Prayer MATTERS

October 2026

A daily prayer resource for The Salvation Army's UKI Prayer Rhythm

Welcome to October's edition of Prayer Matters, where we're wrapping up warm and getting stuck into some inspiring prayer themes.

We're praying for farmers and farming in our Saturday Care for Creation focus, and our Sabbath Prayer Sundays are an opportunity to pray for those who don't have a home to retreat to or a safe place to rest.

Our Growing in Faith Fridays pick up the theme of being ready, which is also the focus of our most recent Deeper Life Journal (sign up here to get the latest edition), and our Justice and Reconciliation prayers on Wednesday are a series of reflections from the UK Salvation Army International Development Team on the theological basis for the justice work we do.

We visit the London Division and the Central South and Channel Islands Division, to pray with them for things happening this month, and we also lend our prayer support to a number of conferences and retreats.

Thank you for your faithful partnership in prayer, and please know that we pray for you as you stand with us.

Blessings,

Lyndall Bywater
and the UKI Boiler Room Team

Find out more...

- Sign up to receive a monthly copy of the Deeper Life Journal, an opportunity to go a bit deeper in your prayer and reflection, you can sign up to receive a regular copy to your inbox here.
- If you would like to find out more about the Prayer Rhythm and Furnace Prayer groups click here.
- Each week, Prayer Matters is featured in the Salvationist magazine and Facebook page -click here to find out more information about subscriptions.

The Salvation UKI Prayer Rhythm

Five out of our seven daily themes form the priorities for The Salvation Army's Mission Statement here in the UK and Ireland. We also join The Salvation Army International on a Thursday to pray for other territories; and on Sunday we have a Sabbath Prayer focus.



Sunday: Sabbath Prayer

Our sabbath prayer invites us to rest and be transformed by God's presence.



Monday: Sharing the Good News

On Monday we focus prayer on the heart of our mission - sharing the good news of Jesus and inviting others into a life-changing relationship with God.



Tuesday: Serving and Caring

On Tuesday we focus on prayer for our Salvation Army communities - how they serve and care for people and live out the call from Jesus to love God and love others.



Wednesday: Justice and Reconciliation

On Wednesday we pray for The Salvation Army speaking out against justice and seeking reconciliation, breathing into life 'Our Vision' of 'fullness of life for all with Jesus'.



Thursday: International Salvation Army

On Thursday we join with our global Salvation Army community in 134 countries as we unite to pray for a territory or region of The Salvation Army.



Friday: Growing in faith

On Friday we focus on prayer that enriches our lives as disciples of Jesus, seeking holy living and 'fullness of life' in God.



Saturday: Care for Creation

On Saturday we focus on God's creation praying for the responsbility we have for our planet and the affects damage has for people and the environment.

OCTOBER

THURSDAY 1 OCTOBER: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY

New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga and Samoa Territory

'We are no ordinary army. Since 1883, The Salvation Army has fought poverty and social and spiritual distress in New Zealand. We've been there to help more than 150,000 people in need each year – with budgeting advice, food and clothing assistance, life skills programmes and other comfort and support. At The Salvation Army we are committed to our mission of caring for people, transforming lives and reforming society by God's power.'

As The Salvation Army in New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga and Samoa continues its vital work, we pray for the territorial leadership team comprising Commissioner Janine Donaldson and Colonel Jennifer Groves.

Quote taken from www.salvationarmy.org.nz/

FRIDAY 2 OCTOBER: GROWING IN FAITH

Ready to Challenge

Father, prepare us and strengthen us to challenge the injustices and oppression that often face the world in which we live. Make our resolve stand like concrete amid these challenges, and equip us to stand strong and firm as your church, speaking truth and living out the gospel we proclaim.

Major Gary Lacey, Assistant Secretary for Spiritual Life Development

SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER: CARE FOR CREATION

Farmers and Farming

Many farmers feel a blend of deep anxiety and bewilderment about the future. The reasons are varied and complex:

- Extreme weather, especially drought and excessive rainfall, resulting in very poor or no harvest, whilst carrying all the costs.
- Economic uncertainty as the emphasis moves towards paying farmers for providing environmental and climate-ready goods and services. The concept is good, and many are embracing regenerative farming systems, but the impact on farm economics, food production and food security is uncertain.
- The food supply chain and the balance of power as supermarket profits increase while farmers struggle.

