

June 2020 prayer diary

Sunday and midweek talks continue to happen online, with discussion groups meeting virtually afterwards. Training sessions for Associates, Cornhill and Oak Hill students are also online.

MONDAY 1 JUNE

- Give thanks for a great virtual RML Overview weekend last month. Pray that people will be meditating on the wonderful new creation and desiring to live radical lives for Jesus now.
- Give thanks for a really good long weekend with the church family last month. Pray that many will be encouraged to carry on reading Revelation as a result. Pray we will be equipped and encouraged to stay in the battle, and to call others to worship the Lamb.
- Please pray that many City partners will join in a special prayer meeting this evening asking for the Lord's direction on the shape of the City ministry going forward.

TUESDAY 2 JUNE

- Pray for St Helen's (William on Colossians 2:8-15), London Bridge (Chris on John 18:1-11) and Aldersgate (Phil on John 6:52-71) lunchtime meetings.
- Pray for ongoing conversations with those who tuned in to the Week of Talks. Pray that many who heard will be drawn to find out more about the Lord Jesus and take steps to do that.
- Give thanks for a fun and joyful time looking at Psalm 23 in the children's sessions of the virtual long weekend away.
- Give thanks for recent time in 1 Corinthians 11-14 for Central Focus. Pray that each member will continue to use their gifts to love and build up the body.

WEDNESDAY 3 JUNE

- Henry is speaking for a Christ Church Durham guest event for Mandarin-speakers.
- Pray for the Fleet Street (Chris on John 18:1-11), North Bishopsgate (Adriel on Col 2:8-15), Paddington (Paul Rajkumar on 2 Thess 2) and Moorgate (Phil Martin on John 6:52-71) lunchtime meetings.
- Give thanks for members of IGG Overview growing in knowledge of God and appreciation of the centrality of Jesus. Pray that the outcome will be lives of humble worship.
- Pray for Joelle in Cambodia. Although restrictions due to COVID-19 are being lifted it is currently unclear whether she can resume her ministry in the villages. Pray for clarity, wisdom and protection as Joelle takes some tentative steps towards getting ministry rolling again.

THURSDAY 4 JUNE

- Give thanks for our churchwardens, who are meeting this morning. Pray they will be men of prayer, particularly as they consider the implications for the ministry at St Helen's of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Pray for St Nick's (Chris on John 18:1-11) and Covent Garden (Joel on Eph 3:1-13) lunchtime meetings.
- Pray that the work of proclamation will continue for City workers who are separated from colleagues due to COVID-19 restrictions.

FRIDAY 5 JUNE

- Today and tomorrow St Helen's students will gather online for a series of talks on Ezra and some fun together. Pray this will lead to a bigger perspective, not just focusing on the end of lockdown, but living in the light of Jesus' return.
- William is speaking at an online evangelistic event this lunchtime, organised by Christians at a pension firm in the City .
- Bridge(11-14s) starts a new series this evening looking at how Bible truths have impacted particular individuals. Pray the series will leave the young people excited to live out Truth too.

SATURDAY 6 JUNE

- Pray for those in the church family not able to access talks and groups online. Pray they will stay walking closely with the Lord, and that the wider church family will be faithful in staying in touch in other ways.
- Pray for 20-30 Chinese friends who have attended a Mark Bible study for seekers over the last few months. Pray that many will prove to be good soil, and so yield a great harvest.
- Pray for the London Gospel Partnership's committee as they seek to plan how best to serve London churches this coming year.

SUNDAY 7 JUNE

- Pray for the 10.30am (Luke on Ezekiel 36:21-38), 4pm and 6pm (William on Eph 6:10-24) and the 2.30pm Mandarin-speaking (John on Isaiah 44:24-48:22) meetings.
- Pray that the current series in Isaiah at the 2.30pm will cause them to have their strength renewed to wait with greater confidence for the LORD to bring us to the new creation; a bigger view of God's supremacy; and a deeper appreciation of God's Servant.
- Pray for the ongoing spiritual growth and perseverance of parents at St Helen's during this time, and pray for our Sunday School leaders as they seek to encourage them in the sacred trust of bringing up their children in the fear and knowledge of the LORD.

