



# WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

A women-led, global, ecumenical movement



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR ENGLAND, WALES AND NORTHERN IRELAND  
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## **A Letter from the Chairperson of the National Committee, World Day of Prayer**

Dear Sister in Christ

This is a long letter but I hope that you will be able to find the time to read it carefully and prayerfully and to share it with the members of your local branch committee.

First of all, on behalf of the National Committee, I thank you for all you do to keep this wonderful movement alive in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

As you will see, I am writing this letter on notepaper with our new heading. This gives a clear indication of who we are and what we are about: -

- WDP is ecumenical: the largest ecumenical movement in the world, the only one supported by Catholic and Protestant, Orthodox and Evangelical churches.
- WDP is global: alive and well in more than 120 countries worldwide
- WDP is women-led: no longer 'Women's' i.e. belonging to women, in the same way as a church's Women's Fellowship or Women's Own magazine, but instead belonging to everyone – but led by women, women's gift to the whole Church. As someone said to me recently, "We men will no longer feel unwanted!"
- But, above all, WDP is a prayer movement, a group of people for whom prayer is fundamentally important and who know that prayer changes things.  
There is no need to ask why we pray!

Our second Y-Pray? Conference was highly successful. The only disappointment was the relatively small number of women who attended. However, those who did come felt that the weekend was very worthwhile and are urging us to hold another get-together sooner rather than later.

The idea of a global day of prayer is one that appeals to and inspires people of all ages. They want to be involved. We need to do all we can to encourage them – even if this means changing what we have done for years. WDP is not our personal property; it belongs to all who believe in the power of prayer. So, if someone new expresses an interest in being involved in WDP in your area, please welcome them and seize the opportunity to do things a little differently.

Many of you tell us that the WDP services are becoming stale and too predictable. We on the National Committee do not disagree with you and, when we receive the new service each year we do try and inject some originality, although there are limits to what we can do without changing what the women of the writing country wish to say.

As many of you already know, England, Wales & Northern Ireland has accepted the invitation to help write the service for 2022. We have put together a writing group and the process will begin later this year. We will do our best to inject some new thinking into the process – if the International Executive will allow this!

And so we move from Suriname to Slovenia, a very different country with a very different message. This service reminds us that God's invitation is for all, whatever their race, religion, gender, sexuality, age or handicap. God turns no-one away – and nor should we!

Every blessing

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth".

Elizabeth Burroughs  
Chairperson  
World Day of Prayer, England, Wales & N Ireland.

PS Don't forget to share this letter with the other members of your local branch committee.