have you signed up to receive your monthly copy of the *Deeper Life Journal* yet?

It's our opportunity to invite you to go a bit deeper in your prayer and reflection, you can sign up to receive a regular copy to your inbox [here](#).



## **FRIDAY 1 MAY: GROWING IN FAITH**

### **Musical Theatre Day (2 May at Regent Hall)**

Musical Theatre Day is for young people aged 7-17 who are connected to The Salvation Army and enjoy musical theatre. The young people are split into three groups according to age, and throughout the day they learn songs, dances and drama pieces from West End and Salvation Army musicals. In the evening there is a concert for family and friends. We pray that this day will be a joyful time for these young people to connect with each other, learn new skills and discover more about the love and goodness of God.

(Information taken from [www.salvationist.org.uk](http://www.salvationist.org.uk))



## **SATURDAY 2 MAY: CARE FOR CREATION**

### **Praying with Nature - Greening**

Longer daylight and warmer nights help trees shift rapidly from blossom to full leaf as sap rises and photosynthesis accelerates, filling the canopy almost overnight with May's lushness. As you notice this greening, pause and breathe deeply, letting each leaf remind you of God's renewing work.

- Pray the simple prayer: 'Grow your life in me.'
- Offer one place where you long for fresh growth, trusting God's slow, hidden processes that lead to visible change.

Major Gordon Cotterill (Secretary for Spiritual Life Development)



## **SUNDAY 3 MAY: SABBATH PRAYERS**

### **What is the Spirit saying to the Church?**

After his resurrection, Jesus appeared miraculously to his disciples, turning up in a room where the doors were locked (John 20:19-26).

Jesus, we thank you for the times when you have come to us despite our closed doors. Come to us today, we pray, as we gather for worship. Help us to open our hearts and minds to your Spirit, to welcome your presence, and to notice when you show up in unexpected ways.

What do you find most difficult or uncomfortable when you go to church on a Sunday? Pay special attention to that discomfort today, and ask God to show you what the Spirit is saying to you in that experience.

Lyndall Bywater (UKI Boiler Room Team)



## **MONDAY 4 MAY: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS**

### **The 'Brew Van' in the North West Division**

Brew Van is a van converted into a coffee shop, serving student communities in the north-west of England. We thank God for this innovative way of serving local communities, and pray for blessing on all the conversations which happen there. We pray for the young people training to be barista chaplains, and for the team as we manage the practicalities behind the scenes. We give thanks for our suppliers, who are ethical and fair-trade. We pray deeply that young people will come to know God's love through the Brew Van.

Darren Highton (Divisional Youth Specialist)



## **TUESDAY 5 MAY: SERVING AND CARING**

### **Exams**

We pray for children and young people who will sit exams over the coming weeks: that they will sense the loving, peace-bringing presence of God as they revise and as they sit in the exam hall; that they will know that their value is not dependent on results or grades; and that the process of doing these exams will help them know more clearly what they want to do with their lives in the future.

Lyndall Bywater (UKI Boiler Room Team)



## **WEDNESDAY 6 MAY: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION**

### **Prayer in the Workplace**

Today we pray for our workplace. If you don't feel you have a workplace as such, please do pray these Wednesday prayers for someone you know who does. We begin by focusing on the love God showed in sending his son Jesus, to reconcile us to the Father and to show us how to live life in all its fullness. Jesus was a worker, a craftsman, a self-employed businessman. Consider the dedication he would have shown to his profession, the quality of his workmanship and the integrity of his relationship with his customers. As we think of the people we meet at work, be they colleagues, customers, students, patients, clients or competitors, let's pray that each one will know the love of God in Jesus.

(Adapted from a 'Prayer in the Workplace' resource at [www.thykingdomcome.global](http://www.thykingdomcome.global))



## **THURSDAY 7 MAY: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY** **India Central Territory**

We give thanks for the work The Salvation Army is doing in the India Central Territory: for every life touched by the love of God; for every place where the Kingdom of God is bringing freedom and justice; for every opportunity to share the good news of Jesus. We pray for the territorial leadership team of Commissioner Daniel Raju Dasari and Lieut-Colonels Gurnam Masih and Razia Gurnam.

Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team



## **FRIDAY 8 MAY: GROWING IN FAITH** **Candidates Sunday (10 May)**

'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field' (Matthew 9:38). Let's keep praying for those called to be officers, territorial envoys and employed spiritual leaders, that God will convict, equip and develop leaders who seek God's heart, know God's word and show God's ways in our world today.

Major Catherine Smith (Territorial Candidates Director)



## **SATURDAY 9 MAY: CARE FOR CREATION** **Praying with Nature - Colour and sound**

The dawn chorus of May rises in vibrant intensity as earlier sunrises stir the peak breeding season, filling the morning with its richest song. The month of May also brings a surge of colour as perennials, bulbs and shrubs reach their natural flowering window, filling gardens and verges with vibrant purples, pinks, yellows and whites. As you notice the sounds and colours of this new season, let them draw you into gratitude.

- Pray the simple prayer: 'Tune my heart to your song today.'
- Reflect on where colour is returning in your own life. Ask for grace to recognise joy when it appears, and for courage to welcome beauty without rushing past it.

Gordon Cotterill (Secretary for Spiritual Life Development)



## **SUNDAY 10 MAY: SABBATH PRAYERS**

### **What is the Spirit saying to the Church?**

Two disciples met the risen Jesus as they walked and talked together on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-32).

We often expect to hear God's voice and encounter the Spirit during a church service, but what about those other elements of gathering for worship: the greetings, the practical tasks and the incidental conversations?

Pay attention to the little things when you go to worship today. As you talk to your fellow worshippers, notice what the Spirit is saying to you through them.

Lyndall Bywater (UKI Boiler Room Team)

For more reflections on how Pentecost can shape our everyday lives, check out the [Pentecost in Practice](https://www.salvationist.org.uk/resources/pentecost-in-practice) resource from Salvationist.org.uk



## **MONDAY 11 MAY: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS**

### **Divisional Youth and Children Specialists Gathering (12-14 May)**

This week our divisional children and youth specialists gather to spend time together. God, we thank you for them, and for the Kingdom work they do, nurturing and raising up children and young people, drawing them closer to you and further into your mission. May they be refreshed and inspired by time with others who share similar responsibilities and similar passions, and energised as they return home to their important work.

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



## **TUESDAY 12 MAY: SERVING AND CARING**

### **'Burn Like Stars' Wellbeing Retreat (14 May at William Booth College)**

This is an event for anyone in spiritual leadership. Under the leadership of Rev Dr Gillian Straine from 'GOHEALTH', we will be gathering to unpack a biblical viewpoint on resilience and burnout. In John 10:10, Jesus promises us life in all its fullness, but in this modern age it seems increasingly difficult to keep our lights shining and not to burn out. Our prayer is that everyone who comes and everyone who accesses the available online course will know the sustaining power of God, have the courage to be vulnerable before God and be empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Major Vikki Burr (Coordinator for Regional Wellbeing Services)



## **WEDNESDAY 13 MAY: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION** **Prayer in the Workplace**

The God who made the universe is with us every day in our workplace, caring for us and wanting to share the workday with us – the frustrations, the challenges, the pain of failure, the thrill of achievement. As you pray for your own workplace, or for someone you know who's at work today, let's pray for a rising awareness of God's presence in that place. Let's pray that God's people will rise to the challenge of following Jesus in everything they do at work, demonstrating his values, seeking the things of his Kingdom, and caring and praying for work colleagues.