We pray for comfort for farmers who have lost crops and livestock this year, that God will help them rebuild to a stronger place.

Information taken from the website for the Diocese of York
dioceseofyork.org.uk/praying-for-farming/

OCTOBER

SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER: SABBATH PRAYERS

Homelessness Sunday

As we give thanks for the gift of our homes this Sabbath Sunday, we pray for those who don't have a comfortable place to rest.

Lord Jesus, you came proclaiming good news to the poor, freedom for the oppressed, hope for the forgotten and dignity for the overlooked. Open our eyes to what you see. Open our ears to what you are saying. Open our hearts to those experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity. As we pray, help us to move beyond sympathy into compassion, beyond concern into action, and beyond awareness into faithful response.

Taken from www.salvationist.org.uk/resources/key-dates/homelessness-sunday-resources

MONDAY 5 OCTOBER: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Central, South and Channel Islands Division – Wellness

Today we are holding a Body, Mind and Soul day to encourage spiritual leaders, employees and others to consider how they might care for themselves holistically. Pray that there will be a tangible sense of God's presence, and that those who attend will be encouraged to put into practice all they have learnt.

Major Jane Alton, Divisional Leader

TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER: SERVING AND CARING

Candidates Unit Training (6-8 Oct)

This week we pray for those who support people in the candidates' process, as they gather for training and for an introduction to a new system. Pray for strong discernment practices, robust systems, and skilled mentors to inspire and guide people into spiritual leadership that will make a difference in today's world. Pray that all who attend will be equipped and inspired.

Major Catherine Smith, Territorial Candidates Director

OCTOBER

WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER : JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation (Matthew 5:23-24)

Jesus invites his followers to prioritise relationships over ritual. If we are to experience earth as it is in heaven, reconciliation cannot be an optional extra; it must be part of faithful discipleship. Relational God, help us to value people above performance and love above legalism. Give us courage to seek reconciliation and grace to restore broken relationships.

Hayley Still, UK Engagement Coordinator, Salvation Army International Development

THURSDAY 8 OCTOBER: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY

Ghana Territory

We pray today for the work of The Salvation Army in Ghana and Togo, giving thanks for the faithfulness of God's people in witness, worship and service. We pray particularly for the Army's work with children, that God will use Salvationists to inspire a new generation of Spirit-filled believers across Ghana and Togo. We pray for the territorial leadership: for Colonels Seth and Janet Appeateng and Lieut-Colonel Ireen Hacamba.

Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team

FRIDAY 9 OCTOBER: GROWING IN FAITH

Ready to Hope

Jesus, make us ready to hope. You are the hope of this world. We pray for Salvation Army corps and centres here in the United Kingdom and Ireland, asking you to shower your blessing on us so that we will be ready to reflect your hope into the communities we serve.

Major Gary Lacey, Assistant Secretary for Spiritual Life Development

SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER: CARE FOR CREATION

Farmers as Stewards of Creation

We pray for our farming community: for all who, as stewards of your creation, work so hard to produce our food and care for our precious environment. Father, at this time of turbulence and change, and with the long-term impact of severe weather, there are some who are bewildered as they fear for their future. Guide all who farm to cherish your creation, in their endeavour to produce healthy food. We pray for every farming family as they consider the options available; may each business discern the way forward to a viable and fulfilling future.

Information taken from the website for the Diocese of York
dioceseofyork.org.uk/praying-for-farming/

OCTOBER

SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER: SABBATH PRAYERS

Remembering Homelessness

We make time today to pray for those who don't have the luxury of spending their Sabbath Sunday in comfortable surroundings.

People experiencing homelessness are often spoken about as an issue, a statistic, or a social problem. Yet Jesus always saw people. He saw names. Stories. Dreams. Pain. Potential.

Lord, forgive us when we have looked away. Help us to see every person as made in your image – worthy of dignity, value, belonging and love.

Taken from www.salvationist.org.uk/resources/key-dates/homelessness-sunday-resources

MONDAY 12 OCTOBER: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Central, South and Channel Islands Division – Area Meetings

During October we continue our Area Meetings: an opportunity for people from different corps within a specific area to come together to worship, pray and share fellowship under the theme of Renewal. Pray that these meetings may be a catalyst for people to seek renewal for themselves and their worshipping communities.

