

Dear Prayer Matters readers

Welcome to this latest edition of *Prayer Matters*, where we are digging into the traditional prayer themes for November.

Our Sunday Sabbath Prayers come from the 'Praying for Peace' resource as they help us to pray for peace in ourselves, our communities and the wider world. We also pause to pray for some of the special dates in November – Remembrance Sunday, Bonfire Night, International Men's Day and the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls

As there often is at this time of the year, there's also a climate conference to pray for – the 30th annual Conference of the Parties to the UN climate change framework, and Major Heather Poxon helps us focus our prayers on that.

Our divisional focus takes us to the North West and Isle of Man Division, and we also focus our prayers around Safeguarding Sunday and National Safeguarding Week. In our International Salvation Army Focus, we visit four different continents.

Thank you for shouldering the work of prayer with us, and we hope you find this edition both informative and inspiring.

Blessings,

Lyndall Bywater
and the UKI Boiler Room Team

NOVEMBER



SATURDAY 1 NOVEMBER: CARE FOR CREATION Conference of the Parties (COP) 30 (Brazil, November 2025) – government leaders

Lord, as national leaders gather, carrying the responsibility of the wellbeing of those they represent, we pray that you will draw their attention to the dual cry of the poor and of the Earth. Instil courage and compassion, provoking them to stand bravely, with practical political passion, for the good of the whole of creation and for the sake of others.

Major Heather Poxon (Territorial Environmental Officer)



SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER: SABBATH PRAYER Praying for Peace - A peaceful heart

As you come to God with your prayers for peace, spend a few moments quietly listening to God's Spirit and feeling God's peace in your heart. O Lord, I am reminded that my prayers start with a desire to live in peace with my family, my community, my country and beyond. Thank you for blessing me with the gift of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Help me to keep my eyes on Jesus as I strive to live in peace. I long to reflect the nature of Christ, in whose beautiful name I come to you.

Major Jill Miller (Officer in Retirement, taken from: salvationist.org.uk/resources/praying-for-peace)



MONDAY 3 NOVEMBER: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS New Archbishop of Canterbury

We give thanks for Bishop Dame Sarah Mullally, who has been chosen to be the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury. She will officially begin her new ministry in January 2026, with an enthronement ceremony at Canterbury Cathedral in March. We pray for her in this season of transition, that she will hold a posture of peace and trust. We pray for her in her new role, that she will sense the guiding of the Holy Spirit. We pray for her as she helps the Anglican Church to unite around the cross of Christ in a season when unity feels almost impossible.

Lyndall Bywater (UKI Boiler Room Team)



TUESDAY 4 NOVEMBER: SERVING AND CARING North West and Isle of Man Division – Growing younger

Pray for the North West and Isle of Man Division as they welcome, nurture and disciple children, youth and students. Give thanks for every young person connected to corps and centres in the division, and for every person who supports youth and children's work. Pray that, through activities and relationships, the love of God will be evident and irresistible to young people.

Major Steve Fripp (Divisional Mission Officer) and Lyndall Bywater (UKI Boiler Room Team)



WEDNESDAY 5 NOVEMBER: GROWING IN FAITHBonfire Night

For most of us, Bonfire Night means fireworks and delicious cold-weather snacks. Yet today we remember in prayer those for whom the sound of fireworks is traumatic; those who have escaped war zones or been caught in explosions. We pray for peace and good company in these challenging days. We also pray for churches hosting Bonfire events, that the warmth of the welcome will be equal to the warmth of the fire, and that people will find joy in the spectacle of the fireworks.

Lyndall Bywater (UKI Boiler Room Team)



THURSDAY 6 NOVEMBER: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY - Latin America North Territory

Today we pray for the Latin America North Territory, covering Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and Venezuela. This developing territory serves vulnerable communities by providing essential resources like drug rehabilitation centres, schools and community corps, addressing needs which are often left unmet by government agencies. We pray blessing on all those who belong to the Army in this territory, and also on the territorial leadership team of Colonels Leonardo and Evangelina Fernandez and Lieut-Colonel Lydia Mercado Berberena.

Lyndall Bywater (UKI Boiler Room Team)



In this week of Bonfire Night, we remember that this ancient English tradition was born of religious persecution, dating from a time when different groups of Christians felt the need to purify the Church by eradicating those who disagreed with them. Even some of our fireworks are named after acts of religious violence. Lord God, forgive us, your Church, when we have committed violence in your name, and strengthen us to work for reconciliation and unity, so that religious intolerance will be eradicated completely.

