

Written prayers

Praying for the UK's government and politicians

The new prayers in this collection were inspired in the lead up to and immediate aftermath of the UK general election in May 2015, and the opening four deal with prayers for elections specifically, but the vast majority of them are relevant at all times. We have also included (for relevance and ease of access) some prayers previously written for our collection focused on [interceding for the restoration of integrity in UK public life](#) which are especially relevant here.

A prayer for the release of a bigger vision (inspired by Proverbs 29:18)

In the lead up to the general election, the Bishops of the Church of England wrote 'Love thy neighbour' – a letter to their parishes. (<https://churchofengland.org/media/2170230/whoismyneighbour-pages.pdf>) Its call for bigger vision is relevant way beyond the election campaign and day itself, and helped inspire this prayer.

King of kings and leader of leaders, we thank you for our government and especially for those seeking to lead with righteousness, courage and compassion. We thank you for men and women of vision and dedication wherever we see them and wherever they are working hard beyond our sight or knowledge. But Lord, we long for more for the UK than what we see now.

Pioneer of pioneers and Author of the very idea of having ideas, we long for a bigger perspective to inspire, underpin and frame our politicians' decisions. Move them beyond party lines, pre-determined positions and their existing understanding into a more expansive vision for our nations' future which leads to excellent and just strategies so all our people can thrive in peace and sufficiency.

Lord of lords and our only Saviour, we dare to pray for a vision that reflects you and your priorities to become the vision of our nation's leaders. Soften their hearts to the vulnerable and open their eyes to creative, third-way solutions so Britain and Ireland might become great by your definition and its people might have hope for their future and the chance to be a blessing to the whole world.

Three in one and one in three, we ask for your help as your church today; we are a house with different perspectives but we don't wish to be divided. Show us how to have the same heart even when it finds expression in different political ideals and help us to be the bold and compassionate prophetic voice you called us to be, as we ourselves seek to ask, listen, receive and voice your bigger vision for our nation to our leaders.

A prayer for wisdom on some of the key issues facing our nation

Lord Jesus, we remember that you constantly found a third way which pharisees, politicians and zealots weren't expecting.

You were surprising, creative, ingenious and shrewd
as you lived out the most compassionate and effective leadership
the world has ever seen.
Lord Jesus in your mercy,
we ask you to send your Spirit of wisdom
into the corridors of power and the hearts of the powerful.
May it move our leaders into a new humility and compassion
that truly seeks to serve the people of this nation
as they place the NHS and the welfare state
alongside deficits, balance sheets and economic growth.
And as they try to determine our path in an international community
facing so much conflict, terror and uncertainty.
Lord in your mercy, guide them.
Lord in your mercy, soften their hearts and enlighten their minds.
Lord in your mercy lead them – whether they know you or not.

A prayer for more political engagement from the church and the nation

In the lead up to the 2015 general election, Christians in Politics led a coalition of other organisations in the #ShowUp campaign. This emphasised the need to show up and vote. But also to consider deeper and longer-term involvement. This campaign, and witnessing the example and witness of one of our praying community stepping up and standing as a parliamentary candidate, had a significant impact on our outlook.

Lord Jesus we are sorry for all the times we've left policies to 'politicians'
and acted as if it is solely our government's job to build our nation into the place we want it to be.
We are truly sorry for our apathy.

Lord Jesus we are sorry for all the times we – or others in our nation – have left politics to others
because of inconvenience, disillusionment or even anger.
We are truly sorry for our disengagement.

Lord Jesus we are sorry for all the times we – and your church – have retreated from public life
in order to focus on 'church business' within the safety of our 'sacred space'.
We are truly sorry for abdicating our responsibility to be salt and light in this sphere.

Lord Jesus we don't just want forgiveness. We want true repentance that changes us.
We give you permission to call and equip us to cast vision, shape policies, mould party perspectives, re-enfranchise
young and disadvantaged people, campaign lovingly, encourage specifically and pray diligently.
We truly desire to engage – lead us in how to we pray.

A prayer of repentance for judging politicians or other voters

I'm sorry Lord for all the times I have judged a person as well as a policy
or reduced a politician to the two dimensions of their role

rather than sought to understand and recognise their true value as a whole person.

Soften my heart Lord Jesus please.

Judgement is only yours – it is never mine

and it is only by your grace that I can stand.

Help me extend even a fragment of the same favour

to those who do a job I have never done,

with responsibilities I have never held

and often face a barrage of personally phrased public criticism

that I have never experienced.

Change me oh Lord into one who prays, one who respects,

one who encourages, thanks and affirms

as well as one who speaks out for change or challenge.

And help me to flee the temptation of tearing down

those I did not vote for,

those who voted differently,

and all who do not agree with me or my ideological perspective.

Create in me a clean heart oh Lord and renew a right spirit in me;

Make me a channel of your grace.

A prayer for politicians and the nation to engage young people in the political process

God of the old, the young and the middle-aged

who turns generations back to each other

and pursues and relates to all ages with your love.

We ask you to help our politicians and our nation

find ways to help younger people engage with politics.

