

Birmingham City Centre Prayer Diary 2009



Welcome

This resource is designed to offer a monthly cycle of prayer for those within the city centre.

Covering a wide selection of churches, chaplaincies, ecumenical bodies and other Christian organisations, such groups serving the city centre find themselves included in a cycle of prayer to mark each day of the month. In addition, each day and week bring opportunities to consider situations in the wider world and each offers words to share in solidarity with people across the city uniting our prayers before God.

The prayers are designed for use within an existing cycle of devotions and make great additions to prayers of intercession and thanksgiving. They also work well on their own as self-contained resources. In addition to the daily prayers, the middle of this resource offers a single order of worship which can be combined with those offered for the appropriate day.

About this resource



This resource has been prepared by The Community @ Carrs Lane, a new Christian residential community seeking to serve the city centre, in partnership with Believing in Birmingham, a Christian Partnership in Birmingham City Centre working together in Christian mission, demonstrating Christian unity and helping to shape the city.

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Prayer Structures

Overall Structure

Each day, and week, are given themes to compliment those around them. In addition, a selection of the Christian organisations within Birmingham City Centre are listed to be the focus of devotions.

Prayers

A selection of prayers have been provided, related to each theme which can be used either with the order of prayer or independently. These are designed to be a point of inspiration, offering space for prayers alongside them if you desire. Please feel free to use the resources as you see best. If you are short of time or you would rather not use the written prayers, please do remember those who are listed for that day. For ease of use, their names are listed in bold for each day.

Thank you for incorporating this prayer cycle into your devotional life.

Week 1 — Peace

Ecumenical body **Believing in Birmingham**

Day 1 — Global Peace

Churches: **Welsh Congregationalist Church,
Vineyard Network Church**

Organisation: **Boys Brigade in Birmingham**

Day 2 — Politicians

Church: **Universal Church of the Kingdom of God**

Chaplaincy: **Aston University Ecumenical Chaplaincy**

Day 3 — Diplomats

Church: **Unitarian New Meeting Church**

Organisation: **Carrs Lane Counselling Centre**

Day 4 — Peace Workers

Church: **The Potter's House**

Chaplaincy: **ACU Theatre Chaplaincy**

Day 5 — Armed Forces

Church: **St Philip's Cathedral (Anglican)**

Organisation: **Carrs Lane Fair Trade Shop**

Day 6 — Charities & NGOs

Church: **St. Paul's Church (Anglican)**

Chaplaincy: **Birmingham Children's Hospital Chaplaincy**

Day 7 — Local Peace

Church: **St. Michael's Church (Roman Catholic)**

Organisation: **Christian Aid**

Week 2 — Hope

Ecumenical body **Birmingham Churches Together**

Day 8 — Children & Young People

Churches: **St Martin's in the Bullring** (Anglican)
 St Luke's Church Centre (Anglican)

Organisation: **CLC Bookshop**

Day 9 — Older People

Church: **St John and St Peter, Ladywood** (Anglican)

Chaplaincy: ***Birmingham City University Chaplaincy***

Day 10 — Teachers, Lecturers and Academics

Church: **St George, Newtown** (Anglican)

Organisation: **The Community@Carrs Lane**

Day 11 — Social Workers

Church: **St Chad's Cathedral** (Roman Catholic)

Chaplaincy: **Chaplaincy to the Bullring Markets**

Day 12 — City Centre Communities

Church: **St Catherine of Siena** (Roman Catholic)