(Adapted from a 'Prayer in the Workplace' resource at [www.thykingdomcome.global](http://www.thykingdomcome.global))



## **THURSDAY 14 MAY: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY** **Hong Kong and Macau Territory**

'We are called to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are dedicated to supporting the people in need in Hong Kong, Macau and Mainland China, and strive to respond to local needs, emergencies and disasters with the love of God.' (from The Salvation Army's Hong Kong Territory website)

Let's pray for all those involved in the Army's work in Hong Kong and Macau, particularly where the Christian gospel meets with opposition and persecution. Let's pray for wisdom and strength for the territorial leadership team: Colonels Deslea and Phil Maxwell and Lieut-Colonel Tsui, Heung-Ying (Minnie).

Lyndall Bywater (UKI Boiler Room Team)



## **FRIDAY 15 MAY: GROWING IN FAITH** **Thy Kingdom Come (15-24 May)**

Thy Kingdom Come is a global initiative which unites Christians around the world in prayer during the days leading up to Pentecost. This year's theme is 'God is with us', focusing on the presence of the God who, by his Spirit, is with us in the everyday – in the joys and sorrows of life (and everything in between), and who longs, by his Spirit, to reveal himself to those who do not yet know him. From the story of Ruth to the story of Gideon, from the story of Elijah to the story of the early Church who waited for the promised Holy Spirit to come, over the next few days we will explore Bible stories which demonstrate God's transformative presence, power and love at work in the lives of people and places.

(Information taken from [www.thykingdomcome.global](http://www.thykingdomcome.global))



## **SATURDAY 16 MAY: CARE FOR CREATION**

### **Praying with Nature - Warming**

Rising temperatures wake overwintering butterflies and welcome early summer species. Bees stir as nectar-rich flowers open, making May a month of essential pollination and gentle movement. As you notice butterflies or bees, reflect on the quiet, purposeful work they do. Let their lightness remind you that transformation often unfolds in small, faithful steps.

- Pray the simple prayer: 'God, make me attentive to the hidden ways you bring life.'
- Ask for grace to carry goodness lightly into each place you go.

Major Gordon Cotterill (Secretary for Spiritual Life Development)



## **SUNDAY 17 MAY: SABBATH PRAYERS**

### **What is the Spirit saying to the Church?**

Jesus met some of his discouraged, bewildered disciples as they were coming to the end of a fruitless night's fishing and asked them to try something different (John 21:1-14).

Sometimes it's in the very places where we have been disappointed or discouraged that we experience the presence of God, if only we have the courage to look out for it.

Has your church community experienced a loss, failure or disappointment recently? As you reflect on it and talk about it, do you sense the Spirit challenging you to do something new? Are there any ideas floating around which you've dismissed because they seem a bit crazy, but which might just be the master-fisherman teaching you a new way to fish?

Lyndall Bywater (UKI Boiler Room Team)



## **MONDAY 18 MAY: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS**

### **BH1 at Boscombe Salvation Army**

BH1 is a very busy place and we have approximately 50 people in every day. We support people in many different ways, offering a place to shower, washing people's clothes, serving a free breakfast and a low-cost two-course lunch, and providing clothes through our Clothing Room. We also support by signposting people to other agencies if needed. Some of our clients also attend our Coffee, Cake and Faith group which meets every Thursday. Pray that we will have opportunity to share our faith with those who come in, and pray that we will have the right staff and volunteers to support us in our mission.

Annette Watts (Community Project Manager)



## **TUESDAY 19 MAY: SERVING AND CARING** **'Space for Grace' Wellbeing Retreat (19-21 May)**

Officers and territorial envoys who are due to change appointment this year have the opportunity to join together for a guided retreat, led and facilitated by the Wellbeing Department. It is a chance to take some time to reflect on what has been, to discover the possible impacts of change, to learn tools to embrace and mitigate these impacts, and to plan for the future, all the while knowing that God holds it all, and that God is already bestowing grace and preparing the way. Our prayer for those attending is that they will be refreshed, restored and resourced, readying them for all that the future holds; and most importantly, in this significant time of transition, that they will meet with the One who calls them 'beloved children'.