Lyndall Bywater (UKI Boiler Room Team)



SATURDAY 8 NOVEMBER: CARE FOR CREATIONCOP 30 - Loving God, loving others

Jesus died to reconcile the whole created order (cosmos) to himself. We are called, by that example, to be reconcilers with him. Help us, therefore, to overcome our differences and to seek justice for all, asking the vital question: how can I better honour my Creator and work towards a future where everyone can thrive? Unite us. Inspire us.

Major Heather Poxon (Territorial Environmental Officer)



SUNDAY 9 NOVEMBER: SABBATH PRAYER Remembrance Sunday - Poppy Prayer

For this prayer you need a poppy, either real or in a picture as a visual prompt.

- The red petals speak of sacrifice both in the past and in the present day. Pray for all who are serving in conflicts around the world today.
- The black centre reminds us of those at the centre of world leadership. Pray for their hearts to be turned towards being peacemakers (Matthew 5:9).
- The green leaves suggest hope and new life. Pray for all who are working to help countries recover from war.

Major Jill Miller (Officer in Retirement, taken from: salvationist.org.uk/resources/praying-for-peace)



MONDAY 10 NOVEMBER: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS North West and Isle of Man Division - Mission in cities

Pray for all those involved in shaping fresh approaches to mission across the division, particularly in the cities: Manchester, Liverpool and Salford. Pray that God will give them divine inspiration for ways to re-energise Salvation Army work and meet diverse needs.

Major Steve Fripp (Divisional Mission Officer)



TUESDAY 11 NOVEMBER: SERVING AND CARING North West and Isle of Man Division - Cluster groups

Pray for the cluster groups which meet in the division. These are supportive communities where officers share, learn and grow in discipleship. Pray that they will be safe, encouraging places for those who attend. Pray too for wisdom and discernment, as officers prepare mission-focused budget requests for frontline ministry and new opportunities.

Major Steve Fripp (Divisional Mission Officer)



WEDNESDAY 12 NOVEMBER: GROWING IN FAITHA Prayer for Life

Today we revel in a prayer for life ... for the life of God to fill every part of us, that we might be renewed to share the good news of Jesus. Dear Father, I give my life to you to be filled with your life. Restore this frail branch in full union with Jesus who is the Vine. Restore my full union with Christ and with you. I return myself to you – my body, soul and spirit, heart, mind and will. I return myself fully to the Source of Life ... O Life, live into me. Encompass me and all that I am; well up within me. O Spring of Life, let your river flow through my heart, soul, mind and strength. You are the God who gives life to the dead.

John and Stasi Eldridge (Excerpt from The Life Prayer from www.wildatheart.org.uk/prayer)



We pray today for The Salvation Army in Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, Romania and Bulgaria, a Kingdom-focused, people-centred Army, committed to serving the whole person – body, mind and spirit – through worshipping communities, food assistance, winter aid and family support, humanitarian response, community development, emergency response and modern slavery and human trafficking response. We pray for the territorial leadership team: Colonels JP and Karin Ramos and Lieut-Colonels David and Anna Kotrikadze

Lyndall Bywater (UKI Boiler Room Team – information taken from www.salvationarmy.org)



FRIDAY 14 NOVEMBER: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION - Salvation Army Worship Conference

Lord God, we welcome you into our worship conference with open hearts. Come and make your presence known in a powerful way. Fill the place with your Spirit – bring healing, unity, and a fresh hunger. Let every song, word and prayer glorify you. We long for an encounter, for lives to be changed and hearts awakened. Show up, Lord, and have your way.

Nicholas King (Music and Creative Arts Team)



SATURDAY 15 NOVEMBER: CARE FOR CREATION COP 30 - No more fossil fuel

We pray for bold moves amongst the political and economic élite that will stop all new developments of fossil fuel production. The world's temperature is already rising beyond acceptable levels, and further burning of fossil fuels will guarantee temperatures impossible to survive. Inspire significant investment in alternative fuels, we pray.

Major Heather Poxon (Territorial Environmental Officer)



Find a blank sheet of paper and use it as you pray this prayer:

Lord, we come before you with this simple sheet, clean, whole, full of possibility. But now we crumple it in our hands. We press into its surface the weight of our world's brokenness – wrinkled, torn, distorted, just like some relationships we see around us.

Now, Lord, we gently unfold the crumpled paper, not to erase the creases but to acknowledge them: each fold a scar, each line a story of pain and possibility.

This paper will never be smooth again, and neither will we. But you, Lord, are the God of restoration. You do not discard the damaged; you redeem it

You might like to develop this prayer by creating a mosaic pattern from the crumpled lines, colouring between the folds to form a picture.

