



Prayer  
Network

# Prayer MATTERS

**APRIL 2025**



# Dear Prayer Matters readers

Welcome to April's edition of *Prayer Matters*.

Spring is springing (we hope), and Easter is almost here, so much of our content this month comes to you courtesy of the excellent Lent and Easter resources on the Resource Centre. For our Sunday Sabbath prayer focus, we continue to draw from the 'Courage for the Journey' Lent series found at [www.salvationist.org.uk/lentresources](http://www.salvationist.org.uk/lentresources).

For Holy Week, we will pause our UKI Prayer Rhythm to spend a week reflecting on the Easter story, courtesy of the Holy Week and Easter Prayers which you can find at [www.salvationist.org.uk/easterresources](http://www.salvationist.org.uk/easterresources).

For the rest of the month our rhythm continues, praying for the Army's mission and ministry by focusing on each of the five Mission Priorities. We pray this month for our Addiction Services and for disability inclusion issues, as well as covering various events happening this month.

Our divisional prayer focuses take us to the East Midlands and West Midlands Divisions, and our Saturday Care for Creation theme is picked up through some poetic reflections provided by Wesley Paxton of Lockerbie Corps.

And that seems like a good moment to remind you that if there is ever anything you'd like us to include in *Prayer Matters*, please don't hesitate to email us. We are always delighted to hear from you and to make space for the things God is putting on your heart. Email Lyndall Bywater at [Lyndall.bywater@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:Lyndall.bywater@salvationarmy.org.uk).

Thank you for using this resource, and for lending your strength to this work of united prayer.

Blessings,

Lyndall Bywater  
and the UKI Boiler Room Team

# APRIL



## **TUESDAY 1 APRIL: SERVING AND CARING** **Addiction services – Safe places**

People who struggle with alcohol or other drugs often have a history of trauma or adversity. They can often be isolated and can feel anxious and afraid. Pray that people seeking help in our centres (both corps and Lifehouses) will feel that they are in a safe place – a place where they can drop their guard, breathe, relax and find peace. May our officers, employees and volunteers express love and positive regard to all the people that they serve.

(Major Will Pearson, Assistant Director, Addictions Department)



## **WEDNESDAY 2 APRIL: GROWING IN FAITH** **West Midlands Division – Candidates**

This month we will be holding the next round of candidates' interviews. We have two potential candidates. We are praying that God will clearly guide these people in their preparation, and that they will have a strong affirmation of God's calling on their lives.

(Major Clare Allman, Divisional Leader)



## **THURSDAY 3 APRIL: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION** **ARMY – Ghana Territory**

We pray for Salvationists in Ghana as they live lives of faithful service and courageous witness. We pray that every corps and centre will be a beacon of hope and light over the coming Easter season, and that many will meet with the risen Lord Jesus because of their ministry. We pray God's blessing on the territorial leadership team – Colonels Seth and Janet Appeateng and Lieut-Colonels Simon and Zipporah Mbuthu.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



## **FRIDAY 4 APRIL: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION** **Living with disability**

Lord, your word reassures all of us that we can live life in all its fullness (John 10:10). We pray for all who live with disability of any kind, for fullness of life in your love.

And we pray that no setbacks will prevent us from experiencing that full life which you have promised. As much as we are all equal, we are each unique, and we celebrate our uniqueness today, giving thanks to you, our Creator.

(Adapted from the Equality Diversity Inclusion and Belonging 2025 Calendar)



## **SATURDAY 5 APRIL: CARE FOR CREATION** **The beatitudes of affluence**

Fortunate are we who are rich and wealthy; Lord, help us to be generous and spread our wealth around. For money is like manure: pile it up in one place and it stinks, but spread it thinly around over a wide area and it enriches everywhere it touches. Fortunate are we who are powerful; Lord, help us to be benevolent and allow others to share in our decision making.

