

Prayer for 24th - 30th December

Living God,
we thank you for all workers by hand or by brain,
especially for those whose jobs we have not named.
We pray for workers
who are excluded, marginalised or forgotten,
workers from home,
cleaners who leave the office
before the day begins,
workers at night,
workers in forgotten places,
people excluded from work altogether:
include them, God,
in your all-embracing love,
let them enjoy
your universal justice.

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Occupational Prayer Cycle

This booklet has prayers to be used in each week of the year. The prayers are for people at work (or not working), and have a spread of different occupations.

These prayers are from
South Yorkshire Workplace Chaplaincy,
<http://www.sywc.org.uk/>

Prayer for the 1st - 7th January

We pray for people who bear the burdens
Of responsibility,
having power over other people's lives.
God give them wisdom,
And the strength to do what they need to do.
We pray for people who face the temptations
Of having power and influence.
Help them be honest and merciful.
And, for all their high positions,
They are human like us:
Let them know they are not alone,
In the long night-time of decision.
And by your grace,
Let them be loved and loving.

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Prayer for 17th - 23rd December

We thank you God
For the people who make us happy at Christmas:
For the people who contribute to this great secular festival,
Makers of cards and tinsel, toys and plastic trinkets,
Temporary shop assistants,
Father Christmases,
Housewives and husbands
Working hard in the kitchen.
All those people...
...for whom Christmas is a time of stress and overwork.
Give them peace, we pray,
Let them find a moment in which
To let Christmas be Christmas for them too.

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fish stocks while ensuring the viability of fishing businesses....

For restraint and fairness in the use of economic power, for discernment and a long term view in policy and decision, for a love of creation and a high view of human stewardship....

Lord, in your mercy, HEAR OUR PRAYER. AMEN.

*Jenny Carpenter, Arthur Rank Centre, Stoneleigh,
Warwickshire*

Prayer 2

Creator of all living things,
we pray for vets, veterinary nurses,
zoo keepers, stable lads, RSPCA inspectors
and others who work with animals.

Help them in their calling to respect creation
amid the muck and pus.

For those whose love for animals
makes them endure low pay and long hours,
we ask for dignity.

For those who have to decide whether
an animal lives or dies,
we ask for peace of mind.

And for all animal workers,
we ask your blessing.

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Prayer for the 8th - 14th January

Working in the night, after the children are in bed,
Those sore hands pack another box of cards:
Working in the day,
with children running round and breathing the dust,
Those tired hands work on another sleeve:
Working in the slow afternoon,
Years after the children have gone,
Old fingers hold the knitting needles.
God bless them all,
Give them rest, fair pay,
Safety, security, companionship
And hope.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Prayer for the 15th - 21st January

Moving money,
Selling dreams,
Bankers and advertisers,
Don't seem to touch
Anything real.
Yet their work is inextricably woven
Into our fragile economy,
Into the world of jobs and joblessness,
The things we consume day by day
And all that is different
Between being rich and being poor.
God give them wisdom to use their power,
And strength to deal with
The dilemmas they face.
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

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Prayers for 10th - 16th December

Prayer for farming, forestry and fishing industry

For farmers, foresters and fishers, their families and communities and all who depend on them
Lord, in your mercy, HEAR OUR PRAYER

For farmers who struggle to make a living, especially tenant farmers and those who have large amounts of debt to service....

For those who maintain high standards of animal husbandry, but are undercut by unfair competition, for livestock hauliers and auctioneers, for vets and agricultural advisers.....

For those who are seeking, instead of maximising production, to reduce chemical inputs and adopt eco-friendly practices...

For farming families under stress, for farm women, for the Women's Food and Farming Union and its work in promoting locally produced food and opportunities for diversification....

For support groups - Rural Stress Information Network, Farmers World Network and Rural Minds and for agricultural chaplains....

For foresters, balancing long term investment and short term economic return, for the development of sustainable woodland and increased use of coppicing products, for the use of trees and hedges to improve the micro climate and bio-diversity...