Major Gordon Cotterill (Secretary for Spiritual Life Development, taken from: salvationist.org.uk/resources/praying-for-peace)



MONDAY 17 NOVEMBER: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS Safeguarding Adults Week (17-21 November) Proactive intervention

Yesterday was Safeguarding Sunday, and today begins Safeguarding Adults Week, a time for organisations to come together to raise awareness of important safeguarding issues. Today we pray that organisations will be proactive in creating safer environments that actively work to prevent abuse; for sport clubs, community groups and other organisations seeking to build inclusive and resilient environments in which people look out for each other.

(Adapted from www.anncrafttrust.org/events/safeguarding-adults-week)



TUESDAY 18 NOVEMBER: SERVING AND CARING Safeguarding Adults Week (17-21 November) -Creating empowering environments

Today we pray for leaders as they explore how safeguarding works in practice in their context. We pray that God will show them how to set the tone through the way they lead, fostering a safer culture, so that safeguarding of all types is handled with confidence and competence.

(Adapted from www.anncrafttrust.org/events/safeguarding-adults-week)



WEDNESDAY 19 NOVEMBER: GROWING IN FAITH International Men's Day

'Man is never so manly as when he feels deeply, acts boldly, and expresses himself with frankness and with fervour.' – Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli)

On this International Men's Day, we pray for those who work in mental health and social care, helping men to find wholeness in body, mind and spirit. We pray for chaplains working in men's prisons, helping inmates to find God in their worst moments. We pray for youth workers, sports coaches and mentors, helping boys to find their feet as honest, compassionate, mature men.

Lyndall Bywater (UKI Boiler Room Team)



THURSDAY 20 NOVEMBER: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY - Middle East Division

We pray today for all those connected to The Salvation Army in the Middle East, providing a home for expatriate Salvationists in Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and the United Arab Emirates, as well as providing care and support to vulnerable and abused domestic workers and those trafficked or tricked into the region. The region's work includes modern slavery and human trafficking response, health services and support for expatriate communities. We pray blessing on the territorial leadership team: Majors Douglas and Janet Newman and Majors Paul and AmyJo Ferguson.

Lyndall Bywater (UKI Boiler Room Team)



We give thanks for the way churches are working together in our villages, towns and cities. It's easy to feel discouraged when we see theological disagreements making headlines, but the truth is that Christians all over the nation are joyfully working together and supporting each other, even when they don't agree on everything. Lord Jesus, as we keep reaching out in love to one another, use us, your Church, to help heal the fractures in this land.

Lyndall Bywater (UKI Boiler Room Team)



SATURDAY 22 NOVEMBER: CARE FOR CREATIONCOP 30 - Loss and Damage Fund

As the focus of discussions in Brazil will be the catastrophic and inhumane impact of global warming on indigenous peoples, we pray that powerful nations would make good on their promises to provide the Loss and Damage Fund of USD 1.3 trillion needed by 2035, without adding to already unreasonable levels of debt.

Major Heather Poxon (Territorial Environmental Officer)



SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER: SABBATH PRAYERPraying for Peace - becoming peacemakers

God is wanting peacemakers in the world. We pray that people will rise up in courage to stand for peace.

God is calling peacemakers to speak out for those oppressed by war. We pray for brave hearts, beating for war-torn places and people.

God is searching for peacemakers to advocate for justice. We pray for strong, dedicated, deep-thinking people to stand for the powerless.

God is needing peacemakers in every land to teach forgiveness and reconciliation. We pray for reconcilers and the reconciled to share their story.

God is calling us to be peacemakers. We are not qualified! We will keep praying for others to step forward.

God sees your courage, your empathy, your sense of justice and desire to see reconciliation. O Lord, show us how we can work for peace and

make a difference where we are.

God says, 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God' (Matthew 5:9). As children of God, we desire to be counted as peacemakers.

Major Jill Miller (Officer in Retirement, taken from: salvationist.org.uk/resources/praying-for-peace)



MONDAY 24 NOVEMBER: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS Safeguarding in The Salvation Army

The Safeguarding Team have invited Commissioner Keith Banks to write a Safeguarding prayer, and we join together to pray it today:

Loving God, we share our world with over eight billion people – that's a number to challenge the mind and is so hard to grasp. Yet your word teaches us that you care for every single one, and Jesus tells us you care so deeply that even the hairs on our head are numbered. It is hard to comprehend, yet we believe it is true.