(Based on a poem by Wesley Paxton, Lockerbie Corps)



## **SUNDAY 6 APRIL: SABBATH PRAYER** **Courage to live counter-culturally (Daniel 6:1-23)**

God of hope, we recognise that to live differently for you means not taking the easy option. It involves courageous decisions that will often be misunderstood and ridiculed. Help us to support each other to stand firm in our faith and give us the wisdom and strength to do what it takes to live as faith-filled disciples, ready to leave our impression on the world.

(Prayer based on Lent resources at [www.salvationist.org.uk/lentresources](http://www.salvationist.org.uk/lentresources))



## **MONDAY 7 APRIL: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS** **West Midlands Division – Mission clusters**

Easter will see a couple of Area Mission Groups – The Potteries and The Black Country – joining in Easter celebrations together. We are excited about the way the corps are coming together in their mission clusters, to support and encourage each other in faith. Pray that this coming together will continue, and that people will come to know Jesus as a result.

(Major Clare Allman, Divisional Leader)



## **TUESDAY 8 APRIL: SERVING AND CARING** Addiction services – Staff support

Our staff, officers and volunteers deal with a huge amount of complexity and hear countless sad stories whilst supporting people who are dependent on alcohol or drugs. Pray that they feel supported by those around them and not alone; that they feel able to cope and not overwhelmed; that they can find rest and peace, and that their difficult roles are balanced with times of fun, connection and enjoying life's simple pleasures.

(Major Will Pearson, Assistant Director, Addictions Department)



## **WEDNESDAY 9 APRIL: GROWING IN FAITH** Assessment Conference (11-12 April)

We pray for all those involved in this process to discern whether officership is the right path for those who have applied. We pray for the assessors and the candidates, that there will be a unity of spirit and faith, and that together we will hear clearly from God as we discern his will and purpose for those who are attending.

(Major Mark Sawyer, Territorial Candidates Director)



## **THURSDAY 10 APRIL: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION** **ARMY – Southern Africa Territory**

The Southern Africa Territory encompasses five countries: South Africa, Namibia, the Island of St Helena, Lesotho and eSwatini (Swaziland). The territory's ministry includes day care centres for both pre-school children and senior citizens, goodwill centres, health services, community centres, rehabilitation centres and schools, as well as homes for children, elderly people and those who have suffered abuse. We pray for the territorial leadership team which oversees this vast array of work, and which offers pastoral care for the many worshipping communities in the territory too: for Commissioners Torben and Denise Eliassen and Lieut-Colonels Themba and Nokuthula Mahlobo.

(Information from [www.salvationarmy.org](http://www.salvationarmy.org))



## **FRIDAY 11 APRIL: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION** **Disability Forum**

A dedicated Disability Forum has launched in the UKI Territory, for employees, officers and territorial envoys with lived experiences of disability, as well as supporters of disability inclusion. This will provide an online safe space to discuss disability-related issues and help shape policies and culture within our territory. Pray for the work of this forum, that it will be a place of encouragement and blessing to many, and that God will use it to help us learn even more about what it means to be an inclusive Army.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



## **SATURDAY 12 APRIL: CARE FOR CREATION** **Stewardship Hymn**

We always have enough to eat and rarely face a drought,  
But often overseas we find there's not much rain about.  
For those who have some food to spare must be prepared to give  
Some of their goods to those with less so they can also live.  
We must not consume to excess, even if we find we can,  
For there are those with less than us; they are part of God's plan.  
We must also clean up our earth, ignored for many a year.  
We need to be good stewards of all resources far and near.  
For our children we must provide, so they can breathe clean air,  
And so continue our good works with due concern and care.

