



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

Thank you for all you do to keep this wonderful movement alive in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The 2020 Service

I hope you will enjoy preparing for the service written by the Christian women of Zimbabwe, which is a bit different - as you will soon discover. Note that there are three parts for girls: a great opportunity to involve a local school or to hold your service at a slightly different time (how about 5pm with tea or sherry afterwards?). I don't think you need me to tell you that, if you involve children, you get parents at the service as well!

During the service, all those present will be invited to make a commitment to support their local community with actions of love, peace, and reconciliation. We have invited people to make promises before but have never followed them up. However, a commitment that is made and then forgotten about is not a commitment: in order for commitments to become prayerful actions, they need to be prayed over, discussed and then – carried out. So, we are asking all branches to set a date a week or two after the service when all present can get together to pray about the commitments made and to talk about how they can be transformed into prayerful actions. We suggest that you give out invitations at the end of the service. And please do tell us about your commitments and prayerful actions and the outcomes.

Your Service Details

Every year, more and more people go to our website to find out where and when their local service is. Last year, the staff in the WDP Office posted all the service information they received from your report order forms onto the website for you. The map on the website was covered in pins, showing the site of each service – and very impressive it looked!

All branches were asked to check that the details for their service were correct and to change them if necessary. Unfortunately, some branches did not do this – which caused one of our Committee members to make a wasted journey. Having attended her local service in the morning, she thought it would be a nice idea to travel to the next town to support their evening service which was advertised on the website. When she arrived at the church, she discovered that the service time had been changed to the morning - but no-one had thought to alter the entry on the website!

Time permitting, the staff are going to do the same again this year: put all the information you have sent them onto the website. This is a time-consuming job, but we are sure that it is worth doing as it encourages more people to attend our services. But the information needs to be correct and in this we do need your help. So, if you are unable to go onto our website yourself, please find someone who can do this and get them to check the information on it for you.

Preparation Days

May I encourage you to go to one of our Preparation Days and to take some of your committee with you? These events are well worth attending and offer a great opportunity to share ideas. This year, there will be an opportunity at some Preparation Days to meet some of the people who have helped to write the 2022 service.

There is a list of the places where Preparation Days are to be held in the Together in Prayer magazine; full details are available on the website.

Y-Pray?

Our third Y-Pray? Conference was the best yet. Next year's will be held over the first weekend of May – from Friday evening 1st May to Sunday 3rd May – at King's Park. Numbers are limited but you may, if you wish, pay a deposit to book a place now. Full details are on our website.

2022 Service

And finally, the Writing Group for the 2022 service has completed its work and we shall shortly be sending the fruits of their labours to the International Executive Committee for their comments. When you see it, in two years' time, I think you will be very pleased with what they have prepared.

Once again, thank you for all you do to keep this wonderful movement alive. I pray that together we can help it to continue to thrive in our three countries for many, many years to come.

Every blessing



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