We know that, as followers of Jesus, you want us to care for people like you do. You need us to be agents of care to those with whom we interact at home, at work and at church – everywhere. It's not humanly possible for us to care for billions as you do, God, and we know you understand that, but we know you want us to care for those people we meet regularly and often, and to act responsibly towards them.

So, dear God, help us to create a climate of care through our actions and interactions with our fellow human beings – those we meet often and those we hardly know; children and adults of every age and culture; the vulnerable, the lonely, those who feel excluded and marginalised. May we not only care for them, but also lovingly and intentionally watch over their safety. Guide us and help us to act responsibly as their guard and protector.

Dear God, your word teaches us that all are precious in your sight. Everyone is precious to you. Mould our hearts so that all are precious to us too.

Commissioner Keith Banks (Officer in Retirement)



TUESDAY 25 NOVEMBER: SERVING AND CARING International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls

Since 1981 women's rights activists have observed 25 November as a day against gender-based violence. This date was selected to honour the Mirabal sisters, three political activists from the Dominican Republic who were brutally murdered in 1960 by order of the country's ruler, Rafael Truiillo.

We hold in prayer today all those women and girls around the world who face violence. May they sense the presence of the God of love who is stronger than any other power, and may they find an escape route to a better future.

Lyndall Bywater (UKI Boiler Room Team)



WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER: GROWING IN FAITHA prayer for mental resilience

Search me, God, and know my heart, know my anxious thoughts. I come to you, Jesus, for peace of mind. I give my mind to you. I set my mind on you. Capture my every thought. I surrender all the news, all worry and speculation. I surrender everything grabbing my attention. I give you my thoughts, Jesus – all of my mental life: my focus and attention, my memory and recall, my understanding and imagination. I dedicate the life of my mind to you, Lord Jesus, and you alone. The mind governed by God's Spirit is life and peace. Holy Spirit, Spirit of God, come and fill my mind. Come and fill my thoughts. Fill my mind with life and peace. For we have the mind of Christ. I pray to be of one mind with you, Jesus – one thought, one imagination, one mental life. I receive the mind of Christ.

Fix your thoughts on what is true and honourable, right and pure, lovely and admirable ... Think about something beautiful, something that reminds you of the goodness of God: a place you love, a sweet memory, something in nature, something that makes you smile.

(Adapted from a prayer by John and Stasi Eldridge from www.wildatheart.org/prayer)



Today we pray for The Salvation Army in the Philippines, for its officers, its Salvationists and all who work and worship there. We pray particularly for its social ministries: schools and education, community development, social enterprise and modern slavery and human trafficking response. We remember in prayer today the territorial leadership team of Colonels David and Elsa Oalang and Lieut-Colonel Nelia Almenario

Lyndall Bywater (UKI Boiler Room Team)



FRIDAY 28 NOVEMBER: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION - Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI)

CTBI exists to bring churches together across Britain and Ireland, supporting ecumenical efforts and promoting collaboration, mission and justice. It focuses its work on things which can only be done well when the Church works together, such as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Holy Spirit, we pray for those who serve on the various committees of CTBI, fostering partnership and co-operation behind the scenes. Encourage their hearts and inspire them with fresh vision for the work they do.

Lyndall Bywater (UKI Boiler Room Team)



Pray for action: for politicians, industrialists and business leaders to be clear-headed and courageous.

Pray for vision: for scientists and intellectuals to find their voice regarding creative adaptation of resources.

Pray for generosity: for Spirit-led altruism to sweep the world, as never before.

Pray for the 'Church Militant': for Christians to persevere in conviction, faith, prayer and protest.

Major Heather Poxon (Territorial Environmental Officer)



SUNDAY 30 NOVEMBER: SABBATH PRAYERAdvent Sunday - A peaceful new beginning

This 'breath prayer' helps us journey from the season of Remembrance, and our prayers for peace, into the season of Advent.

As you breathe in, deeply feel the peace of Christ invading your being. As you breathe out, give thanks for your relationship with Jesus.

As you breathe in, give thanks for peace in your heart and mind. As you breathe out, release sorrow for all that spoils your peace.

As you breathe in, look to the eyes of Jesus and meet his loving gaze. As you breathe out, claim the joy of being a follower of the Prince of Peace

As you breathe in, receive the free gift of peace that Jesus brings. As you breathe out, let go of those things that come between you and this peace.

Major Jill Miller (Officer in Retirement)

NOTES



- The Salvation Army, SA Prayer Network, 1 Champion Park, London, SE5 8FJ
- **O20 7369 4539**
- salvationarmy.org.uk/prayer-network
- 🚹 facebook.com/saukprayerpage
- saprayernetwork@salvationarmy.org.uk

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