MONDAY 8 JUNE

- Pray for Rob Scott and his team as they seek to devise new videos and ways of lovingly witnessing to Sylheti people using digital media in this lockdown time.
- Pray for Helen, currently in the UK. Pray that time spent on a course on 'resilience' will be useful for the long term, and that she can think through practically what changes she could / should make on her return to Central Asia.
- Our Church Council meets this evening for the last time before the summer break. Pray for wise discussion and decisions about how as church family we serve and encourage one another in Christ over the summer.

TUESDAY 9 JUNE

- Pray for the St Helen's (William on Colossians 2:16-23), London Bridge (Chris on John 18:12-27) and Aldersgate (Simon on Luke 10:38-42) lunchtime meetings.
- Pray for our Student Team as they spend time this month reflecting on and planning how to serve London students who may not be in the city physically in September.
- Give thanks for the tireless service of all our small group leaders. Pray that the Lord will sustain them, particularly as many have increased responsibilities at home and at work.

WEDNESDAY 10 JUNE

- Pray for the Fleet Street (Chris on John 18:12-27), North Bishopsgate (William on Col 2:16-23), Paddington (Paul Rajkumar on 2 Thess 3) and Moorgate (Brian Brown on Acts 17:16-21) lunchtime meetings.
- Pray for our Team Leaders meeting today especially as they consider our ministry for the coming months.
- Pray that the ICG review talk on John this evening will consolidate understanding, and help ongoing personal meditation and group discussion.

THURSDAY 11 JUNE

- Pray that those in our church family who live with a terminal illness will know the comfort of the Good Shepherd with them, even in the valley of the shadow of death (Psalm 23).
- Pray for St Nick's (Chris on John 18:12-27) and Covent Garden (Joel on Eph 3:14-21) lunchtime meetings.
- Thank the Lord for the technology he has given us to proclaim the gospel. Pray that he will protect our digital operation, particularly with our current reliance on live streaming. Pray also that our new Bible Matters app will be used mightily to make Jesus known in this country and the nations.
- Give thanks for the group of trainee preachers at Joe and Elin's church in Asia. Pray they will make progress in preaching faithfully and in a way that will help the congregation grow.

FRIDAY 12 JUNE

- Each Friday lunchtime our students are discussing a talk from the St Helen's archives. Pray they will encourage one another to stand fast in the Lord.
- Weekly Bible stories are sent to people on the Little Pickles WhatsApp group. Please pray that people will listen to them and learn more of what it means to be a follower of Jesus.
- Pray that ReNew churches will work in partnership to promote a network of healthy, Bible-based churches across the country.
- Pray for the African pastors who work alongside James and Barbara. Pray they will know how to keep encouraging their people with God's word despite lockdown restrictions and limited internet and phone access.

SATURDAY 13 JUNE

- Pray for a Sex and Relationships morning for the 6pm congregation; please pray this will help many to think through the Bible's teaching on sex and relationships.
- Give thanks for our church plant Euston Church, led by Kev Murdoch, celebrating ten years today, and pray for their ongoing faithful proclamation of Jesus Christ.
- Pray for St Lazare church (Paris), and for their current series in Luke 9:51-11:13. Pray that it will help them all to grasp the importance of sitting at Jesus' feet and listening to him. Pray for Joe and Etienne as they face decisions about when and how to restart physical meetings.

SUNDAY 14 JUNE

- Pray for the 10.30am (William on Ezekiel 37:1-14), 4pm (Aneirin on Isaiah 56:1-8), 6pm (Mickey on Isaiah 56:1-8) and the 2.30pm Mandarin-speaking (Chase on Isaiah 49:1-13) meetings.
- Give thanks for many of the children and young people in our congregations listening to the online meetings. Pray they will be able to follow, and be encouraged.
- There is a church family lunch today. Pray this will work well, and be an encouragement. Pray that newcomers will join and be warmly welcomed.
- Pray for the international congregation in Jurbise (Belgium) as Trevor preaches through the book of Job. Pray that as they learn more about the greatness of our God, they will grow in humility, trust and love for him.