For fishing communities adapting to massive change, for an end to vicious rivalry within the European Community, for wisdom in implementing policies that will sustain and renew

Prayer for 3rd December - 9th December

God our Friend,

We pray for lorry drivers,
With their long hours and punishing work,
As they struggle through the traffic trying to keep to time,
At the same time knowing that
A moment's inattention turning left
Will leave them with someone dead under their wheels.
God give them strength to bear the burdens.
Lord, in your mercy...

Hear our prayer.

We pray for crane and fork lift truck drivers,
As they face the hazards of their work.
God, may they, and all they are responsible for,
Be safe.
Lord, in your mercy...

Hear our prayer.

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Prayers for the 22nd - 28th January

Prayer 1

We pray for all who work in their own homes,
housewives and husbands,
parents, children, single people,
bent over the washing up,
heaving the laundry,
cleaning and washing.
Let no one take such vital work
for granted,
for there is a time to be
Martha.

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Prayer 2

Heavenly Father, as a housewife, responsible for the comfort and cleanliness of a happy home, help me not to get too wrapped up in myself, making sure everything is done in order: and being proud of it! Help me to see that everything is done - in order to create a comfortable home for my husband and a warm welcome for the family and grandchildren, and not for my own selfish pride. Make me realise that to be fulfilled as a Christian, love and service towards my family is one way of spreading the gospel of the love of Jesus to all.

Mary Reynard, Trinity United Reformed Church, Barnsley

Prayer for the 29th January - 4th February

God of power and might,
We pray for people who have great power,
Those in charge of police and fire services,
The armed forces, security organisations.
Let them use their power with humility and justice.
And when they feel vulnerable, lonely,
They have life or death decisions to make,
Or everyone seems out to get them,
And nobody is there to help them.
God do not be far from them:
Be close in caring and love.

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Prayer for 26th November - 2nd December

Spirit of God, Fire and Wind,
Breath of Creation,
We pray for steelworkers,
Dealing with fire and power and danger
To make the most basic of 21st century needs.
Yet their jobs are fragile, easily blown away
As the economy changes.
God preserve them in a time of uncertainty,
Give them security in a time of insecurity.
Lord, in your mercy...

Hear our prayer.

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Prayer for 19th - 25th November

God our Creator,
We pray for people who work on the machines that make things,
Things we all need, want and use.
We remember their fear that one day
The machines won't need them,
For the number of people in this work is already dwindling:
And we ask you to take away their fear
And give them a new hope.
We pray for them as their working lives are taken up
With the needs of the machine,
"Is the line 'blocked' or 'starved'?"
God help us all to know that with you
We are not blocked and we are not starved.

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Prayer for the 5th - 11th February

We pray for personnel managers,
human resources managers,
by whatever name they are known,
especially those who have the burden
of telling someone their work is no longer needed.
Strengthen them
to do their task without fear
or evasion.
We remember the power of those words;-
letting him go, redundant, downsizing, the sack
and place ourselves in the hands
of a greater power.

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Prayer for the 12th - 18th February

God of love and mercy,
We pray for people who are shocked and grieving
Because they have just lost their jobs.
For all who mourn
The loss of purpose,
The loss of earnings,
The loss of friends,
The loss of dignity,
Let there be a new dignity
And a new hope.
And we want our world to be
Some other way
So this doesn't have to keep on happening
To people and communities
Of your children.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord...

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Prayer for 12th - 18th November

God of all the world,
We pray for people who sell,
Door to door, on the telephone, in markets.
For all their pressure and patter,
It can be a hard and lonely life,
When no-one will bite,
When you spill yourself on the empty air,
You make your spiel for the hundredth time
And nobody hears.
Let them know that you are close,
And answering a deeper need.

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Prayer for 5th - 11th November

For travelling workers

Lord, protect employees of large organisations who are required to make regular business trips nationally and overseas. Grant them physical protection as they travel by road, air and sea. Preserve them in good health of body, mind and spirit. Endow them with wisdom and discernment as they experience exposure to peoples of different language, culture, race and creed. Guard them from the temptations of greed in food and drink; lust in opportunities of the flesh and squander of monetary funds entrusted to them for necessary and appropriate use.