Organisation: **Cornerstone**

Day 13 — Church & Community Workers

Church: **Salvation Army Citadel**

Chaplaincy: **ChaplaincyPlus**

Day 14 — Police & Judiciary

Church: ***Salem Strict and Particular Baptist Chapel***

Organisation: **The Gift Centre**

Week 3 — Justice

Ecumenical body **Churches Industrial Group Birmingham**

Day 15 — Ecumenism

Churches: *Polish Lutheran Church*
Oasis Church Centre

Organisation: **Polish Catholic Centre**

Day 16 — Interfaith

Church: **Methodist Central Mission, Birmingham**

Chaplaincy: **Chaplain to the Law Courts**

Day 17 — Diversity

Church: **Lighthouse United**

Organisation: **SIFA Fireside**

Day 18 — For the Unseen Communities

Church: **Journey Metropolitan Community Church**

Chaplaincy: **Methodist Industrial Chaplain & Chaplain to
the NEC Group**

Day 19 — Migration

Church: **House of Excellence Ministries**

Organisation: **St Martin's Centre for Health and Healing**

Day 20 — Victims & Perpetrators of Crime

Church: **Father Heart Centre**

Chaplaincy: **Chaplain to the Railways**

Day 21— Mutual sharing & growing in understanding

Church: **Covenant Restoration Assembly Birmingham**

Organisation: **St Paul's Bookshop**

Week 4 — Love

Ecumenical body *Council of Black-Led Churches*

Day 22 — Families

Churches: **Church Central**
Celestial Church of Christ

Organisation: **Student Christian Movement**

Day 23 — Friends

Church: **Carrs Lane Church Centre (URC)**

Chaplaincy: **Retail Chaplain**

Day 24 — Care Workers & Carers

Church: **Bull Street Society of Friends**

Organisation: **Tea Lounge and Church Shop**

Day 25 — Medical Professionals

Church: **Birmingham Christian Centre (Elim)**

Chaplaincy: **Chaplain to the Town Hall & Symphony Hall**

Day 26 — Volunteers

Church: **Birmingham Chinese Methodist Church**

Organisation: **Vision Gospel Media**

Day 27 — Co-workers, group and club members

Church: **Birmingham Chinese Evangelical Church**

Chaplaincy: **Chaplain to West Midlands Fire Service**

Day 28 — Business & Financial Communities

Church: **Bethel Presbyterian Church of Wales**

Organisation: **Wesley Owen**

Week 5 — Unity

Ecumenical body *Churches Together in England*
Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

Days 29-31 — Visitors to the City Centre

Churches: **Betel of Britain** (Church and Charity Shop)
B1 Breathe (Anglican)

Chaplaincy: **Chaplaincy to the West Midlands Police**

Organisation: **World Prayer Centre**

Daily Prayer

Gathering Prayer

As we come to prayer
we set aside our concerns
knowing they are shared with God.
As we come to meet with Christ
we set aside our wants
knowing we are here to serve God.
As we come to worship
we come honestly and faithfully
knowing God's eternal love for us.
Let us come to meet, pray and worship
in Jesus' name.
Amen.

Prayer of Adoration – Psalm 138

O Lord Your Love Endures Forever
I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing
your praise;
I bow down towards your holy temple and give thanks to your name
for your steadfast love and your faithfulness;
for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.
On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of
soul.

O Lord Your Love Endures Forever
All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,
for they have heard the words of your mouth.
They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the
Lord.
For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly; but the haughty he
perceives from far away.

O Lord Your Love Endures Forever
Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the
wrath of my enemies;
you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.
The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord,

endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.
O Lord your love endures forever.

Prayer of Confession

For the times we see people
and avert our eyes
Lord forgive us.
For the aspects of the city, and world, we ignore
and do not love
Lord forgive us.
For those situations which challenge us
and we walk away
Lord forgive us.
In times of trial, in communities of difference,
in uncertainty and fear
forgive us our apathy, our inaction, our misguided service and our
confusion
Lord forgive us.
Jesus promises forgiveness to all who repent.
In that forgiveness we find our hope and life and love.
Amen.

Bible Readings

Listen of the Word of God in the readings from:
(please select passages from scripture)

Time for Quiet Reflection

(Spend a short time reflecting on the readings or explore a short meditation)

Prayers of Intercession

(Please select from the options)

Lord's Prayer

Blessing

May God transform us to love humbly
May Jesus teach us to love selflessly
May the Spirit enable us to love universally.

General Prayers

Unifying God,

We bring to you our concerns:

In a time of economic uncertainty

Where the effects on those we know are increasingly visible
and the magnitude remains unknowable throughout your world;

May your love and wisdom be known.

In a time where the news is filled with war and violence
and the differences within our own communities can lead to fear.

We think of those (*insert appropriate theme for day*);

May your wisdom and understanding be known.

In communities which vary beyond recognition throughout Birmingham
we pray for those seeking to follow your commandments
and work each day to serve you.

We think of (*insert churches and groups from appropriate day*);

May your understanding and many blessings be known.

We pray too for the concerns of our hearts and minds,
and draw them to mind.

(*silence*)

May your blessings and love be known.