MONDAY 15 JUNE

- Pray that the exams at the Brussels Bible Institute will help equip students for ministry; please also pray for James HH as he lectures on Galatians for the Geneva Bible Institute (via Zoom) this week.
- Pray for those planning 'Unchained (unchanging convictions in a changing world)'; ReNew's online conference for 14 September 2020.
- Continue to pray for the ministry at St Michael's Cornhill. Give thanks for a positive response to their weekly newsletter. Pray that people will grow in their relationship with Jesus.

TUESDAY 16 JUNE

- Our students are meeting each Tuesday morning on Zoom to pray together. Pray that God will use these times to grow a generation of partners in the student ministry.
- Pray for the St Helen's (William on Colossians 3:1-11), London Bridge (Chris on John 18:28-40) and Aldersgate (Simon on Luke 11:1-13) lunchtime meetings.
- Pray that as Central Focus study 1 Corinthians 15, every member will be convinced of the reality of the physical resurrection to come, have great hope and confidence for the future and a right perspective on life now.
- Pray that some Sylheti friends will want to be in contact with our team, leading to some virtual 1-1s or a small group study.

WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE

- Pray for the Fleet Street (Chris on John 18:28-40), Paddington (Richard on 1 Peter 2:18-3:12), North Bishopsgate (William on Col 3:1-11) and Moorgate (Alfie King on Acts 17:22-34) lunchtime meetings.
- Youth RML review Romans this evening. Pray they will be a generation "unashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes" (Rom 1:16).
- Pray that the new Life course video materials on the website will lead to many individuals being guided through the beginning of John's gospel; and ultimately for many to receive life.

THURSDAY 18 JUNE

- Pray for St Nick's (Chris on John 18:28-40) and Covent Garden ('Only Jesus makes sense of suffering... really?' - Jack Stileman) lunchtime meetings.
- Pray that the practice talks the first year associates are giving from 2 Corinthians (having studied it this term) will give them confidence to go on and teach 2 Corinthians to others.
- Give thanks for our Treasurer, Jeremy, and the other members of our Finance Committee. Pray they will make wise and godly decisions despite current uncertainties.

FRIDAY 19 JUNE

- Give thanks for spiritual growth and enjoyment our youth groups have been having together virtually over the last few months.
- Gareth and Katharine (Northern Nigeria) ask for prayer that they will be able to continue to work remotely with the language teams they assist given the various challenges of communication and security issues in their rural areas.
- Pray for the health and safety of Lucy's project teams in Central Asia as they go into village communities, and for grace and patience for Lucy during this period of lockdown, and as the summer heat sets in.

SATURDAY 20 JUNE

- Give thanks for a number of French-speakers who have heard the gospel in recent months. Pray for more opportunities to speak about Christ, and that an evangelistic event in July might be possible.
- Pray for daily grace to strengthen those struggling with the prospect of more weeks of lockdown. Pray that each will draw near to God and trust that he will draw near to them (Jam 4:8).

SUNDAY 21 JUNE

- Pray for the 10.30am (Charlie on Ezekiel 37:15-28), 4pm (Aneirin on Isaiah 56:9-57:21), 6pm (Mickey also on Isaiah 56:9-57:21) and the 2.30pm Mandarin-speaking (Chase on Isaiah 49:14-50:3) meetings.
- Crossway Stratford ask us to pray that they will be proactive and consistent in looking out for church family, supporting the vulnerable and putting others first. They have a guest Sunday today; pray for many people to join in, for Jamie to speak clearly and faithfully and for seeds to be sown.

