

Prayer stations

Walk with the world — United Kingdom



This resource contains creative prayer ideas to help you lift issues and situations in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to God. You can use some or all of it:

- *In personal or small group prayer by working through the prayer points provided in 'UK: the headlines'*
- *To set up prayer stations in intercessions, a prayer meeting, or as an instillation for a day of prayer.*
- *As part of the wider family of 'Walk with the world' to create a prayer room for a day of global prayer.*

UK: the headlines — the main areas of focus for our current prayers are:

- **Economic recovery and radical re-thinking** of banking systems, financial institutions and an end to materialism, excess and a wrong self-sufficiency being the driving forces of our culture. We long to see business and industry flourish again, but in an ethical way.
- **Protection for the poor and vulnerable** particularly those in fear of losing vital benefits, in debt, or at risk of redundancy, repossession or homelessness. And for the elderly, disabled and long-term sick.
- **Spiritual breakthrough**, renewal and Christian revival. We long for our nation to return to God, and his principles – both for the sake of his glory, and its future health.
- **Wise governance** which prioritises necessary reforms, particularly those required to reduce the deficit, whilst ensuring it is not the poor and vulnerable who pay the price. For renewed respect and trust.
- **Unity in the church** across denominations and networks so that we reveal Christ not our division.
- **Global leadership** that is just where we have influence – especially in relation to climate change, continuing aid and the establishment of fair and equitable trading systems.
- **A better present and future for young people** particularly those in inner-cities; graduates struggling to find work; school leavers unsure about university in the current situation, and young children being exposed to adult issues too early.
- **Recent immigrants** especially those who have been trafficked against their will, those facing rejection and racism, and those struggling with poverty.

Setting the scene

Help people connect with the UK visually:

Use the country outline of the UK to project on to a screen, or to help you draw a chalk outline on the floor or on a large sheet – if using the latter, you could lay the stations around the outside of the map so people literally walk around the UK.

Help set the tone for people's prayers


Ask your worship band to cover the prayer with intercessory and declarational worship, or create a CD or playlist of songs which have a focus on praying for the nation, revival, and justice issues. (If you're stuck for ideas, check out our *Outward focussed song index* at www.thesanctuarycentre.org/whereworldandworshipmeet-songs)

Help keep people going with a cup of tea

If you are setting up prayer stations for a prayer room, installation, or extended period of prayer, why not have a tea tent! Lay out a table, perhaps decorated with a checked table-cloth and some bunting, and have tea and coffee-making facilities and typically British biscuits, cakes or sweets, which people can help themselves to during the event.

Starting from a place of praise - I the UK

Help people to connect with the nation

- Set up a central installation at the front, or in the middle of the outline you have created on the floor.
- Gather together pictures of landmarks, typical scenery and things people enjoying doing or eating.
- Print and lay out freedom signs, or cards with one of the following words or concepts on each one - free speech, everyone over 18 can vote, mild climate, welfare state, freedom to worship, sense of humour, prosperity...
- Start the time of prayer by encouraging people to do any, or all of the following activities to take ownership of living in the UK, and celebrate all that God has blessed us with:
 1. Write on a post it note or piece of card
 2. Talk then pray with one or two others about
 3. Make t-shirts, caps or stickers available that people can paint 'I  the UK' on to, and wear as they make their way round the intercessory prayer stations.

Intercessory prayer stations

1. Money talk

Equipment needed: visual props such as a copy of the financial times and images of banks; an A2 piece of paper or card with a simple dove outline drawn on to it; as many copper coins as you can get together and a print out of the signs you create using the 'For display' text below.

Instructions for setting up:

1. In advance: Enlarge and print out a sign using the text in the 'For display' section. Enlarge and print out a similar sign titled 'Facts and figures' using up to date statistics on the recession, unemployment and the numbers of people claiming job seekers' allowance – see www.statistics.gov.uk/instantfigures.asp for the most recent release). Then gather together the other items you need, and create your simple outline of a dove on the A2 card. (If you are not confident to draw this free-hand, use a simple template smaller, and enlarge it using the computer, or photocopier.)
2. On the day: Lay out the dove on the floor, put the coppers in a pot next to it, and display the visual stimuli you have collected, and the signs you have made using the text below.

