

Written prayers

## Praying for the restoration of integrity in public life - UK

### Prayers of confession and absolution for both the loss of integrity and the increase of distrust in our society

**All:** God who is truth,  
We seek to come before you honestly  
And lay our hearts open before you.  
We invite your penetrating gaze; your Spirit's deep work  
To search; challenge; convict and correct.  
Our society has been careless with words, expense claims and actions  
And been quick to judge others by standards we do not uphold ourselves.  
We too are at fault.  
For we have by turns over-emphasised, under-represented and manipulated  
To look better; to get away with wrong or simply because we have become used to truth being elastic.  
We have not prized integrity in our own lives and knowing ourselves as we do,  
We have come to see others as a reflection of ourselves – untrustworthy.  
Forgive us and help us Lord of truth,  
That we might come back to your narrow way  
Where yes is once again yes and no is simply no  
And a person's word can be trusted once again.  
Amen.

**Leader:** God of all truth,  
We thank you that you welcome all into your holy light-filled presence  
If they will come in humility, honesty and trust.  
Thank you that your forgiveness is available to all who lie, distort and twist, as they come to you in faith and repentance,  
And to all who judge, assume the worst or simply distrust.  
And that you love us enough to lead us again to the narrow path.  
What we ask for our nation and its leaders, we ask also for ourselves;  
Make us a people once more who prize integrity above success, status or self-gain  
And help us rebuild with trust and honesty once again.  
For the sake of your precious Son – who is the truth, and our redemption.

**All:** Amen.

## **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 church leaders**

Leader of leaders and Shepherd of shepherds  
We ask you to be close to all who lead our churches today.  
Fill their teaching with your truth  
And help them as they seek to live lives that measure up to the Word they preach.  
Give them vision and guide them as they seek to translate it into action  
And lead all who follow them towards its fulfilment.  
Empower them with your love to pastor with true care  
And to persevere and stand against any criticism or attack.  
Safeguard their times with you; surround them with true community  
And raise us up to be a people who serve, love, honour, respect and support  
Recognising that each one is a precious child of yours -  
Not perfect, but perfectly loved  
By the same Father who forgives and restores us.  
Amen.

### **A prayer for the restoration of integrity in our churches**

Living Word,  
Speak now to each heart in every believer  
In every building or home that calls itself by your name.  
If they have compromised truth – in your mercy bring correction;  
If they have added to your gospel – let your grace bring conviction;  
And if they have said the narrow way is easy, wide and smooth – by your Spirit restore clarity.  
Make us a people again who love your truth and stand for it together  
And who respect, rather than tear down, others who disagree  
So that by our love, and by our adherence to your standards – our living Word –  
We might look like you once again.  
For the sake of our nation and its coming generations  
And for your glory Lord Jesus Christ.  
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 David – ‘beloved’ – not just David Cameron  
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.  
Amen.

## A prayer for the Royal family

Perfect ruler  
Who governs with justice and reigns in peace,  
We thank you for our Queen;  
For her long and faithful service  
Her faith in you

And her servant heart towards her people.  
We ask that you would surround her with your love,  
Help her to take her burdens to you,  
And direct all that she does.  
And we ask that all our nation's leaders  
Would recognise her example  
And seek to rule in service and with transparency.  
Amen.

## A prayer for the media

God who spoke the world into being and communicates with us still today;

We give you thanks for writers, producers, broadcasters and journalists, and all who work in the media. We thank you for their creative skills and technical abilities, and their persistence in seeking after truth.

We ask that they may have wisdom, integrity, insight and judgement in their work.

May they be a voice for the powerless, a challenge to the powerful; bringers of knowledge and clarity to an uncertain and confused world.

Help them to reach for the highest professional standards, especially when budgets are stretched, time is tight, and competition increasing.

May they resist the temptation to follow the consensus, jump to easy conclusions, pander to prejudice or cut corners.

Help us, who read, watch, listen and contribute to the media, to play our part by being wise and discerning, so that truth and beauty will be the hallmarks of our media.

We offer these prayers in the Name of the One who brought the Good News, declared himself as the Truth, and gave Himself for a world in need.

**Amen.**

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## A prayer for our public institutions

Leader: Generous Father,  
We thank you for all the public services we benefit from  
And so often take for granted.

For schools, libraries and Local Education Authorities –  
**All: We give you thanks and praise.**

Leader: For hospitals, doctors, nurses and the NHS as a whole –

**All: We give you thanks and praise.**

Leader: For our police and fire services -

**All: We give you thanks and praise.**

Leader: And for all others who help to make our society a better place

**All: We give you thanks and praise.**

Leader:           Lead and guide their work we pray  
                      With efficiency, transparency and diligence  
                      So excellence and service may remain at the heart of all they do.

All:                **Amen.**

## **A prayer for the third sector**

Generous, open-handed God  
Help us.  
For even our charities have been called into question  
For their fundraising practices, their administration fees  
And the way they present their accounts.  
Help all organisations that model your heart  
For the broken, the marginalised and the downtrodden  
To lead the way in championing truth and transparency.  
Guard them from the temptation of empty rhetoric  
Or the opportunistic presentation of statistics  
And lead them to be true prophetic voices for change  
That echo your heart for society  
And your value for each person.  
In the name of your precious Son – who gave his very life for us –  
Amen.

## **A prayer for companies and financial institutions**

God of power,  
We thank you that you never use your strength to oppress or bribe  
But instead you lay aside your riches to pursue the poor  
And lavish your grace upon them.  
We lift to you multi-national companies, financial institutions  
And all in the world who hold significant power and influence.  
  
We thank you for their massive potential to bring good;  
And for all people of good will who lead and work within them;  
We ask that you would restore integrity where it is lacking  
And straighten practices where they are exploitative.  
And help us Lord to always examine ourselves even as we pray for change in others.  
Amen.

## **A prayer for celebrities**

Lord Jesus – perfect role-model and example,  
We lift to you the influential role-models of our day.  
We ask for you to help them as they grapple with fame, money and success  
And lift to you all those that look to them for inspiration.  
Help us to remember that the rich can be poor  
The popular isolated  
And the famous plagued by self-doubt.  
Give us your heart of compassion for them  
And lead them to represent all that is good and true,  
For the sake of all who look to them for guidance.

Amen.

## **A prayer for the retail industry and our supply chains**

Lord of all areas of life, we have watched all we trust let us down  
And every god of our age turn out to have feet of clay.  
And now even our retail industry –  
From which we have sought therapy, comfort, identity and meaning –  
Has lost our confidence.  
Household brands reveal they are not as trustworthy as we thought they were  
And products have been packaged as something else to cut costs or corners or both.  
We clamour now that the scandal is close to home but we confess we have let other supply chains exploit those far  
away  
And done little to resist or oppose tax dodging in countries who needed the income more than ours.

Lord of all areas of life, redeem our market places,  
Convict us of our wrong consumer practices  
And restore a fair, ethical and balanced attitude towards what we need and what we are willing to buy.  
For you say we cannot worship God and money  
And we would once again choose you.  
Restore our nation's reputation for fair play  
And bless the enterprise of all who are worthy of it still.  
May we see recovery in our high streets and use this to help those in need  
Until we build a just, equitable and beneficial society for all.  
Amen.