(Wesley Paxton, Lockerbie Corps)



## **SUNDAY 13 APRIL: HOLY WEEK - PALM SUNDAY** **Your triumph**

Heavenly Father, on this Palm Sunday we come before you with hearts full of praise, remembering the triumphant entry of your Son, Jesus, into Jerusalem. We thank you for his sacrifice, his love, and his unwavering commitment to your will. As we grasp our palms and triumphantly wave them as a symbol of our praise, Lord, we ask that you stop us simply standing by and observing. Instead, may we actively engage in worship with our whole lives. May our songs of adoration not just echo from our lips, but resound in our hearts and in all that we do. Let our worship be a living, breathing expression of our faith, where our hands and feet follow where you lead.

(Prayer based on Moments of Meditation Easter resource at [www.salvationist.org.uk/easterresources](http://www.salvationist.org.uk/easterresources))



## **MONDAY 14 APRIL: HOLY WEEK**

### **Your focus**

Father, we come before you today, acknowledging that our hearts are often distracted and our minds pulled in many different directions. Just as Jesus cleansed the Temple, we ask you to cleanse our hearts and reveal the areas in our lives where distractions, materialism, selfishness and worldly pursuits have taken priority over our relationship with you. We ask that you refocus our attention on what truly matters. Teach us to honour your house, not just in a physical space but in our hearts, where your Spirit dwells. May we approach you with humility, reverence, and a desire to worship you in spirit and truth.

(Prayer based on Moments of Meditation Easter resource at [www.salvationist.org.uk/easterresources](http://www.salvationist.org.uk/easterresources))



## **TUESDAY 15 APRIL: HOLY WEEK**

### **Your strength**

Loving God, thank you that you are with us through the peaks and troughs. In times of joy you are our strength, and in times of struggle you are our comfort. Help us to remain faithful to you, no matter what we face. Guide us to walk in your ways, trusting that you are with us always. As we think about your sacrifice, we also trust that we can count on your promised return when we will join you for ever. Lord, stir in us the courage to take up our crosses daily, to walk with you through the highs and lows of life. Empower us to live out the message of love and humility that Jesus showed us.

(Prayer based on Moments of Meditation Easter resource at [www.salvationist.org.uk/easterresources](http://www.salvationist.org.uk/easterresources))



## **WEDNESDAY 16 APRIL: HOLY WEEK**

### **Your example**

Lord Jesus, as we reflect on the powerful moment when you gathered with your disciples for the Passover meal, we are humbled by how you offered your body and blood for the salvation of all. Thank you for being the ultimate Passover Lamb, whose death brings freedom from sin. In that sacred moment, you not only showed us the depth of your sacrifice but also called us to love one another, extending grace even to those who would betray you. Help us to live in obedience to your command to love, offering welcome and compassion to all, just as you did. May we follow your example and reflect your love and inclusivity in every action.

(Prayer based on Moments of Meditation Easter resource at [www.salvationist.org.uk/easterresources](http://www.salvationist.org.uk/easterresources))



## **THURSDAY 17 APRIL: MAUNDY THURSDAY**

### **Your humility**

Gracious God, as you humbled yourself by washing the feet of your disciples, you showed us the true heart of servant leadership and the power of humility. Teach us to follow your example, embracing selflessness and love in all that we do, and serving others with a heart of grace. Show us how to live sacrificially and extend ourselves to the poor, the outcast, and those who suffer around the world. May we remember that true greatness in your Kingdom comes through serving, and let our lives reflect this radical love and humility.

(Prayer based on Moments of Meditation Easter resource at [www.salvationist.org.uk/easterresources](http://www.salvationist.org.uk/easterresources))



## **FRIDAY 18 APRIL: GOOD FRIDAY**

### **Your sacrifice**

Father God, how can we thank you enough for the sacrifice of your Son on the cross of Calvary? We stand in awe of your incredible plan of salvation and are filled with joy knowing that through Jesus we can have a relationship with you and live in your presence for ever. Our hearts ache for those who don't yet know your truth, and we yearn for them to experience the redemption and new life that only Christ offers. Today, we pray for those still far from you, asking that the gospel would reach their ears and that their hearts would be softened, ready to receive the hope found in Jesus. Thank you, Lord, for the sacrifice of Good Friday which helps us to experience the depth of your love. Teach us to call on your name as Jesus did, for we live by your strength, not our own.

