

Stay and Pray – Prayers of Intercession for Saturday 30th July – 5th July

We give thanks for progress in inclusion in sport, as this year's Commonwealth Games in Birmingham will see more medal events for women than men for the first time, and a record 42 para-sports events take place. God, we thank you when everyone is given a chance to excel. We pray that more progress might be made to ensure all can participate.

We give thanks for innovative new ways to protect biodiversity. Researchers from York alongside fisheries in Devon have found a new way to fish scallops using disco lights! God we thank you that you have made us creative and innovative beings. We pray that we will use our skills and gifts for the wellbeing of your creation.

We pray for Ghana, where the deadly Marburg virus has been found in two cases. The disease is deadly and there is currently no cure. God, we pray that there would be no further spread in the virus, and that the right protective measures can be put in place swiftly.

We pray for families hit by the impact of rising energy bills. Last week, the government announced the details of how £400 in support will be paid to households, but there are concerns that those with pre-payment meters will be hardest to help. God, we pray that those most in need of support will receive the right information and guidance. We pray for the protection of those who risk being exposed to the cold this winter.

We pray for the economic crisis in Sri Lanka. The World Food Programme found that 86% of families are either eating less, eating less nutritious food or missing meals altogether. God, we lament that your children are suffering. We pray for swift and stable political leadership to find resolution to this crisis.

We pray for better access to women's healthcare. A new study revealed that a third of young women and girls still can't access free period products in schools, despite government schemes. God, we pray that we would work harder to ensure that all women and girls have what they need to access education and opportunities safely and with confidence.

We pray for Kenya, where climate change is killing twenty-times more elephants than poaching. Droughts are leading to severe water loss, killing elephants and endangering pregnancies and newborns. God, we confess the ways that human-induced climate change threatens the life of your creation. We pray for decisive action to change the future for this species.