Also, Lord, be a sure guardian of the family members of those who travel. Give reassurance that their loved one will be kept healthy and returned safely home from each trip. Protect them in their loneliness at the times of day when families expect to spend time together and also guard them from any temptations which their vulnerable circumstances may invite. Give confidence to tackle alone the daily tasks which are normally shared. Grant them strength to accept a broader span of family and household duties and courage to learn any additional skills needed. Grant them perseverance to endure the circumstances of separation whilst giving support and encouragement for their spouse's career. But also, Lord, bless them with discernment to express to their partner, when appropriate, their concerns and sharing of opinions on current circumstances, together with their hopes and aspirations for the future so that mutual understanding can ensure major family decisions are made and agreed jointly.

*Margaret and Martin Hall, Barnby Dun Parish Church
Prayer from the Occupational Cycle;-*

Prayer for the 19th - 25th February

Living God,
Remember all who have to endure
Along, spirit-sapping time
Of unemployment.
As days turn to months and years,
And hope fades and dies:
God let your life, your hope,
Be always present for them.
May our world be a place
Where everybody has something can give
And everybody is worth something,
As we all are
In your eyes.

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Prayer for the 26th February - 4th March

We pray for managers in work that we don't often think about,
and for labourers in building, mining and manufacturing,
God give this diverse group
ever more understanding
of a common destiny.
Let's not wait
until the company goes out of business
for the workers and the bosses
to understand each other's pain.
Let us all
understand each other now
before it is too late,
as you understand us
and made your people
into one body and one bloodstream.

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Prayers for 29th October - 4th November

Prayer 1

God, we pray for people who work in shops,
Sitting or standing at the checkouts,
Passing the barcodes through the reader
All the time, all the time,
Stacking shelves, serving meat,
Walking the floor and having to decide what to do
With the shoplifter who has nothing,
Putting on a bit of class at the perfume counter,
Humping potatoes,
Sitting in a Post Office in a Scottish island in the rain,
Waiting for a customer.
God bless them all with happiness, good hours and pay,
And help them find the humanity in their work.

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Prayer for Shop Workers

Father God, we pray for all shop workers. In their act of serving us they remind us of Christ, who came to us as a servant. We pray that each of them may become aware of His Spirit acting through them.
We pray for the relationships between management and staff. May the pressure of corporate goals never override the compassionate concern for individuals' circumstances.
In the continuing trend of customers moving from town centre shopping to outlet malls, help those workers who are affected to cope with the change, particularly those who might be made redundant or relocated.
In the Name of Jesus, our Servant King. Amen.

Margaret Hall, chaplain, Binns department store, Doncaster

Prayer for 22nd - 28th October

Living God, we pray
For buyers, brokers and sales representatives.
Keep them in touch, we pray,
With the reality of the effects of their actions.
For the people who dress in bright jackets
And play the buying and selling game
Know somewhere inside that exchange rates and jobs
Depend on this game.
For the people who travel the country selling their goods
Know that jobs depend on what they can sell.
And so when these people face their days and their decisions,
And when they feel troubled,
God give them the hope that they too
Can make things better in our world.

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Prayers for the 5th - 11th March

Prayer of a Scientist

Dear Lord,
What can I do? I'm tearing my hair out, what's left of it.
I've taken on this graduate and technician and they've come good - we finished the contract on time. But now the orders seem to have dried up - how can we finance the research we started without cash? Maybe it's because the large firms that used to give us work have merged and cut down their R&D. I don't want to lay off anyone, but it's either that or going bust. Now I'm spending more time looking for work than working. Give me the faith so that I can take time off for a holiday, and inspiration and hope, Lord, to hang on in there.

Robert Spooner, former chaplain to Sheffield Science Park

Prayer 2

We thank you, God,
For this beautiful world,
Waiting to be discovered.
From the scale of the living cell
To the universe,
There is elegance and complexity
Unfolding at every step.
For people who work in this world of discovering,
For scientists at their work,
We pray.
When it all seems mundane,
Lift their spirits.
When funding is hard to come by,
And all their energy goes into getting money,
Help them see sometimes
What it is all for.
God help them

When they don't like what is being done with their knowledge,
Or they don't care.

