



# PRAYING ALWAYS

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MET's Prayer Secretary*

As we look around the world and see all that is happening - wars, displaced people, many natural disasters - it is easy to feel despair. We are surrounded by doom and gloom. The Bible tells us that these things must happen in the last days (Matthew 24:6-8). I believe God's hand is on all that is happening, and his purposes are slowly being worked out. I feel God is telling us to look beyond these events and to keep our eyes fixed on him. He is our light and strength in these dark times. We are in dark and difficult days, but

keeping our eyes fixed on God will lift our spirits and help us to rise above the despair the world is facing. God is stronger than anything that might come our way. It is his light and strength that will carry us through. We need to keep praying more than ever. Draw close to God and he will come close to you (James 4:8).

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## WEEK 1 | THE CHURCH

- 1. Repentance:** of moving away from Biblical holiness; not being prayer centred; failure to listen for God's voice; not waiting on God; denying the power of the Holy Spirit (John 16:8 & 13; 1 John 1:9).
- 2. Church Leaders:** the President and Vice-President of Conference, Sonia Hicks and Barbara Easton; Chairs of District, Superintendents, Presbyters, Deacons and Lay Workers; Local Preachers and leaders of worship (Proverbs 16:3; Phillipians 4:6-7).
- 3. Scriptural Holiness:** a return to Scriptural holiness; a renewed passion for preaching the gospel; for the centrality of prayer; a longing for the power of the Holy Spirit (John 16:13; James 1:5-8).
- 4. The work of MET:** for the 3R's: rediscovering the Wesleyan vision, renewing the Wesleyan mission and releasing a new generation of Wesleyan leaders; moving forward into the future; for David Hull as Chair; Derek Balsdon as Development Worker; the trustees and the executive (Joshua 1:6-9; Hebrews 13:20-21).
- 5. Mission and Vision:** a dynamic, renewed vision and boldness for reaching out to communities; strategies based on biblical teaching; the power of the Holy Spirit to transform all forms of outreach; God's power to fall on us, bringing about revival (Acts 1:8; Romans 10:13-15).
- 6. Cliff College:** Ashley Cooper as Principal, and the staff team; scriptural authority to be upheld; students to grow in Biblical faith; good opportunities to put their learning into practice (Isaiah 43:1-3; Psalm 127:1).
- 7. Children and Young people:** Nathan Veall and his work with the rising generation; the initiative of WHOTWAY; all who work with children and young people; clear biblical teaching; inspiration and guidance through the Holy Spirit; protection from erroneous teaching and false doctrine (Proverbs 2:6-8; Titus 2:6-7).



## WEEK 2 | GREAT BRITAIN

- 1. Her Majesty, the Queen:** give thanks for her faith, commitment, and service to the country; pray for her Platinum Jubilee celebrations; for health, protection, and for other members of the Royal family (Psalm 16:1-2 & 7-8; 1 Timothy 2:1-4).
- 2. Covid Pandemic:** give thanks for the advances made in stemming the virus; continuing protection, particularly against further variants; those suffering from long-Covid; mental health issues (Isaiah 40:28-31; Philippians 4:13).
- 3. NHS & Social Care:** NHS staff; the back log of patients awaiting other treatments; mental health issues, especially children; adequate funding and staffing levels in both care homes and hospitals; people needing care packages (Psalm 23; 1 Peter 5:7).
- 4. The Government:** wisdom and integrity for the Prime Minister and all members of the Cabinet; justice in all policies put forward; an encounter with God and a returning to our Christian heritage (Zechariah 7:8-10; Psalm 127:1).
- 5. Revival:** a realisation that God alone has the answers to the complex issues facing our country; for the Holy Spirit to fall on us, bringing conviction of sin, repentance, and a transformation of lives (1 John 1:9; James 4:7-10).
- 6. Rising poverty:** food banks; inflation, particularly fuel prices; the homeless and the need for affordable housing and rental properties; the many struggling to make ends meet; the marginalised and vulnerable (1 John 3:17-18; Deuteronomy 15:10-11).
- 7. Gangs, knife crime and County Lines:** youngsters caught up in gang culture and the related problems of knife crime and drug abuse; those trapped in County Lines; justice; the perpetrators; the police dealing with these issues (Psalm 27:1-2 & 11-14; Psalm 107:13-14).



## WEEK 3 | WORLD ISSUES

- 1. Ukraine:** a stop to any continuing conflict; refugees; support to re-build broken lives; re-building the country – homes, public buildings, infrastructure; medical resources including mental health facilities; support for those countries coping with refugees (Psalm 55:16-19; Isaiah 41:10-11).
- 2. The Persecuted Church:** Afghanistan and other Islamic controlled countries; basic human rights to be upheld; justice and fair treatment, especially for women; other countries around the world where Christianity is suppressed; release of those in detention; strength and resilience for those suffering (Psalm 145:17-20; 2 Thessalonians 3:2-4).
- 3. World poverty:** people living in poverty across the globe; finance from governmental bodies to tackle these issues; provision for those facing starvation; adequate sanitation and housing; health care (James 2:5; Psalm 140:12).
- 4. War-torn areas of the world:** those who have lost everything; refugee camps, especially Yemen and Syria; compassion amongst the richer nations to offer sanctuary; adequate aid where there is famine and disease; justice and relief for the helpless (Psalm 121; Proverbs 14:31).
- 5. Relief and aid agencies:** rich nations to support poorer nations; charities supporting the oppressed; access to those who need aid the most; adequate funding to be made available (Luke 12:33-34; Isaiah 58:10).
- 6. Those living under repressive regimes:** nations where there is no democracy, particularly Hong Kong, China, Russia, Myanmar, Belarus and North Korea; those detained for speaking out; exposure of injustices; governments to take action (Psalm 9:9-10; Amos 5:24).
- 7. Natural disasters:** those across the world who have experienced earthquakes, fires, floods, storms, and drought; financial and mental health support; aid agencies working to alleviate the suffering; finance to re-build infrastructure, particularly in poorer nations (Philippians 4:18; Romans 12:12-13).



## WEEK 4 | CLIMATE CHANGE

- 1. Repentance:** forgiveness for our abuse of the planet; our ravaging of its resources; destruction of its eco-systems; pollution of the land and sea, causing reduction in biodiversity (Isaiah 24:4-6; Revelation 4:11).
- 2. COP26 agreements:** for nations to commit to the pledges made; reduction in carbon emissions; protection of communities and natural habitats; commitment to release finance to poorer nations; collaboration and the working together to bring meaningful change (Romans 15:5; 1 Peter 3:8-9).
- 3. Carbon emissions:** an urgency among governments to act collaboratively; new technologies to reduce these emissions; financial guarantees from wealthier nations to enable poorer nations to make greener and more sustainable choices (Jeremiah 2:7).
- 4. Rising sea levels:** those living in low lying coastal regions; sufficient aid for those affected; climate refugees (Psalm 82:3-4).
- 5. Illegal logging:** financial help to tackle the problem; perpetrators to be brought to justice; prevention of loss of habitats and the extinction of wildlife, adding to the problem of increased carbon emissions and rising sea levels (Psalm 136:1 & 4-9).
- 6. Plastics:** commitment worldwide to reduce, even eliminate all plastics; for environmentally friendly materials to be found; for 'political will' around the world to bring in legislation and funding to enable this to happen; the clearing up of polluted habitats (Galatians 6:2).
- 7. Changing weather patterns:** areas where there is hardship owing to natural disasters; new strains of crops to stand extremes of weather; farmers coping with these extremes of weather. Cry to the Lord for mercy (2 Chronicles 7:14).