We ask these things through Jesus
who makes all things possible.

Amen.

Father God, we pray for the world

We pray for an end to violence and religious tensions, especially...

We ask for sensitivity in confrontational situations we're aware of, and
in a moment of quiet think of them...

Give wisdom to the diplomats and world leaders to prevent further
bloodshed and find a peaceful solution for the future.

We think particularly of (*insert daily theme*) and ask your will become clear in this situation.

God, dispel the darkness of our minds
and lead us gently to the truth of your presence, and of our own, in all
the people we encounter,
so that we can see our lives as a gift given that others may live,
especially the hungry and destitute.

We pray for the church.

We pray for those involved in the fair trade movement, especially in the
churches.

May their work increase understanding
and lead to fair conditions of trade and employment for all.

Bless all the organisations associated with this community, and we think
particularly of (*insert appropriate groups and churches*).

Father, we ask for guidance and support for all those in leadership
roles,
and all who worship in this city.

God, you hold all things and all people in unity.

Enlighten our minds and hearts so that we may recognise this unity and
respect in the wonderful variety of your creation.

We pray for ourselves as individuals.

That we may serve you, God, and one another according to our talents.
May we be a light to the world.

Spirit of God, hover over my chaos and over the pain and tears of the
world.

Bring light to my darkness;
so that I may become a channel of your goodness.

Amen.

For the concerns of the world:

for war and violence

for injustice and persecution

for poverty and famine

we ask the light of God to shine and transform them.

For the concerns of our own country:

for those whose lives pass unnoticed

for those whose lives are filled with uncertainty

for those away from friends and family

we ask the light of God to shine and transform them.

For the concerns of Birmingham, our home:

for community groups

for the churches and their networks

for those we focus on today: (*insert theme, churches & groups*)

we ask the light of God to shine and transform them.

For our own concerns:

for our friends and family

for those we know who are ill or distressed

for ourselves

we ask the light of God to shine and transform us.

In the will and grace of God we hope and pray.

Amen.

God of Adam and Eve

We think of all those in partnerships.

Strengthen and sustain them through the trials and the good times.

God of Noah

we think of those who are working against the tides.

In the face of derision and mockery, remind them that they are doing the right thing.

God of Abraham and Sarah

we think of those who are reaching the challenges of old age.
May they remain fully involved and respected in their communities.

God of Rachel and Leah, of David and Jonathan

we think of our own families and families
in a time of quiet, we bring to you our own private prayers.

(Silence)

God of Balaam

we think of times when listening to you seems absurd
Help us to have faith in you that even the absurd is possible.

God of Samson

we remember all those who are imprisoned and tortured.
Bring them the strength to hold on and keep faithful to the promise of
release.

God of Moses and Miriam

we think of refugees and asylum seekers
Welcome them into your community and help us to do the same.

God of Joshua

we think of all those involved in wars – the military and the civilians.
Bring them hope and peace.

God of Paul and Ananias

we think of all those who persecute and suffer persecution for their
faith.

May they come to peace and reconciliation.

God of Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman

we think of the diversity of your creation in this community
and pray particularly for *(insert daily theme, church and groups)*

God of Mark and John

we think of the people involved in trying to understand and interpret

your message for future generations.
May your Spirit guide and steer them.

God revealed in the Bible
as our stories mingle with those recorded in the books we treasure,
we bring our prayers to you in the name of Jesus.
Amen

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Jesus taught us to stand our ground in the face of injustice.
Lord, help us to stand alongside you;
strengthen and refresh us.

Jesus taught us to work for peace.
Lord, help us to move from violence and disharmony
wherever it may be found.

Jesus taught us to seek healing through God's grace.
Lord, we bring to you the concerns known to us
and place them in your loving embrace.

Jesus taught us to listen and share our faith gently.
Lord, help us to be open, impassioned, faithful and patient.
Enable us to listen and grow through sharing together.

Jesus taught us to be aware of those around us
and to look beyond the first impressions.
Lord, help us to serve but remain humble within our own communities.
We ask your blessings on *(insert themes, churches and groups)*
and ask your continued presence with them.

Jesus taught us to come to God in prayer.
Asking God's continuing grace on ourselves
and all for whom we pray
we share in the words Jesus taught us saying;
(Lord's Prayer)
Amen.