Let the search for truth be done
With all integrity
Through Jesus Christ our Lord...

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Prayers for 15th - 21st October

Prayer 1

We thank you God
For the work of care assistants and hospital porters,
Looking after people when no-one else can,
Working in the night, working hard,
Lifting, bathing, cleaning up after people,
Often on low pay.

God care for them.

We pray for domestic workers, hairdressers
And other service workers,
Often women, often low paid,
Cleaners in the early morning, before we're awake,

Au pairs taking a chance

On getting a good family.

God bless them all:

Give them hope and justice.

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Window Cleaners

When I'm up high, looking down through
these acres of glass, I think of you.

When I sweep my squeegee through the grime,
I recall you make us clear time after time.

Give me a steady nerve
and a strong ladder,
honest customers
and good weather,
when I'm cleaning windows.

Janet Lees: 17.10.04

I'd face the Saturday night crowds,
the traffic jams and the inspector
with a calmer mind.

Give me pleasant passengers
and safe journeys
when I'm on the buses.

Janet Lees

Prayers for the 12th - 18th March

“Solid ground”

A prayer for grouters, tunnelling engineers

Stick with us, God
whether we are wise or foolish.
May the climate, markets and personal concerns
be stable enough
for us to complete on time and within budget,
as we use faith and technology
to create solid ground
and new opportunities,
come rain or flood.

Janet Lees

Prayer of an Engineer

Oh God,
This drawing has got to be out on Friday! - and the client wants
us to change the layout - why can't he make up his mind! We'll
never have time to check it properly - I'm praying that it'll work
first time. Help me to calm down and simply do my best. I do
realise I'm not a Superman or Wonder woman - and neither is
the client - but it's difficult, Lord, to remember that, when they're
causing so much grief. I daren't work over tonight when I've
promised to take the family out. How am I expected to have a
home life - with all these contracts piling up! Help me Lord to
get things in perspective and ask for help when I need it.

Robert Spooner, former chaplain to Sheffield Science Park

Prayer 3

Creator God,
Maker of a beautiful and intricate world,
We thank you for engineers,

For their work in making the world work,
For their unnoticed work
Behind every screen, under every bonnet,
Between the telephones that bring us closer together.
We thank you for the human power to invent,
And pray that we may use it wisely,
For the building up of humanity
And not for its destruction.
God give purpose and hope
To all who do this work.

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Prayer 4

Living God,
whose kindness gives us an inheritance of genes,
programming our bodies' growth,
yet offering space for us to be ourselves;
we thank you for the work of computer programmers
as they try to program machines
to be reliable, yet responsive
to our needs.
Give them strength
when they are harassed by tight deadlines,
or by interruptions that bring a delicate mental memory stack
tumbling to the ground.
When they are passionate about detail,
let them also be passionate about the big picture,
about where their work fits into global stories
of power and poverty,
despair and salvation.

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Prayers for 8th - 14th October

Prayer 1

Christ the refugee,
We remember that you were a traveller too...
We thank you for the work of people
Who help us travel,
By bus, boat, train or plane.
We pray for package holiday couriers as they field people's
complaints.
We pray for immigration officers whose job is
To put our policies into action
Face to face,
Hearing the stories of hardship and necessity,
Unable to switch off like we can.
We pray for these front line people
Whose daily diet is complaints and contempt,
And we ask you give them the integrity
To carry on being themselves,
Strong and sure.

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On the buses

Christ,
I need you on my bus.
So much responsibility:
the right change,
keeping to the timetable,
safety of passengers
and other road users.

If you were on the back seat
it would give me confidence.

Prayer for 1st - 7th October

Living God,
We pray for police, firefighters, ambulance drivers,
The frontline workers of our fraying society,
Dealing with panic and death.
Give them strength to bear the strain
And still be human, just and fair.
God we dare to thank you
For the work of traffic wardens:
We know we can't do without them,
For our cities would seize up.
Yet many of us love to hate them.
Keep it in their minds, we pray,
That they are loved.

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Prayer for the 19th - 25th March

Christ the healer,
We pray for all whose work is to heal.
Let them also be healed.
Lord, in your mercy...
Hear our prayer.