Major Vikki Burr (Coordinator for Regional Wellbeing Services)



## **WEDNESDAY 20 MAY: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION** **Prayer in the Workplace**

There can be many frustrations in the workplace. It can be tempting to react in negative ways, talking harshly to colleagues, cutting corners or trying to avoid hard or tedious activities. Jesus had a workplace too, so he would have understood these challenges. Whether you're praying for your own workplace or someone else's, let's commit to praying for those situations where tensions arise: for peace and tolerance between colleagues, for healing where there is division, for guidance in making decisions, and for perseverance when work is hard. Let's pray that Christians in the workplace will stretch out a hand to help those who are finding work difficult.

(Adapted from a 'Prayer in the Workplace' resource at [www.thykingdomcome.global](http://www.thykingdomcome.global))



## **THURSDAY 21 MAY: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY** **Zimbabwe and Botswana Territory**

'The Zimbabwe and Botswana Territory also includes Madagascar. We pray for the Army's work in this part of Africa, asking God's richest blessings and fullest provision over every aspect of its work and worship. In this Pentecost season, may the Spirit of God bring fresh anointing to the people of God, that the word of God may be preached with boldness. We pray for territorial leadership: Commissioners Daniel and Tracey Kasuso and Colonels Tineyi and Rumbidzayi Mambo.

Lyndall Bywater (UKI Boiler Room Team)



## **FRIDAY 22 MAY: GROWING IN FAITH**

### **North East Division - Fruitful discipleship**

Pray that as a division we will see fruitfulness in nurturing discipleship in different ways, including Alpha courses, membership classes, Bible studies, and the new divisional 'Rise' youth cells. Pray for leaders to be raised up - faithful, available and teachable - who will roll up their sleeves, invest their gifts, and walk alongside others on the journey of faith.

Captain Naomi Clifton, (Divisional Leader and Officer for Personnel)



## **SATURDAY 23 MAY: CARE FOR CREATION**

### **Praying with Nature - Rising**

Warm soil, long days and regular rain create perfect conditions for sudden, vibrant growth. Plants that seemed dormant surge upward, filling gardens and hedgerows with fresh green energy. Notice this rising green around you, and remember that growth often begins long before it's visible.

- Pray the simple prayer: 'Nurture what you've planted in me.'
- Acknowledge where you feel stretched or uncertain, and trust that unseen roots are strengthening beneath the surface.

Major Gordon Cotterill (Secretary for Spiritual Life Development)



## **SUNDAY 24 MAY: SABBATH PRAYERS**

### **What is the Spirit saying to the Church?**

On the day of Pentecost, the disciples were bewildered and afraid for all sorts of reasons, but they were bewildered and afraid together, and that allowed for an amazing moment of encounter with God's Spirit (Acts 2:1-9).

As you join your church community for worship today, whether in person or online, notice what happens in your togetherness: what does being together open up? What is possible when you're together that wouldn't be possible if you weren't? What does the Spirit want to say to you in your togetherness today?

Lyndall Bywater (UKI Boiler Room Team)



## **MONDAY 25 MAY: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS** **North East Division - Intentional mission**

Pray that we will be an outward-looking people, sharing the gospel with clarity and hope. Pray that we will be intentional in moving beyond hospitality and service provision to having conversations about the transforming power of Christ. Join us in praying that, across the division, the Lord will add daily those who are being saved, as in Acts 2:47.

Captain Naomi Clifton (Divisional Leader and Officer for Personnel)



## **TUESDAY 26 MAY: SERVING AND CARING** **Dementia Café at Chesterton Salvation Army**

We launched the dementia cafe at Chesterton on Friday 13 March this year; and though some people think of Friday 13th as an unlucky day, it certainly wasn't for us. In fact, we had 21 people attend on that first day. Pray that the Café continues to fulfil a need in the community, and that those attending will feel that our hall is a safe and welcoming place to come to. Pray too that Jesus will be seen in everything we do.

