

Prayer Diary

June • August 2020

friends
INTERNATIONAL



Fourteen weeks of prayer points



Thank you for your continued prayers
and support for international students.

Online Ministry Across the Country



Week 1
1st June

York

At the end of April Helen Callow retired and Rebecca Smith became the new Centre Team Leader in York. Praise God for the faithful service of Helen and please pray for Rebecca as she takes on the exciting work in the city. Pray that, as she enters the work at such a turbulent time for everyone, she would be able to settle in quickly.

Week 2
8th June

Manchester

We have new opportunities here in Manchester to reach internationals, for which we thank God. A new Chinese Christian invited their friends from their WeChat group to our new online lunchtime café. We have about 30 people each week and most stay on for a beginners' Bible study. Please pray that we would do well to support these students and to share the truth with them. – Sabine Stockton, Manchester Centre Team Leader

Week 3
15th June

Aberdeen

Please pray that God would continue to reach international students, and to use us and our programmes. In this era of Zoom, we have seen growth in many of our events. We have also seen a steady attendance and growth at a new programme: Library Hours. Praise God for what He has been doing and what He has in store for us and the students with whom we interact. – Bethany Marsh, Aberdeen Centre Team Leader

Week 4
22nd June

Guildford

Please pray for our Guildford team as they experiment with new ways to engage with international students, specifically using digital tools. We thank God for Joe Burrows who joined the team in April, and for the new ideas he is introducing. Pray also for Lilli Jones as she leads the team in Guildford and plans for the next academic year.

Week 5
29th June

Bournemouth

Usually, Bournemouth buzzes with 60,000 international students all year round; but now it is very hard to know how many of them are still here. However, the current situation doesn't stop us from caring and sharing Christ's love with them. We are doing daily Zoom activities for the students and more Bible studies than before the lockdown! Please pray specifically for the Muslim background students we are connecting with, that they will trust in Him alone. – Antoine Thenin, Bournemouth Centre Team Leader



Online Ministry Across the Country

Week 6
6th July

Birmingham

Praise God for the increased numbers who have joined (virtual) Bible studies during lockdown. Pray for them to come through to faith. Our plans for three new outreaches, including a Globe Café to reach the city centre universities, are currently in limbo: please pray for God to open doors as the restrictions ease.

Pray also for our new US team member Abigail who has had a challenging start to ministry since she joined us in February.

– Mike Hill, Birmingham Centre Team Leader

Week 7
13th July

Sheffield

Praise the Lord that, even during this very difficult period, He is still in control. In Sheffield, our discipleship group is running very well, and we have increased the frequency of meetings. Pray for the wisdom needed to run these meetings. We also send online Sunday services to students. Some of them have given very positive feedback. Pray for them to keep watching and responding to those messages.

– Caleb Chen, Sheffield Staff Worker

Week 8
20th July

Cardiff

Please pray for our international 'Open House', at Heath Church in Cardiff. Pray that the weekly Bible studies over Zoom will continue and that the 'Seed will fall on good ground'. We are grateful and delighted that some of the students are still able to join the studies having returned home. Please pray that they will continue to have the desire to maintain contact, study His word and be saved.

– Levon Chorbaïjian, Affiliate

Week 9
27th July

Norwich

Please pray for our International Café. One of the Chinese students attending had started to come along to a Bible Study and was really close to coming to faith just before the lockdown. Please pray that we would be able to keep in touch with her and continue pointing her to Jesus. Please also pray as we prepare to welcome new students to Norwich, pray for strategies to reach out to them and show them Christ's love.

– Julia Trarbach, Norwich Staff Worker



Uncertainty and Disruption

Week 10
3rd August

Reach Trainees

Praise God for the creativity and energy of the Reach Trainees! They have made a fantastic contribution to the ministry going online and have found many new opportunities to talk about Jesus and read the Bible with students. Pray for these times to bear fruit. Pray for the Reach Trainees as they consider their future in these uncertain times. – Jenny Brown, Reach Coordinator

Week 13
24th August

Future Provision

For many charities and businesses in the UK the economic impact of the coronavirus will take its toll. We are thankful for the generous ongoing support of so many individuals and churches. Please pray that we would continue to trust in God as provider and look to Him for all our needs. Pray that financial restraints would not hinder the expansion plans of the work or our ability to reach international students.

Week 11
10th August

Summer Teams

At this time of year, we would usually have multiple Summer Teams active across the UK and Ireland. Unfortunately, due to Coronavirus, our Summer Teams have been either cancelled or scaled back significantly. Please remember in your prayers the teams that are still attempting outreach events or training. Though these will be smaller, we pray that God would use them for His purposes.

Week 14
31st August

Future Uncertainty

Due to the global pandemic international travel has been dramatically restricted, which impacts movement of students to universities in other countries. Come early Autumn, when universities start again, we will see the true impact of this. Pray that, however many students arrive in the UK, Christians would passionately welcome and befriend these international visitors.

Week 12
17th August

Pre-sessional Students

Usually, every summer, thousands of international students arrive in the UK to learn English and for pre-university courses. However, the expectation is that there will be significantly fewer of these students arriving in the UK this year. Pray that despite this, we would still be able to connect and reach out to language students and those on pre-sessional courses.

friends
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