



PRAYER SHIELD

2024

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."

Ephesians 6:18

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

Ephesians 6:12

"The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds."

2 Corinthians 10:4



*Roman phalanx

PRAYER SHIELD

Welcome to CLM's 'Prayer Shield' for 2024. This is a simple prayer guide, to be used through the year, **uniting our prayers together**, 'covering' the ministries, mission and people of CLM as we seek to advance the vision to 'bring the Kingdom of God to every life and sphere of society'.

We saw remarkable growth and strides forward during 2023. **As we push ahead for the glory of God, the importance of our praying cannot be overstated.**

The concept of the 'Prayer Shield' is based on Paul's teaching on spiritual warfare in Ephesians 6:10-20. Here Paul highlights the significance of each of us putting on the full armour of God, including the need for each one to 'take up the shield of faith' with which we 'can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one' (Ephesians. 6:16).

Paul's picture is of the Roman 'phalanx'* , with all the soldiers lifting up their individual shields to ensure a protection over the whole company. In a similar way, we are called to lift up our individual shields of faith – bringing protection over not just our lives, but over the whole church.

The link between the shield of faith and 'praying in the Spirit, on all occasions, with all kinds of prayers...for all the Lord's people' (Ephesians 6:18) seems clear. As we pray in faith for others, we lift up interlocking spiritual shields, bringing us protection from the attacks of the enemy, as well as releasing God's blessing over our lives.

Besides the 'defensive' prayers of protection, we must also pray 'offensively' as we seek to bring the Kingdom of God and take the Good News of Jesus Christ into enemy territory – praying as Jesus taught His disciples to pray; **'Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.'**

Thank you for playing your part.

Let's pray!

Martin and Esther



The Church Gathered

Pray for the coming together of God's people at CLM's weekend services. Pray for unity, cohesion, anointing, encounter and expansion at CLM Central and CLM North and as we prayerfully plan for CLM Northampton.

Worship

"Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks." (John 4:23)

- Pray that all our gatherings would be marked by a collective passion for the Presence of God.
- Pray that our hearts will be open and expectant as worshippers.
- Pray against any tactics of the enemy that would seek to distract people from entering into worship.
- Pray for anointing on the worship team and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit as they lead.
- Pray for the continued strengthening of our worship and production teams as they serve across all sites and ministries.



Word

"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people" (Ephesians 1:17-18)

- Pray for an anointing on those who minister, preach and lead at CLM.
- Pray that people's hearts will be receptive to the Word whenever it is preached and for a willingness to respond.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to bring revelation and understanding through the preaching of the Bible.
- Pray against any distractions or resistance to what is being preached.
- Pray for all CLM children and youth: that they will experience God's Presence and know His Word; that they will have their own revelation of Jesus Christ and choose to shape their lives around his truth and love.

Power, Presence and Fellowship

"...give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word. Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus. After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness." (Acts 4:29-31 NLT)

- Pray for the power and Presence of God to be manifest whenever we gather together (both in-person and online), and for the gifts of the Holy Spirit to be at work.
- Pray for souls to be saved every week in our services and ministry gatherings.
- Pray for signs and wonders, healings and miracles.
- Pray for those who become Christians; that they would be filled with the Holy Spirit and get connected into the church community.
- Pray for those who re-commit their lives to God; that they will quickly get connected back into church life.
- Pray for joy and unity as God's people come together.

Health and Protection

"Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well." (3 John 2)

- Pray for the overall health and strength of God's people and anyone else you are praying for, declaring every part of their body will function as it was designed to function and that they will live a long and healthy life.
- Where there are known health challenges, command all sickness to leave the person and pray for full health and strength to return to their body and/or mind.
- Pray for those who are unwell that they will know the Presence of Jesus with them in their suffering. Pray that God's grace will be sufficient for them (2 Corinthians 12:9).
- Pray for those who are caring for someone who is mentally or physically unwell; ask the Lord to give them strength, grace, patience and faith and for the Lord to help them to know His Presence sustaining them.
- Pray that our lives will be blessed, having a rhythm of work and rest so that we will be full of energy and vitality to serve the Lord.





"If you make the Most High your dwelling – even the Lord, who is my refuge – then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent. For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways;"
(Psalm 91:9–11)

"Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one"
(Matthew. 6:13)

- Ask God to lead you away from temptation and to deliver you from evil.
 - Pray for God's supernatural protection over his people – that they will be delivered from all harm, and that all plans of the enemy will come to nothing.
 - Declare that we are living under God's supernatural protection and that we will enjoy safety and peace.
- Pray for protection over CLM, from any attacks, distractions and false accusations, that the ministry would continue to advance with strength for the glory of God.