MONDAY 22 JUNE

- Pray for encouragement and wisdom for those running the Cornhill training course, facing a smaller intake in September. Pray the Lord will raise up more students, and provide all the resources needed.
- Continue to give thanks for the technology enabling us to meet virtually. Pray for perseverance for those finding long hours of screen time tiring, and that they will still make meeting together virtually a priority.
- Pray for St Michael's PCC as they make decisions on how and when to start opening the church. Please pray that they will make wise decisions for the safety of all its members.

TUESDAY 23 JUNE

- Pray for the St Helen's (William on Col 3:12-17), Aldersgate (Simon on Luke 11:14-28) and London Bridge (Mikey Williams on John 19:1-16) lunchtime meetings.
- Pray for Gwilym, Andrew Sach and Nigel Styles as they lead Word Work, an online morning conference for Proclamation Trust from today until Thursday, and that the Lord will use it to equip many labourers in his harvest field.
- As 2nd year associate studies in Isaiah draw to a close, pray that each will have an opportunity to teach some or all of the book in a 1-1 study or a talk series over the next year.

WEDNESDAY 24 JUNE

- Pray for the Moorgate (Alfie King on Acts 18:1-17), Fleet Street (Mikey Williams on John 19:1-16), North Bishopsgate (William on Col 3:12-17) and Paddington (Richard on 1 Peter 3:13-3:22) lunchtime meetings.
- Please pray that the venue for the Paddington Talks will withstand the economic downturn so that the Talks can continue to meet there once lockdown is over.
- Pray for our IGG students to display humility and love as they interact with churches back home; and for those who haven't settled yet to find a gospel-centred fellowship of believers.

THURSDAY 25 JUNE

- Our associates' formal training comes to an end this month. Pray they will put what they have learned this year to good use in their future ministry.
- Pray for the St Nick's (Mikey Williams on John 19:1-16) and Covent Garden (Joel on Eph 4:1-16) lunchtime meetings.
- RML Overview have their final study this evening, in Ephesians 1. Pray they will marvel at God's salvation plan, and have a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him (v17).

FRIDAY 26 JUNE

- Pray that the Lord will continue to provide the financial resources needed for the day-to-day running of gospel ministry in the City and beyond. Pray for those facing financial pressures and uncertainty as job losses are announced, that the Lord will help them to commit their needs to him and to keep seeking his kingdom (Matt 6:33). Pray too that those who have been hit hard by this pandemic may get the support they need.
- With City Summer School approaching, please pray for the preparation of the children's sessions; in particular for wisdom in shaping the programme of teaching and activities.

SATURDAY 27 JUNE

- Le Fras is providing 1-1 training at an All Souls men's breakfast today.
- Pray for isolated believers around the world, whose situation has become more perilous because of the pandemic. Pray for those seeking to provide spiritual and practical support, and for their own safety.
- Pray that those who have discovered Woluwe church (Brussels) through its online ministry will be drawn by the Lord to a humble, dependent faith. Pray that many more will be reached with the gospel. Pray too for wisdom regarding summer plans, and for midweek studies in John 14-17 to strengthen the church in its understanding of discipleship.

SUNDAY 28 JUNE

- Pray for the 10.30am (William on Ezekiel 39:1-29), 4pm (Aneirin on Isaiah 58:1-59:21), 6pm (Mickey on Isaiah 58:1-59:21) and the 2.30pm Mandarin (Tom L on Isaiah 50:4-11) meetings.
- Pray that members of the 2.30 congregation who wonder when they'll next be able to visit family back in China will seek comfort from our Heavenly Father and seek to honour him in how they relate to family from a distance.
- Give thanks for the Gafcon (global Anglican) movement over the last 12 years and especially for its leaders, bishops and networks. Pray they will stay faithful to scriptural truth.

MONDAY 29 JUNE

- Pray that our church family will not neglect meeting together, particularly in lockdown. Pray that those outside normal routines will be disciplined in setting aside time for personal prayer and Bible reading, and use the opportunities available to meet virtually through zoom and online streaming etc.
- Give thanks for clear and compelling interviews and talks during the Week of Talks. Pray that we will make the most of being able to pass them on to those far beyond London. Pray that the Lord will have mercy on family members and friends who would never normally be able to come to a physical event at St Helen's.