For display:**Money talk**

- Not a taboo anymore, it's on everyone's minds, and in most conversations and news bulletins... credit crunch, recession, redundancies, deficit, spending cuts... have been the buzz words of our headlines ever since August 2007.
- Read the facts and figures, look at the images, and take a moment to gather your new thoughts together with your other memories of information and statistics you have seen over the last couple of years.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide our leaders, financial institutions and businesses in wisdom and truth so that they rebuild the economy on sound and righteous principles, and with different priorities.
- You might find it helpful to take on or two of the coins, and lay them on the dove as a symbol of this change in outlook that you are praying for.

2. Hidden poverty

Equipment needed: Enlarged print outs of the three photos (or similar) below, and three enlarged images of a house (or the house template shown below) – these need to be big enough to cover the images of the people, print outs of strip headers to stick across the photos of people, blue tack and a print out of the signs you create using the 'For display' text below.

**Strip headers:**

Homeless people, or people at risk of being homeless – every two minutes someone in the UK faces losing their home. (2011 Shelter)

People who cannot afford to heat their homes, including the elderly. Around one in six of all UK households are experiencing fuel poverty. (2010 www.guardian.co.uk)

People who are in debt, or are anxious about possible redundancy or repossession. The average household debt in the UK is nearly £8,480 (excluding mortgages) and 1,732 people are being made redundant every day. (2010 Credit Action)

Instructions for setting up:

3. In advance: Enlarge and print out a sign using the text in the 'For display' section. Then sort out gathering or enlarging, and printing, the images, house images and strip headers.
4. On the day: Lay out or stick up the three images of people. Use the blue tack to stick the strip headers across the images, and then the houses over the top of these, and display the sign you have made using the text below.

For display:

Hidden poverty

- What does poverty look like to you? What images come to mind? How widespread do you think it is as a problem in the UK?
- Poverty in the UK is largely hidden, but it is still a big problem.
- Look behind the facades of these 'normal' houses and pray for the people groups you find there.
- Ask for God's mercy on all those living in poverty in the UK, and pray for homelessness and elderly care services, and for national charities such as Christians Against Poverty and Credit Action – working to help people from debt.
- Pray also against the fear of poverty that is crippling many people facing redundancy, or simply worried about the future, as a result of the current economic situation.

3. Redeeming history

Equipment needed: Large UK map or outline to lay on the floor, flip chart and pens, and a print out of the sign you create using the 'For display' text below.

Instructions for setting up:

5. In advance: Enlarge and print out a sign using the text in the 'For display' section.
6. On the day: Lay out everything and display the sign you have made using the text below.

For display:

Redeeming history

- The UK is a small island nation, but it has had a huge impact on world history – particularly in the last two hundred years. Much of this has been positive, but a great deal has been destructive.
- Bring to mind any 'national sins' – whether recent, or in history – where the UK has used its power to oppress, manipulate, or control other weaker nations.
- Jot these down on the flip chart.

- How about closer to home? Are there ways in which we behave as a nation which neglect or overlook the poor or vulnerable amongst us in order to increase the power of the rich?
- Jot these down too.
- Look at whatever is on the flip chart and pray for our nation to change, and the consequences of its wrong actions to be mitigated.
- If it helps you, kneel down on the map as a sign of repentance – ask God to forgive our nation, and lead us to act in more godly ways.

4. Re-opening ancient wells

Equipment needed: a large bucket full of water (labelled as ‘The UK’), several small cups or yoghurt pots, a glass bowl, and a print out of the sign you create using the ‘For display’ text below.

Instructions for setting up:

7. In advance: Enlarge and print out a sign using the text in the ‘For display’ section.
8. On the day: Lay out everything listed above and display the sign you have made using the text below.