Bringing the Kingdom

***"Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."
(Matthew 6:10)***

- Declare that God's Kingdom will come and His will be done in our lives; over those we are praying for; over our city and nation.
- Pray that, as a church, CLM will fulfil the mandate God has given us, to bring the Kingdom of God into every life and sphere of society.
- Pray for our society, the media, government and education, that ungodly ideologies would be brought to nothing, and for God-fearing men and women to be appointed to key positions of authority.

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2:10)

- Pray that each of us will grasp that we have been created with purpose, that we are part of God's plan for humanity and have a unique calling and destiny to fulfil.

"...righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne" (Psalm 97:2)

- Pray that we would be effective in standing up for righteousness and justice wherever we have influence, including against racial discrimination.



"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:14–16)

- Pray that at CLM we would rise up as the body of Christ, influencing every sphere of society; government, business, education, families, media, arts and entertainment, health and social care; that we would be the light of the world, demonstrating the goodness and the glory of God.
 - Pray for members of CLM that you know personally, who serve in significant places of impact, influence and connection; and pray for 'increased influence' for all, for the glory of God.
- Pray that whatever 'spheres' we are in personally, we would be kingdom ambassadors demonstrating the love and goodness of God to all those around us, bringing his light wherever and whenever we have opportunity.
 - Pray for Pastors Martin and Esther and others in leadership at CLM, as they serve in key positions within the united church in Coventry, in our denomination, Assemblies of God, and in helping other churches further afield.



WEDNESDAYS

Spiritual Growth

"I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to measure of all the fullness of God."
(Ephesians 3:16-19)

- Pray that each person in CLM, from the youngest to the oldest, will have a desire to grow in God, to know Him more and to become more like Him.
- Pray that everyone will be empowered by the Presence and power of the Holy Spirit, being rooted in the love of Christ and filled with the fullness of God!
- Pray that every believer in CLM will grow in their identity as sons and daughters of the Father – knowing who they are and becoming more and more like Jesus.
- Pray that CLM's Leadership Pathway will accelerate the growth and development of many people to become strong leaders.
- Pray for all those who will engage with CLM's Growth Track in the coming year, especially those on the 'Rooted' journey and Freedom in Christ – for growth and transformation.



***"Therefore, I urge you brothers in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."* (Romans 12:1-2)**

- Pray that each person will have an open heart before God, confessing their sin and choosing to live a life of obedience, holiness and intimacy with God.
- Pray that each person will become truly free from the pain, habits and patterns of thinking of their old way of life.
- Pray for purity in the Body of Christ.
- Pray that each person will have a (renewed) hunger for the Bible; that the Holy Spirit will enable them to understand it, use it to speak to them and empower them to do what it says.

***"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him."* (Hebrews 11:6)**

***"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."* (Ephesians 6:18)**

***"They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."* (Acts 2:42)**

- Pray that God would raise up a congregation of praying people at CLM, who will pray for one another, for the church and for the Kingdom of God to come in Coventry, the UK and the nations of the earth.
- Pray that as a church will we continue to have a passion for the Presence of God – worshipping and pursuing Him wholeheartedly.
- Pray that we will be a people who are growing in courageous faith, daring to step out beyond our comfort zone in obedience to God, reaching wider to impact individuals and our city.
- Pray that each person at CLM would be open to share their life with others in Christ-centred community, helping one another to grow in God; connecting with church and Life Groups consistently.

THURSDAYS

Effective Mission

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19)

"And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly" (Acts 4:31)

- Pray that we would all be bold in sharing Jesus and in praying with others that they might encounter Him for themselves.
- Pray that our lives will cause those we meet to ask questions about Jesus and to want to know Him.
- Pray for a mighty harvest of souls in 2024 through all of CLM's people, ministries and expressions of outreach.
- Pray that God would lead us clearly in where and how to be most effective in reaching overseas for His glory.

"The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." (2 Corinthians 4:4)

"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)

- Pray for the eyes of unbelievers to be opened; that they would see their need of salvation and come to repentance.
 - Pray for CLM's Gospel outreach in 2024 including:
 - Personal connections and conversations
 - Guest Services and the Alpha Course
 - CLM Schools Work
 - GO! 2024 in June.
 - Street evangelism
- Pray for open doors, great impact and much fruitfulness!
- Pray into the ongoing season of multiplication at CLM – that the Lord would help us and lead us to reach people as we establish sites in new areas, towns and cities.