(Prayer based on Moments of Meditation Easter resource at [www.salvationist.org.uk/easterresources](http://www.salvationist.org.uk/easterresources))



## **SATURDAY 19 APRIL: HOLY WEEK**

### **Your promises**

Father God, help us to remember that even in dark times, God's promises are sure. Thank you for your unwavering presence which brings light to our path and peace to our hearts. When we feel lost or overwhelmed, remind us that you are near, walking with us through every trial and hardship. Help us to trust in your strength and find hope, knowing that you will never leave us, even in our darkest hours. Thank you that Jesus' death and burial are not the end, but the fulfilment of his promise of resurrection.

(Prayer based on Moments of Meditation Easter resource at [www.salvationist.org.uk/easterresources](http://www.salvationist.org.uk/easterresources))





## **SUNDAY 20 APRIL: EASTER SUNDAY**

### **Your resurrection**

Our risen Saviour, on this Easter Sunday we celebrate your resurrection, the ultimate victory over sin and death, and the assurance of eternal life through you. We thank you that through your sacrifice and triumph, our sins are forgiven and we are made new in your grace. Help us to live each day in the light of your resurrection, walking in the freedom and hope you have given us. May our hearts overflow with gratitude as we share this good news with others, reflecting your love and forgiveness to the world.

(Prayer based on Moments of Meditation Easter resource at [www.salvationist.org.uk/easterresources](http://www.salvationist.org.uk/easterresources))



## **MONDAY 21 APRIL: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS**

### **East Midlands Division – Retirements**

We have several officers and a territorial envoy retiring in the next few months, so it would be great to pray for them: Majors Keith and Jan Sebbage, Majors Mark and Elaine Holder, Major Vincent Wall and Territorial Envoy Pam Ripper. Vincent and Pam celebrated their retirement on Easter Sunday, so with the resurrection of Christ they celebrate moving on to new ministry. Pray for them and their ongoing work of making Jesus known.

(Major Mark Rose, Divisional Commander)



## **TUESDAY 22 APRIL: SERVING AND CARING**

### **Addiction Services – Harm reduction training**

Our department is running a training series for corps who are working with people living with addictions. Pray that the training goes well, that the content is relevant and the delivery is engaging. Pray that the participants will benefit by gaining new understanding, and that we will be able to create a network of people involved in similar work, to encourage each other and share good practice.

(Major Will Pearson, Assistant Director, Addictions Department)



## **WEDNESDAY 23 APRIL: GROWING IN FAITH** **Easter Music Course (21-27 April)**

As people gather to learn and make music together, we pray that the delegates of the Easter Music Course will remain in good health. We pray too for those who grieve for delegates who will not be with us this year. We pray for good music-making which challenges and fulfils people. We give thanks for the laughter and fellowship that our time together will undoubtedly bring, and we pray that these good times will help carry people through until we can meet again.

(Stephanie Lamplough, Assistant Director, Music and Creative Arts)



## **THURSDAY 24 APRIL: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION** **ARMY – India Central Territory**

The India Central Territory comprises four regions – North Tamil Nadu (Madras-Chennai), Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Salvation Army work was commenced at Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh in 1895 by Staff-Captain Abdul Aziz, a person of Muslim background, with his friend Mahanada. Captain Abdul had attended a revival meeting led by Captain Henry Bullard in 1884 at Bangalore and subsequently dedicated himself to be a Salvation Army officer. We give thanks for the long history of Salvation Army witness in the central region of India, and pray that the resurrection life of Jesus will give joy and boldness to Salvationists living, working and worshipping there today. We pray God's richest blessing on the territorial leadership team: Colonels Yaqoob and Sumitra Masih and Lieut-Colonels Masilamony and Y. S. Keziah Stalin.

