

creative idea

for praying for individuals using the ancient Christogram of Chi Rho

Chi and Ro describe the first two letters used to spell 'Christ' – which means the anointed one, or the special one – in Greek and have been used together as a symbolic/pictorial monogram to represent or abbreviate Christ since very early on in Christian history. We've found it provides an incredibly helpful way to visualise and pray into the presence, power and mercy of Christ over any given individual – whether they're someone close to us or a public figure such as a church leader, politician or celebrity. There is something extraordinarily powerful about using something so ancient and global in its reach in new ways and to intercede about our own contemporary and specific contexts.

You will need: tracing paper, a pencil, images of those you want to pray for (printed out or displayed on your device)

1. Hold and/or look at the image of the person you want to pray for, consciously lifting them and their situation and/or role to God.
2. Place the tracing paper over their image and begin by drawing an 'X' shaped 'Chi' over them with a pencil, imagining as you do so that you are praying the mercy of Christ over the totality of their person and life – physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. *Originally it's thought that the cross used here didn't symbolise the crucifixion, which was generally pictured as a T shape, but you can still picture it as this – alongside perhaps the totality of every direction it implies.*



3. Now add the tall 'P' shaped 'Rho', if possible corresponding the circle window at the top of the letter with the person you are praying for's face or head – thinking about the power of Christ and his headship and authority as you do so, and praying for surrender to his sovereignty and leading.
4. The Chi Rho symbol was sometimes accompanied by other symbols, such as the Greek letters for alpha and omega – the beginning and the end of the alphabet, which are used in the Bible to describe God as the beginning and the end. You could add these too (*see overleaf*), praying as you do so for Christ's covering over not just their circumstances and heart, but over the timings of their days, actions and interactions.