For display:

Re-opening ancient wells

- The UK has a long history with Christianity, from Celtic saints through to emerging and fresh expressions of church. It has sent missionaries all over the world, and experienced a number of re-awakenings and revivals.
- Our nation needs to return to God.
- We must pray for the practical transformation of society, and act to be part of the answer, but nothing will restore or help the UK as much as a widespread return to Christ.
- Pray for a new move of God, like rivers of living water, to flood through our dry and thirsty land.
- Take a cup of water and pour it into the ‘UK’s well’ to seal your prayers.

5. Today’s youth — tomorrow’s leaders

Equipment needed: a long piece of rope (preferably at least three metres), several print outs of each of the four images below onto individual cards, and a print out of the sign you create using the ‘For display’ text below. (You might also want to gather some recent images or news stories of children and young people and display these around this station too.)



Instructions for setting up:

9. In advance: Enlarge and print out a sign using the text in the 'For display' section.
10. On the day: Lay the piece of rope out in a straight line on the floor, and display the sign you have made using the text below. Put the three piles of shapes next to it.

For display:**Today's youth – tomorrow's leaders**

"You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit... Like an open book, you watched me grow from conception to birth; all the stages of my life were spread out before you... before I'd even lived one day." (Psalm 139, *The Message*)

- The UK's young people are facing huge pressures... think through a few that you are concerned about – whether they affect young children, teenagers, or students... loss of childhood; abuse; insecure homes; divorce; increasing tuition fees; less jobs; drugs; alcohol; gang culture; violence...
- Choose one of the young people cards for the age group which you want to pray for.
- Start at one end of the rope, which represents a timeline. Pray for this age group now and the challenges they are facing.
- Now move forward a couple of steps and pray for them in five years time, and again for ten years later, and again... thank God that he has their whole futures in mind, and pray that he would lead them to him, and the plans he has for them.
- Take a moment to pray for any young people you know who are particularly struggling – ask God if he is asking you to do anything to help.

6. Thinking globally

Equipment needed: A world map, and a print out of the sign you create using the 'For display' text below.

Instructions for setting up:

11. In advance: Enlarge and print out a sign using the text in the 'For display' section.
12. On the day: Lay out the world map on the floor and display the sign you have made using the text below.

For display:**Thinking globally**

- The UK has considerable influence in the world. Thank God for the times in history when it has stood up for the powerless, and used its influence to lead other countries to follow its example in reform.
- Stand on the map, and lift the UK's global role to God.
- Pray for its roles in:
 - Climate change negotiations
 - Peace keeping efforts in trouble-spots
 - Wars
 - The United Nations
 - The European Union

The G8 and other groupings of powerful nations, particularly in relation to discussing issues which affect poorer nations – such as trade reform, carbon emission reductions, debt cancellation and aid provision.

- Pray that leaders would be wise and righteous, acting in the best interests of the poorest and most vulnerable.
- Pray for supernatural insight for politicians and leaders so that new solutions may be found, and new systems established, which help the UK to lead in a positive light.

7. Closer to home

Equipment needed: Print outs of articles from your local paper, a flip chart with local and community issues and needs written on to it, pens and a print out of the sign you create using the 'For display' text below.

Instructions for setting up:

13. In advance: Enlarge and print out a sign using the text in the 'For display' section.
14. On the day: Cut out key articles, and jot down the key issues facing your local community, city or town on the flip chart. Display the sign you have made using the text below.

For display:

Closer to home

- How do the UK's problems affect our community?
- Use the articles, and flip chart to remind you of key issues in our area... jot down any extra things that need prayer.
- Spend some time responding to these needs in prayer, and making space to ask God whether he is asking you to do anything practically in response as well.
- If it helps you, face in front of you, to the left, the right, and then behind... and pray in turn for the areas and issues of need in our community in each direction.

8. Regions and divisions

Equipment needed: Enough copies of a print out of UK and Ireland map or country outline for everyone to have one; scissors, and a print out of the sign you create using the 'For display' text below.

Instructions for setting up:

15. In advance: Enlarge and print out a sign using the text in the 'For display' section. Print out or photocopy the UK maps/shapes.
16. On the day: Lay everything out and display the sign you have made using the text below.