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." (Matthew 25:35-36)

- Pray that we will be passionately engaged in meeting the physical and spiritual needs of those living in our city; that the Holy Spirit would empower us to be caring, loving, generous, authentic and relevant.
- Pray for CLM's Prison Work to have a great impact through Sunday services and Prison Alpha.
- Pray that we would reach hundreds of people through being a Foodbank Centre.
- Pray for our work to be effective as we join with our Missions Partners in:
 - Helping those recovering from debt.
 - Providing food and clothing for those in need.
 - Reaching out and praying for the sick on the streets of Coventry.
 - Befriending those in social isolation.
 - Rescuing and restoring those trapped in modern-day slavery.
 - Serving refugees and asylum seekers in Coventry.
 - Reaching young people in schools, speaking into mental and emotional health and wellbeing.



FRIDAYS

Provision

***"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well."* (Matthew 6:33)**

***"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 4:19)**

- Pray that we would put our full trust in God as our Provider; not fearing what the future may hold, but knowing that He will richly supply all our needs.
- Pray that God's people would be consistent in honouring God with what they have, so that tithes and offerings are regular and growing, facilitating the ministries and mission of the church.
- As we honour God with our finances, pray that He will open up the floodgates of Heaven over us. Pray that we will know His protection over our finances and God's people would flourish and prosper. (see Malachi 3:10).
- Speak protection and God's favour and blessing over jobs and businesses; declare that they will thrive and succeed. Pray for creative ideas, wise strategies and the ability to make wealth for the Kingdom.
- Pray by name for anyone you know who is looking for work at this time, that God would open up a new door of employment or another source of income.



"Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God." (2 Corinthians 9:10–12)

- Declare that we will be a generous people, ready and willing to sow joyfully into the lives of others. Pray for abundance (more than enough) to achieve all that God has for us to do individually and together.
 - Declare that we will be a people with courageous faith who will step out and trust God in the area of finance. Pray that we will have many testimonies of God's miraculous provision as we do this.
- Pray for all who are redeeming Vision Offering pledges: that God will provide 'seed for the sower and bread for food' for all those who have pledged with faith from the youngest to the oldest – so that all will be able to redeem what they have pledged.
 - Pray for diligence and wisdom for CLM's finance team, leadership, and board of directors, as they steward what is given at CLM.



SATURDAYS

Relationships

"Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as we see the Day approaching."
(Hebrews 10:25)

- Pray for the consistency of God's people to meet and 'be' together – on Sundays and at other times.
- Pray that CLM Life Groups (and Student Connect, Youth and Synergy and all other 'groups') will enjoy powerful and transformational Christ-centred community where people can belong and grow in God together.
- Pray that all those who call CLM 'home' would join a Life Group and be connected to others in Christ-centred community – and especially that those who are lonely would find a place to belong in God's family.
- Pray for CLM's Life Group and Cluster leaders that they would know God's grace, strength and protection as they lead groups each week.



"I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."
(Ephesians 4:1-3)

- Pray for God's blessing and protection over our relationships within the church.
 - Pray that the unity of the Spirit will be maintained and that we would be protected from anything that would seek to bring division within the church.
 - Pray that we would treat each other with gentleness and humility, patience and love.
 - Pray for godly friendships to flourish and that we would spur one another on to grow in our faith.
- Pray for continued unity and cohesion as we multiply our sites as a church.
 - Pray that in love, we would grow in understanding of one another – especially as a diverse church with different backgrounds, cultures and generations. Pray that we will grow as a church of all nations, being able to celebrate, champion and support one another as brothers and sisters in Christ with generosity and grace.
 - Pray that God's people will be quick to forgive one another and resolve conflict where it occurs.

"Let marriage be held in honour (esteemed worthy, precious, of great price, and especially dear) in all things. And thus let the marriage bed be undefiled (kept un-dishonoured);" (Hebrews 13:4 AMP)

- Pray that marriages in CLM will thrive and be long-lasting: that they would be blessed and be a source of blessing to others. Pray for any marriages that are in difficulty, for love and peace to be restored.
- Speak over marriages at CLM that what God has joined together man shall not separate.
- Pray for sexual purity in our relationships; for faithfulness within marriages and also for those not married, that all would have strength, grace, and wisdom to live with purity.
- Pray for families; including for healthy relationships between parents and children. Pray that children and young people will grow up knowing that they are loved. Pray for wisdom for parents as they raise their children and young people – that their lives and relationships will encourage their children to love and serve Jesus.





"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."

Ephesians 3:20-21

We would like to thank Kingsgate Community Church, Peterborough, for their help and inspiration in shaping CLM's Prayer Shield.