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Prayers for the 26th March - 1st April

Prayer 1

Christ the teacher,
We pray for all whose job it is
To bring out the best in us:
And those who seem to have to bear the struggle
With what is worst in us.
We pray for teachers in schools
Where few people want to learn.
Give them strength to cope with daily stress.
We thank you for the keepers of knowledge
In libraries and universities
Who love to share that knowledge with everyone.
Give to all teachers the strength
To keep the vision alive.

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Prayer 2

Spirit of Truth,
we pray for academic researchers,
and all who work to discover
what is true, or real.
Cures for illness or causes of war-
all the world is crying out to be known.
Help researchers to work with integrity
as they explore and discover
and communicate their findings.
And as all the world wants to be known,
may all the world know its Creator.

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Prayer for 24th - 30th September

We pray for soldiers, sailors and aircrew,
a long way from home,
stressed with boredom, fear,
and the power of life and death.
God keep them safe
in sanity and hope.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord...

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Prayers for 17th - 23rd September

Prayer 2

Living God,
we thank you for ministers and priests, church community
workers and church leaders.
Give them strength, courage and integrity,
and help them laugh.

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Prayer 2

God who shares our humanity in Christ,
we pray for prostitutes, male and female.
How is it
that such a gift should be traded?
Whatever brings people to this occupation,
desperation, a mother's desire to provide for her children,
addiction, the threat of violence,
or a free and knowing choice,
whatever it is that brings them here,
we pray for your blessing for them.
We pray for healing from disease,
safety from violent punters,
freedom from harassment,
dignity and hope.
May they be eternally
within your love.

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Prayer for the 2nd - 8th April

God of love,
We pray for people whose main job is to care:
To care for a child, a parent or a relative.
We pray for single mothers and fathers,
Balancing the needs of the child and the need for a job
outside.
We pray for those who watch
As someone they love grows more frail.
We pray for those whose lives seem to disappear
As the needs of another take over.
God help them with their dilemmas and questions.
God give them strength when they are weak.
And let them know freedom.

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Prayer for the 9th - 15th April

We give thanks for the work of lawyers, accountants and financial advisers,
working to apply knowledge and reason
in a world of conflict and stress.

God protect them
from the temptations of their jobs.

May they, and we,
be as respectful of those with little money
as we are of those with much.

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Prayer for 10th - 16th September

We thank you for voluntary workers in their own home country,
for people in night shelters
wearing thick jumpers and stirring thick soup,
for people in mental health centres,
advice bureaux and urban farms:
no money,
but much value.

We thank you God.

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Prayer for 3rd - 9th September

Living God, we pray for "miscellaneous" skilled workers.

Once again, there are people
who defy our simple categories,
arcane and forgotten skills,
emerging or disappearing.

We thank you for them all.

God bless them all.

For you also

were not what people expected,
the messiah who didn't fit the job description for a messiah,
the humble king,
the loving victor.

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Prayer for the 16th - 22nd April

We thank you

for the work of architects, town planners, surveyors and estate
agents,

for they have made the face of the world we move in.

We pray for them-

-that that face

may be a kindly one.

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Prayers for the 23rd - 29th April

Prayer of an Engineering Technician

Hoorah! We did it. The cub contractor completed on time and the client was delighted when the machine worked first time and to specification. We've been paid too! It gives us a real buzz; it's teamwork that does it.

It makes all the hassle worth while when we know we've done a good job and satisfied both the Boss and the Client.

Thank you Lord when we share your creative energy.

Robert Spooner, former chaplain to Sheffield Science Park

Prayer 2

We thank you God
for the work of technicians, draughtspeople and computer
programmers,
the people who know how,
how to make things work,
how the imagination can leap
from lines on paper
to a machine to do a complex task,
how lines of code
can make a subtle program,
bright, friendly and useful.
Yet often the decisions about what happens to the fruit of their
labours
are not theirs:
God give them grace
to work in harmony with their consciences.

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Prayer 3

Creator God,

Prayer for 27th August - 2nd September

We pray for chefs, cooks, waiters, kitchen porters and pot
washers,
working late,
working fast,
getting hot,
some on very low pay.