TUESDAY 30 JUNE

- Give thanks for associates signed up for next year and pray for them as they seek to raise support and organise practicalities, with the additional uncertainties due to COVID-19.
- Pray for the St Helen's (William on Colossians 3:18-21), London Bridge (Mikey Williams on John 19:17-30) and Aldersgate (Phil on John 7:1-24) lunchtime meetings.
- Pray that increased interest in listening to the claims of Jesus won't be swept away as some COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. Pray that many will face up to their own mortality and ask the Lord for forgiveness.

Mission partner news

St Helen's sends out and supports individuals and families involved in cross-cultural Christian ministry, both overseas and in this country. We are also linked with national Christians and churches overseas. Below is a focus on two of our mission partners.

James, Myriam and Clara (5.10.11) Hely Hutchinson

Training gospel ministers for French-Speaking Europe, serving at the Brussels Bible Institute. Mission Statement: 'to train faithful, competent, godly servants of the gospel for the harvest field of French-speaking Europe in order to promote God's glory'.

Received 13.05.20

Dear brothers and sisters

We remain so grateful to you for partnership in the gospel. We give thanks that we lecturers are now in our stride as far as teaching via Zoom is concerned, although it's with a heavy heart that we've had to announce that we won't be physically back together as a community this academic year. The only subjects for which exams will be taking place in our building are those for which the numbers enrolled are small.

There have been many encouragements. All the evangelistic videos produced by the students that I (James) have seen are superb. During a recent webinar, we were able to serve twice the number of people who could fit into our building, including many (particularly in the South of France) who would never have considered making the trip to Brussels. During a recent chapel service via Zoom, we had the joy of praying for, and hearing input from three French pastors, all serving in France and all recent graduates of the Institute; it would not have crossed our minds to support them in this way were it not for the current health crisis.

Despite the uncertainties that may linger on until the start of next academic year, please pray for recruits for September! On 2 June we have our Open Day via Zoom. In the same vein, please pray for the printing, distribution and impact of the new edition of our magazine.

There was a time when we thought lockdown would mean significant chunks of time for writing. This has not proven to be the case... but we've not lost hope that it might *become* the case.

Myriam's evangelistic talk (via Zoom) for the women's group of a church in Paris was well received, and she's now been asked to give the same talk for a similar group in Bordeaux (in both cases, the churches are pastored by recent graduates of the Institute).

Clara continues to be in fine fettle!

Requests:

*For our example as believers: may our lives be increasingly conformed to the pattern prescribed in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5-7)

*For the regular activities of the Institute (lectures, chapel, meetings) taking place remotely

*For the ministries of recent graduates – for an ability to serve their respective flocks well during these strange times and for ongoing doctrinal faithfulness, godliness and gospel courage

*For new students to enrol for September

*For James to be able to make progress with a book on biblical theology

*For Myriam's ministries as wife and mother (currently homeschooling!); of making the most of relationships with a view to evangelism during this period; amongst students' wives and recent graduates' wives

*Dates (these events are all due to take place **via Zoom**):

30 May	Myriam giving an evangelistic talk for the women's group of a church in Bordeaux
2 June	Institute's Open Day
5 June	Board meeting of Institute
6 June	Saturday lectures on biblical theology of mission
13 June	Saturday lectures on biblical theology of mission
15—19 June	Lectures on Galatians for the Geneva Bible Institute
20 th June	Saturday lectures on biblical theology of mission
21 June	Sermon, International Baptist Church, Brussels
26 June	'Marathon' end-of-year review of students' exam results (deadline for finishing marking!)
27 June	Day of Bible input/prayer/encouragement led by Myriam for wives of recent graduates serving in pastoral ministry

With very many thanks again for your support/partnership in the gospel, and love
James & Myriam (plus Clara)