For display:**Regions and divisions**

- Take a map and cut it into six pieces (Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, Wales, northern England and southern England).
- Sit or kneel and lay these pieces out in front of you, with some space between them.
- Use the different pieces of the map to pray in turn for the four nations that make up the UK, and for the Republic of Ireland.
- Pray for the national assemblies, governments, and relationships between these different nations, and against the long-held divisions, hostilities and resentments that exist between them where relevant.
- Take the two halves of England in your hands, and pray for increased understanding and unity between the north, and the south of England.
- Take your nations away with you and stick them up somewhere, or keep them in your Bible, to remind you to pray over the coming days and weeks.

9. Multi-coloured culture

Equipment needed: A range of goods from the international aisle in your supermarket and/or different fabrics or photos to represent the different communities we have living in Britain (e.g. African, Afro-Caribbean, Asian, Polish etc.), a kaleidoscope and a print out of the sign you create using the 'For display' text below.

Instructions for setting up:

In advance: Enlarge and print out a sign using the text in the 'For display' section.

On the day: Lay out everything and display the sign you have made using the text below.

For display:**Multi-coloured culture**

- The UK is a bit like a window to the world – so many different nations, races and communities are represented here.
- Pick up the kaleidoscope and look through it. Ask God to help you see the beauty and diversity in people who are different to you, and reveal to you the unique parts of his image that they all bear.
- Pray for the different communities represented here – and pray for relationships between different communities.
- Pray for genuine tolerance, understanding and partnership, and against groups and political parties which stir up prejudice and hatred.
- Pray for Christians to reach out to people from different backgrounds, and to remain distinct, free, and able to share the gospel.

10. Standing united

Equipment needed: a cross, eight pairs of paper or card feet big enough for people to stand on and (labelled Anglicans, Roman Catholics, Baptists, Methodists, United Reformed churches, Brethren, Free churches and Pentecostals) and a print out of the sign you create using the 'For display' text below.

Instructions for setting up:

In advance: Enlarge and print out a sign using the text in the 'For display' section. Use your feet to create a template, and make eight pairs of feet, each pair labelled as one of the denominations or groups listed above.

On the day: Place the cross in the centre of the space you have available for this station, and lay or stick the pairs of feet in a semi-circle facing towards it. Display the sign you have made using the text below prominently.

For display:

Standing united

- Fifteen per cent of the UK attend church at least once a month* and these people are spread over a wide range of different denominations and networks.
- The body of Christ in the UK is diverse, but sometimes it is also disunited and divided – causing great pain, and compromising their Christian witness to many people in the UK.
- Take your stand for unity by spending a few moments in each groups' shoes... pray for their witness, work and relationships with other parts of the church at a national level.
- Fix your eyes on the cross and pray for all churches to define themselves by Christ alone. And also pray for them to concentrate on what they have in common.
- Also pray for the different churches in your area – for more joint witness, understanding and unity. Ask God to bless all the Christians you know, and take a few moments to consider if there is anything you feel led to do or pray as a result.

(* 2007 Tearfund *Churchgoing in the UK*)

11. Renewed minds

Equipment needed: A print out of the sign you create using the 'For display' text below.

Instructions for setting up:

In advance: Enlarge and print out a sign using the text in the 'For display' section.

On the day: Display the sign you have made using the text below prominently.

For display:

Renewed minds

- Many people in the UK are struggling internally with issues of depression, addiction and loneliness.
- 25 per cent of the UK's population will experience some kind of mental health problem in the course of just one year and about ten per cent of children have a mental health problem at any one time.*
- And 23 per cent of men and 12 per cent of women are heavy drinkers.**
- Place your hands on your forehead and pray for the renewing of minds.
- Pray for those experiencing isolation, depression or addiction to get the help they need from Christians, their communities, and charities and government situations.
- Pray for the root issues in our society which exacerbate these problems, and God's power to renew these too.

(*2011 Mental Health Foundation **2008 Office of National Statistics)