(Information from [www.salvationarmy.org](http://www.salvationarmy.org))



## **FRIDAY 25 APRIL: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION** **Disability, access and belonging**

Lord, we give thanks for the many ways in which corps and centres around the UKI Territory have been working to make buildings and events accessible to people with disabilities, and for the willingness to make adjustments that enable people of all abilities to take part. We pray that you will teach us how to move beyond access to inclusion, and beyond inclusion to belonging, so that we become a household of faith where every person – feels completely at home.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



## **SATURDAY 26 APRIL: CARE FOR CREATION** Farming and thankfulness

We drive our tractors daily but do not scatter seed;  
We drill seeds into soil instead, which gives them all they need.  
The sun and rain alternate, and adequately give  
To provide all we need, and enable us to live.  
He gives us skill and knowledge of what is bad and good,  
So we can use it carefully while growing all our food.  
We grow crops in rotation, thus husbanding the soil,  
And it will still reward us for giving of our toil.  
We drive a combine harvester which cuts and threshes grain,  
Instead of binding sheaves which are then at risk of rain.  
With sun, the grain is drier, and goes direct to store,  
So there will be no shortage, which we are thankful for.

God will send us weather, but we must care for the environment, and all that is, on land and in the sea.

(Wesley Paxton, Lockerbie Corps)



## **SUNDAY 27 APRIL: SABBATH PRAYER** Courageous mission

Throughout Lent and Easter, we have been pondering what it means to live courageous lives. Now that we're back to work, back to a new school or college term, back to our rhythms of worship and prayer, service and outreach, we pray that God's resurrection power will fuel our courage and send us out to a world in need of courageous Godliness. We take heart from the truth that we are called to go in God's strength, not our own, and that the Holy Spirit within us gives us all the resources we need.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



## **MONDAY 28 APRIL: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS** East Midlands Division - Easter thanksgiving

We are seeing God at work in the division, with new people just turning up at worship in unexpected places for no reason other than God has sent them along. We want to thank God for this, and celebrate his work across the division. What better time to thank him than now, when we have just remembered the events of Easter, celebrating his gift of salvation and recognising, with wonder and awe, 'what pain he had to bear' to set us free.

(Major Mark Rose, Divisional Commander)



## **TUESDAY 29 APRIL: SERVING AND CARING** **Addiction Services – Greater understanding**

Pray for a growing understanding of addiction throughout our organisation: for us to understand the realities faced by those experiencing addiction, and for us to have a good grasp of the different routes to a life that is happier, safer and more connected. May we embrace both the scientific and the spiritual, providing sound, effective interventions alongside opportunities to explore faith and experience transformation.

(Major Will Pearson, Assistant Director, Addictions Department)

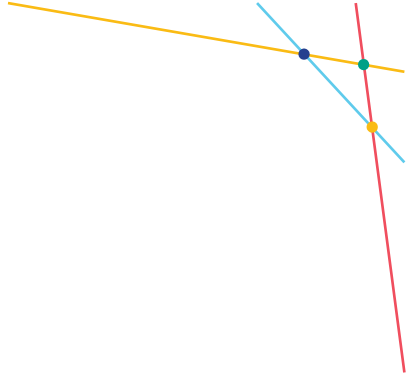


## **WEDNESDAY 30 APRIL: GROWING IN FAITH** **Together 2025 (11-13 July)**

The UKI Territory's Together 2025 event will take place in Birmingham in July and will include the Commissioning of the Champions of the Mission Session of cadets. It's an event which gathers all sorts of people of different ages and backgrounds, and provides an opportunity for us to worship, learn, pray and play together. Pray for all those involved in organising the event: for a clear sense of what God wants the weekend to be, and for wisdom and creativity as they follow the Spirit's leading. Pray for those considering whether or not to attend: that each person who is meant to be there will be there.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)

# NOTES





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