Major Jane Alton, Divisional Leader

TUESDAY 13 OCTOBER: SERVING AND CARING

Growing Together

Father God, creator and gardener, we thank you that you have planted us alongside others, that we might grow and flourish together. Show us today who we can bless, whose life we can nourish with kindness and water with compassion. Show us those relationships where we can share our strength and lend our shade.

Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team

OCTOBER

WEDNESDAY 14 OCTOBER : JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

Peacemaking (Matthew 5:9)

Peacemaking is not passive. It requires courage, perseverance and a willingness to step into situations of discomfort and conflict. Jesus calls us to build peace that restores dignity, heals relationships and enables all people to flourish. God of peace, give us courage to be peacemakers in a divided world. Help us to challenge injustice, seek reconciliation and work for the wellbeing of others.

Hayley Still, UK Engagement Coordinator, Salvation Army International Development

THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY

Caribbean Territory

We pray today for the Caribbean Territory, which reaches far and wide across many islands and includes a rich diversity of language and culture. We pray for Salvationists as they embody the love and goodness of God, that many people will find new hope in Jesus as a result of their testimony. We pray for the territorial leadership team, Commissioners Emmanuel and Edeline Supré and Colonels Edward and Jennifer Lyons.

Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team

FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER: GROWING IN FAITH

Ready to be Kind

Lord, thank you for your unrelenting kindness that you lavish on us. Help us, The Salvation Army, to be ready to be kind to the world which so desperately needs you, knowing it will make all the difference in the lives of the people we encounter.

Major Gary Lacey, Assistant Secretary for Spiritual Life Development

OCTOBER

SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER: CARE FOR CREATION

Food supply chains

We pray for policy makers, that they may bring clarity of policy and direction, enabling food security and ecological balance. We give thanks for all involved in the safe production and passage of food, and pray that all, including farmers and growers, will receive a fair reward for their labour. Lord, we pray that we will value and appreciate the sacredness of food, and the graft and commitment involved in bringing it to our table.

Information taken from the website for the Diocese of York
dioceseofyork.org.uk/praying-for-farming/

SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER: SABBATH PRAYERS

Homelessness on Anti-Slavery Day

When we hear the word 'homelessness', we often picture rough sleeping. Yet homelessness can include temporary accommodation, sofa surfing, families living in insecure housing, threatened eviction, unsuitable accommodation, refuge accommodation, hidden homelessness.

As we pray for those who don't have a secure place to live this Sabbath Sunday, particularly those who have been trafficked into our local area, what might God be showing us about the hidden needs in our community?

Taken from www.salvationist.org.uk/resources/key-dates/homelessness-sunday-resources

MONDAY 19 OCTOBER: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

London Division – Leadership

We are thankful for our leaders and all those who are 'stepping up' and 'stepping into' ministry in these days – they are all amazing! As we further consider the leadership resources available to us in the run-up to the officer appointment changes in 2027, we pray for wisdom, discernment and boldness. May God help us see we have everything we need, and open our eyes to fresh insight and opportunities as we continue to resource God's mission across London.

Major Steve White, Divisional Leader

OCTOBER

TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER: SERVING AND CARING

Chaplaincy Conference (20-22 October)

We give thanks for Salvation Army chaplains all over the UK and Ireland, working in prisons, healthcare, schools, businesses and so many other places. We pray for those gathering for the Chaplains Conference this week, that God's presence will renew their lives and that God's faithfulness will strengthen them in their calling. We pray for joyful worship and hope-filled conversations.

Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team

WEDNESDAY 21 OCTOBER : JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

Integrity (Matthew 6:5,16-18)

Jesus repeatedly points to the value of what is unseen. Practices such as prayer and fasting are not performances to impress others, but habits that can shape us from within and help us draw nearer to God. Lord God, nurture in us a faith that is genuine and deep. May we choose kindness, truth and faithfulness, even when no one else is watching.

Hayley Still, UK Engagement Coordinator, Salvation Army International Development

THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY

United Kingdom and Ireland Territory

We give thanks for the people of the worldwide Salvation Army who focus their prayers on the UK and Ireland Territory today. We rejoice in the knowledge that brothers and sisters all over the world are 'holding up [their] arms' (Exodus 17:12-14) as we continue to make Jesus known in the places where God has positioned us. We lean again into the comfort and encouragement that comes from knowing that others have our backs in prayer.

Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team

OCTOBER

FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER: GROWING IN FAITH

Ready to be Courageous

Precious Saviour, help us to be courageous. Your word encourages us to take courage, to be prepared to go into this world with the light of your gospel. We want to be ready to go where your Spirit leads us.

Major Gary Lacey, Assistant Secretary for Spiritual Life Development

SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER: CARE FOR CREATION

Farmers in God's Hands

Loving Father God, we lift up to you at this time all working in our farming communities. Bless them in their endeavours, sustain them in these challenging working conditions, protect them and their animals from harm, and keep them mindful of your love and care, and the care of those around them. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Prayer taken from the Diocese of Bath and Wells website at www.bathandwells.org.uk/news/prayers-for-the-farming-community.php

SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER: SABBATH PRAYERS

Acting on Homelessness

'They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated.' (Isaiah 61:4)

Isaiah does not simply describe charity. He describes restoration. God's people become participants in rebuilding lives, communities and hope.

On this Sabbath Sunday, when so many still don't have a safe place to rest, we ask ourselves, 'What can we help rebuild?'

Lord, where are you already at work? Show us. Where are you inviting us to join you? Lead us. Where you call us, give us courage. Where you challenge us, give us humility. Where you send us, give us love. Help us to recognise your voice and respond with faithfulness.

Taken from www.salvationist.org.uk/resources/key-dates/homelessness-sunday-resources

OCTOBER

MONDAY 26 OCTOBER: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Half-term and Halloween

God of love, we pray for children on half-term this week, for rest and restoration, joy and fun. In this week of Halloween, we pray for churches hosting light parties and other such activities, that those celebrations of your light and goodness will make a tangible difference in the local communities.

Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team

TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER: SERVING AND CARING

London Division – Children and young people

Over the summer we had some fantastic summer school and summer outreach camps, where children and young people had opportunities to worship, learn, grow and build friendships. Those events may feel like a long time ago now, but we continue to pray for the impact they had in the lives of our young people. As they journey through this busy Autumn term of school, college and everyday life, we pray that they will know God is still at work in them. May they know they are valued and welcomed in their corps and communities, and that they truly belong. Let's do all we can to enable them to find their place and their voice in our worshipping communities.

Major Steve White, Divisional Leader

WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER : JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

Empathy (Matthew 7:12)

Jesus summarises the Law and the Prophets with a simple command: treat others as you would wish to be treated. He invites us to see the world through the eyes of others, and to choose to treat all people with kindness, dignity and respect. God of compassion, fill us with empathy for everyone we encounter. May your love shape our thoughts, words and actions in our daily lives.

Hayley Still, UK Engagement Coordinator, Salvation Army International Development

OCTOBER

THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY

India Western Territory

The India Western Territory has as its theme for 2026 the phrase 'Strengthening Foundations, Shaping the Future'. We pray for that visionary declaration: that the good work of many generations will be a solid base of encouragement and reassurance for Salvationists across the territory, and that God's faithful love will inspire them to believe for even more in the future. We pray for the territorial leadership as they champion this vision: for Commissioners John William and Ratna Sundari Polimetla and Lieut-Colonels Shanti and Babu Samraj.

Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team

FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER: GROWING IN FAITH

Ready to go Further and Deeper

Father, we want to be ready to go further and deeper in our relationship with you. Prepare our bodies, our minds and our souls for the ongoing journey of discovery, as we encounter more of you in our lives. Lead us to learn more, to seek more, and to venture more into the unfathomable riches of love that you have for each one of us.

Major Gary Lacey, Assistant Secretary for Spiritual Life Development

SATURDAY 31 OCTOBER: CARE FOR CREATION

Farmers and mental health

Farming is an occupation that already has one of the highest suicide rates. Christian love expressed through unjudgemental listening, pastoral care and warm hospitality can be lifesaving.

God of compassion, we rejoice in the unity that is at the heart of your creation. Look upon those who work with your land. Protect, inspire and strengthen them with your Spirit. As we stand before you in prayer for all who are suffering, grant that your light may shine in their darkness, and that we may bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil your law of love.

Revd Canon Janet Nicholls, Rural Adviser and Agricultural Chaplain in the diocese of Chelmsford
www.chelmsford.anglican.org/about-us/our-faith-in-action/rural-issues/prayers-for-the-farming-community/

Prayer MATTERS