Lord, in all the stress and heat and bustle,
speak words of healing and hope,
words of justice.

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Prayer for 20th - 26th August

We remember carpenters and joiners,
the craft you chose
in Nazareth, long ago:
the work of making chairs or crosses,
like the cross on which you were broken.
Surely this is spiritual work.
May all our work
be spiritual to us.

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we thank you for the work of
typographers, industrial designers and graphic designers,
whose work is woven unnoticed
into our everyday life,
and often forgotten.
We remember it now,
we thank you for it,
the shapes of things,
clarity of text,
ease of use.
And for designers we ask for;-
Patience and hope
when they see their designs fail to make it
beyond the drawing board,
Clarity of vision,
to see the moral issues behind decisions like
rugged or elegant?, expensive or cheap?,
A glimpse of you
in the design of the world you made.

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Prayer for 30th April - 6th May

We pray for ship and aircraft officers, air traffic planners and controllers:

maybe our prayers are a bit more fervent
when we're just about to board a plane or a ferry:
but we pray here and now just the same,
remembering a group of people
whose lives are stretched
all over the world,
whose shift patterns are difficult.
May they find some home,
some fixed place, some anchorage and security
among all this motion.

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Prayers for 13th - 19th August

For print workers

We pray for print workers,
a profession altered beyond recognition
in twenty years.

God take the strain,
and heal the stress.
And may Chapels
be places of renewal.

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For electricians and electronics engineers

We give you thanks God
for the work of electricians,
those wires behind the wall
which lie forgotten
unless they stop working.
We thank you for workers in electronics
who have the power to make
a medical scanner or a missile guidance system.
May all power
be used for the best.

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Prayers for 6th - 12th August

Prayer 1

We thank you God
for skilled textile and clothing workers,
overlockers
and trades unknown outside certain regions.
We rejoice in our beautiful and diverse world,
but world competition in this industry
makes everybody insecure,
from Oldham to Bangladesh.
God help us
to minimise insecurity,
and where it can't be taken away,
help us live with it.

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Prayer 2

God of love,
every time we
pull on the gloves, put on the hat
to dance the dance,
or to go out into the cold...
...help us remember
the people who made them;-
skilled people,
bored people standing in front of machines,
an old woman with no other income
knitting a pair of yellow gloves for 'mfundisi'.
God, it's your world,
we are all your children.

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Prayers for 7th - 13th May

For actors and entertainers

God our Father, you are the weakness and the power of love
which motivates human endeavour for good. May your
influence be with those who strive for excellence in all our
theatres and places of entertainment. Bless those involved in
the entertainments industry, that their activities may be carried
out in the spirit of love and friendship and that they may give
enjoyment and pleasure to many. May we grow in knowledge
of ourselves and of the human condition and so come to
greater knowledge of you, our God, who share in our humanity
through your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Father Marcus Wakely, St. Matthew's, Carver Street, Sheffield

We give thanks

We give thanks
for social workers, sports people, actors, acrobats, artists,
musicians, writers, clowns, probation officers and poets;
for those who make us happy
and those who pick up the pieces when we're not.
God give them strength for jobs
which have so many demands,
for they give strength to us all.

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Prayer for writers

In our human life,
words can help or hinder.
Sometimes one is enough or too many.
Mindful of all words do for us,

we go beyond them now
into the silence that surrounds us all.

[pause]

May the words we have and those we lack
mark our appreciation and understanding
of those who craft words for us;
for our enjoyment and comfort,
for our healing and celebration,
for our teaching and ordering,
whether professional or amateur,
for stage, screen or print:
Author of life, graciously hear us.

Janet Lees: 29.07.2006

Prayer for 30th July - 5th August

We pray for welders, forge and foundry workers.
We need their work,
yet demand goes up and down
with the economic cycle.
"We are born to trouble
as the sparks fly upward".
God give security
to all whose work is insecure.