Major Julian Rowley (Chesterton Corps and Community Centre)



## **WEDNESDAY 27 MAY: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION** **Prayer in the Workplace**

People can feel lost at work, sometimes because it's a large organisation and they feel like a small cog in a big machine, and sometimes because it's a small workplace where their colleagues know each other so well that they end up feeling left out. Think about your own workplace, or a workplace you're familiar with: consider who might feel marginalised, unnoticed or ignored, and pray for them. Let's pray too for all those who are looking for work, that God will give them strength for the search and help them to find work that works for them.

(Adapted from a 'Prayer in the Workplace' resource at [www.thykingdomcome.global](http://www.thykingdomcome.global))



## **THURSDAY 28 MAY: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY** **USA Southern Territory**

The USA Southern Territory covers Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia and District of Columbia. We pray that God will open new doors of opportunity in these states, that seeds sown will bear fruit and that leaders will step up to serve in places where the Army has never worked before. We pray for courage and insight for the territorial leadership team: Commissioners Kelly and Donna Igleheart and Colonel Deborah Sedlar.

Lyndall Bywater (UKI Boiler Room Team)



## **FRIDAY 29 MAY: GROWING IN FAITH** **West Midlands Division - Guidance and Growth**

Pray that we will align with the Spirit in every expression of The Salvation Army in our division, and that people will be open and obedient to God's call to leadership.

Major Clare Allman (Divisional Leader and Personnel Officer)



## **SATURDAY 30 MAY: CARE FOR CREATION** **Praying with Nature - Rising**

Many garden birds lay eggs in April, so May is when fledglings appear, scruffy, unsteady, and learning to feed and fly with persistent parental care. When you spot them, hold in mind the tenderness of beginnings.

- Pray the simple prayer: 'God, shelter what is young and fragile in me.'
- Think of someone stepping into something new, and lift them to God's care. Ask for courage to trust that stumbling is not failure but part of growing.

Major Gordon Cotterill (Secretary for Spiritual Life Development)



## **SUNDAY 31 MAY: SABBATH PRAYERS** **What is the Spirit saying to the Church?**

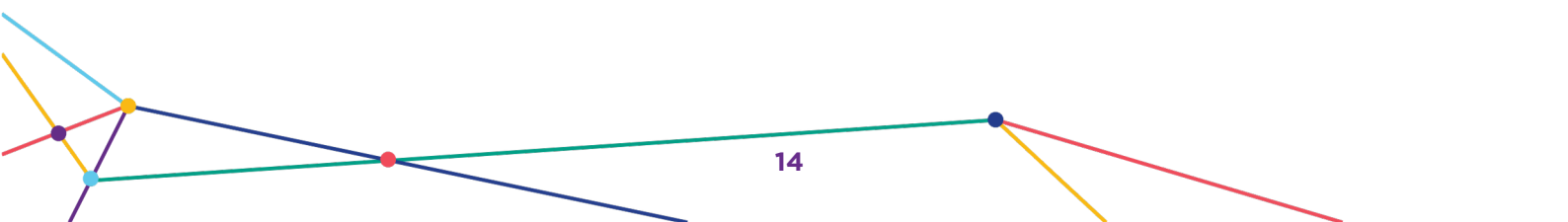
The early Church understood that the Kingdom of God was about more than just having meetings. It was about sharing their gifts to create a fairer, more generous community than the world was offering (Acts 4:32-36).

Sometimes the best way to understand what God is saying to us as Church is to look at the gifts the Spirit has given us. When we commit to being generous with our resources, our talents and our spiritual gifts, it gets easier to see how the Spirit wants to bless our communities through us.

Take time to notice people's gifts when you go to church today. Whose gift is a particular blessing to you? Who inspires or encourages you? And as you notice, also take time to tell people what you appreciate about them. We know our gifts best when others help us see them.

Lyndall Bywater (UKI Boiler Room Team)

# NOTES





# CALLING CONNECTING

*Releasing*  
DYNAMIC KINGDOM-BUILDING  
PRAYER

 **The Salvation Army, SA Prayer Network,  
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 **[facebook.com/saukprayerpage](https://facebook.com/saukprayerpage)**

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