

Arrangements for the Day of Prayer 2021

Some Questions and Answers – updated 28 January 2021

Why can't you cancel the service this year?

Because this is not within our power.

It is the WORLD DAY of PRAYER and as much a fixed event in the world church calendar as the Week of Prayer for Christians Unity, which has also not been cancelled.

The England, Wales & Northern Ireland Committee is just one of 120+ national committees. In many countries churches are open. Where they are not, groups are preparing to worship in other ways – as we are.

How can we hold a service this year?

Please try to arrange something if you can. World Day of Prayer is unique in that it is a world event which is also a local event: it is one of the special days when people from all the denominations in one area come to worship together. In some areas, it is sadly the only ecumenical event that happens,

Whatever you decide to do, it will certainly be different from previous years and some branches are relishing the challenge to be innovative.

Here are some ideas: -

1. Hold a service on the day via the internet:

The easiest way is via Zoom: all branches will shortly be receiving a letter from the National Chairperson together with a guide to organising a service via Zoom

If you are in touch with a church that is livestreaming services or using YouTube or Facebook, go to them for help.

2. Delay the service until later in the year: this could be in a church or out of doors. Consider doing 3 or 4 or 5 (below) on the actual day as well.
3. If you cannot arrange a service for your area, you will be able to tune in to any of a number of services all round the country that are being livestreamed or posted on YouTube or Facebook. A list of these will appear on the website shortly.
4. There will also be an international service: a link to this will appear on the website.

5. If some of those who normally take part cannot access the internet, it would be wonderful if you could think of a way of getting the service books distributed. This does not have to be done by one person.

You could then arrange for everyone to read through the service at home at the same time – perhaps the time when your service would have been held.

If the booklets are delivered several days in advance, there should be no concerns about contamination.

What is the National Committee doing to help us?

1. **For this year only**, a basic PowerPoint presentation will be available for you to tailor to your needs. The office will send this to you on request. Note that some of the hymns are not included: this is because the National Committee's permission to use these covers only printing them in the Order of Service. We cannot apply for blanket permission for projection onto screens; individual churches have to do this. The church responsible for organising the service should have a CCL, which will cover all the songs in the service bar one.
2. A custom-made recording of all the music in the service will also be available on request. Please note that we are unable to apply for a blanket performance licence for all services – the rules simply don't allow this. However, you will be able to use the church's performance licence

A warning: the hymn *Yahweh, you are my strength* requires a One License (it used to be called a Calamus Licence). Many churches already have this licence as it covers a number of hymns. This is the advice we have received from the One License Church Support Group:

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Regarding your enquiry I would suggest your branches take out a Single use or an Event License. For the Single use License the video can only stay on line for 24 hours. The Event license can stay on line for 1 week only.

If you do not have the correct licence or are unsure about this, we suggest that you omit this hymn.

3. A list of services that are being livestreamed or available via YouTube or Facebook will appear on the website. There will also be a link to an international service arranged by the International Committee and the Christian women of Vanuatu
4. Our staff are happy to offer advice to individual branches by telephone and e-mail. Please note that, because of the lockdown, our staff are working partly from home

so the telephone may not be manned all the time. Also, we are getting a lot of enquiries so may not be able to respond as quickly as usual.

What can we do to help?

1. Please make sure that the details about your service are on the website and are correct.
2. If you are livestreaming or putting your service on Facebook or YouTube and are willing to share it with others, please let the office have all the relevant details so that we can compile a list.
3. **However you decide to hold your service, please encourage people to give their offering. The Day of Prayer is virtually our only source of income.** If you cannot hold a collection or persuade local churches to give a donation, then encourage people to give donations individually: -by post, online via our website or by text
 - a. By cheque, made payable to WDP, sent to WDP, Commercial Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2RR
 - b. By online donation via the WDP website – www.wwdp.org.uk – minimum £10
 - c. By TEXT message from your mobile phone. TEXT 2021WDP 5 to 70085 to donate £5. *Any amount can be donated up to £40 just add the sum after 2021WDP and your text will cost the amount plus one standard rate message.*
 - d. By cash to the branch secretary

If you are a tax payer, please don't forget Gift Aid

Thank you to everybody who has contributed ideas and suggestions, which have been incorporated into these pages.