And help us to recognise that this will involve us listening,

valuing and prioritising what we hear from them enough to make changes

as well as educating, informing and explaining.

God of truth, insight and vision

who is faithful to every generation

and constantly generates new possibilities and mercies for us to discover.

We thank you for the emerging generation's emphasis on valuing authenticity

and ask that you would raise up a generation of politicians who prize and model integrity

who will say when they don't understand, value new thinking, strive for righteousness and excellence

and be worthy and able of capturing a new generation's respect, engagement and voting power.

A prayer for the media's relationship to political opinion

God whose words create beauty, righteousness and faith,

we ask you to inspire, challenge and lead all who shape our nation's views

with their mouths, pens or computers.

We recognise the incredible power of our media to build up or to tear down

and ask it to more fully exhibit your values of truth and mercy.
Bless the hard work and skill of all who communicate about politics
and help their work to result in engagement, vision and strategic insight
for the sake of those they communicate about – and our nation as a whole.

A prayer for leaders of every kind...

Servant King,
You taught us that all who would seek to be first should be last
And all who would lead should serve
But we often redefine leadership on our own terms and for our own gain.
We lift to you today all who have the responsibility of leadership, influence and power.
We ask for your strengthening where decisions are tough,
Your wisdom to discern the best way forward,
Your softening towards those they lead
And your courage to balance risk and safety.
Bless every selfless act of leadership they display
For all that is good comes from you – and every servant leader is a reflection of your best plan.
Amen.

... and a prayer for all who follow them

Servant King, you created leaders.
You are a God of order who taught us to honour those who lead us
and to support them with prayer and service.
But we so often redefine following on our own terms and for our own gain.
We lift to you today ourselves and all who follow,
we ask for your strengthening where living with decisions made by others is tough,
your wisdom to discern the times to speak out for change in love,
your softening towards those that lead
and your courage to exercise forgiveness and grace.
Bless every selfless act of following
for all that is good comes from you – and everyone who seeks to honour others is a reflection of your best plan.
Amen.

A prayer for your local council

Bless our local council we pray
with good relationships;
strong accountability;
sound decisions;
effective budgeting;
and servant hearts.
For the good of our community

and the sake of those on its margins.

Amen.

A prayer for your MP

Bless today our MP, [insert his/her name here]

and lead and guide his/her thoughts in ways of truth, justice and peace.

Remind him/her of the people he/she represents,

the democracy he/she believes in,

and the trust that has been placed in him/her.

Bless every decision he/she makes that is founded in integrity and humility

and protect him/her from temptation to seek personal promotion or financial gain.

Inspire him/her to work for the transformation of society

and to campaign and vote for the good of our area, our nation, and the world.

In the name of Jesus – who is our faithful representative,

Amen.

A prayer for all MPs and for our government

Leader: In wise decision-making and good legislation

All: May our government lead us today.

Leader: In courageous re-thinking and creativity

All: May our government lead us today.

Leader: In fair representation of the people who elected them

All: May our government lead us today.

Leader: In honesty, fair dealing and integrity

All: May our government lead us today.

Leader: For the sake of the children, the marginalised and the weak

All: May our government lead us well today. Amen.

A prayer for the Prime Minister and his cabinet, and our attitude towards them

Father God,

Help us to love and respect our Prime Minister and his cabinet as we are called to do.

Forgive us and help us we pray.

Help us remember that when you look at our Prime Minister you see an individual – dearly loved

And that you sing songs of delight over every member of Parliament.

You see through clever policies, and slick words,

To the hearts of men and women.

You see their faults, but also their dreams, their fears and their desire to do good.

Help us to see them as you do – and to pray for them out of a heavenly perspective

That remembers the influential – as well as the weak – are unique individuals made in your image.

We lift to you all our debates about their intentions, all our questions about their decisions
And all our judgements about them as people.
We ask you to work in their hearts, and guide their policy making.
And we trust you with their motives and character.
Help us to have prayerful hearts towards them, to speak the truth to them gently and respectfully
And to strive to live with the integrity we so long for them to display.
We ask these things in the power of your Son, who makes all things possible - even the transformation of our hearts.

A prayer for the cabinet and its key areas of influence

Giver of gifts, we thank you for the intelligence, gifting, experience, knowledge and wisdom
that are present in the men and women our Prime Minister has selected to help him govern.
Help them use all they have been equipped with wisely to do their jobs to the best of their abilities
and give them the courage they will need to admit what they don't know, ask for help or change direction.
We recognise the immense pressure facing the men and women who lead each ministerial area –
and ask for your guidance, strength, insight, humility and love to be with each one.

Lord bless and lead those who govern and shape our health service,
our educational system,
our work and pensions department,
our justice system and laws
and our foreign policy and international development work around the world.
Help those working to protect our environment and forming vital strategies on climate change and energy
at this crucial time for the whole world to make reforms
and give our chancellor the clarity and compassion to conquer complex calculations and systems in a just way.

Leader of leaders, help this team of powerful individuals work together and build each other up
and honour and work well with the civil service staff underneath them.
Use them to build a culture among them which values vision, respect, honesty, compassion
and above all the heart to truly serve people in the UK and beyond.