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Prayer for 23rd - 29th July

Compassionate God,
We pray for people who are retired.
Through work, or voluntary work
Or social existence,
Let them know they are still part of us,
They still contribute, they are still needed.
Help people who are newly retired to cope
With the stress of a big change in their lives.
And help us all to find our own Sabbath:
As you rested on the seventh day,
Let us all learn to rest.

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Prayer for 14th - 20th May

"Prayer"

We pray for professionals and experts of many kinds,
journalists as they seek to reconcile
truth and the need for a story,
historians, tree surgeons,
people whose work we shall never know or understand.
We are glad because
people like these keep our world going.
We are glad because
even when we don't know
you care.

SYWC

Prayers for the 21st - 27th May

Prayer

We pray for administrative officers and assistants in the civil service and local government.

We confess that such work is sometimes despised, reckoned boring or unimportant, "pushing paper clips around".-

But we're the first to complain if it isn't done right.

We thank you God for all these unsung workers.

We pray particularly for those who are face to face with the public, getting daily abuse in DSS offices and from people at the end of their tether.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

SYWC

Post Office People

Bless those who will today stand waiting in a cashier's queue: For the great patience and good humour which they need.

Bless those queuing to receive benefits and pensions, anxious about the amount they're due, planning how they're going to make ends meet this week.

Bless those queuing to deposit money: hard-earned cash, possibly winnings, or a gift, saving towards a longed-for holiday, or wedding, or a new investment.

Bless those who will today stand waiting in a cashier's queue.

Keep them composed while listening out for that familiar voice which will call them: 'Cashier number One, please';

Prayer for 16th - 22nd July

We thank you God for the work of fitters, instrument makers, lathe and milling machine operators, car mechanics...

For we depend on them for our buses and trains, cars and bikes.

May we value them as much as we need them.

SYWC

Prayer for 9th - 15th July

We pray for children at school and students.
Let them be safe,
but not too safe to grow.
May they find friends,
and love truth:
for truth comes from you.

SYWC

Help them tolerate others in the queue whose patience is wearing thin;

Give them the gift of conversation to ease the tension and the boredom.

We give thanks for those behind the cashier's glass
Who tirelessly deal with the customers and their needs:
may there always be enough of them to cope at the busiest times of the day.

We give thanks for those who provide happy distractions in the queue -

playful children, adults blessed with the gift of humour:
may their sense of fun lighten the mood.

Bless those who will today stand waiting in a cashier's queue:
Those needing to make a complaint;
Those applying for a passport, or tax disc, or a loan;
Those for whom money hasn't yet bought happiness
and those whose happiness can't be bought at any price.

Bless those who will today stand waiting in a cashier's queue:
we hope to be blessed as we stand there with them.

John Davies. From his web page

<http://www.johndavies.org/sermons/talk-gb-07-08-26.html>

Prayer for 28th May - 3rd June

We thank you God
for accounting clerks, cashiers, filing and record clerks.
For we are glad
that somebody knows
where the money has gone
and where information can be found.

SYWC

Prayer for 2nd - 8th July

We thank you, God,
for the work of bricklayers:
their work is all around us.
We praise you, God,
for the work of riggers,
climbing and hanging on,
making a solid work of scaffolding
in the thin air.
We praise and thank you
for the skills of construction workers
and ask you to protect them
from the insecurity and dangers
of their job.

SYWC

Prayer for 25th June - 1st July

We give thanks for the work of missionaries and volunteers
outside their home country,
chasing war and famine,
terror and sadness,
giving love, helping, healing,
digging wells, preaching the Gospel.
God give them strength.

SYWC

Prayer for 4th - 10th June

We give thanks for storekeepers, despatch and other clerks,
for the people whose work, unseen,
keeps things in order.
"If you ask for a fish,
would he give you a snake?"
No.
And so, toilet paper and Toblerone,
wood and steel
are in places where they are wanted.
We pray for people in these jobs
who have to adjust to new computer systems.
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

SYWC

Prayer for 11th - 17th June

We give thanks for typists, secretaries and personal assistants,

for work that keeps many offices from chaos.

We confess that the days of
"dictation on the boss's knee"
are not yet over.

And we ask for strength
for all such workers who strive to be professional
in a world where women
are still sometimes expected to be girls.

SYWC

Prayer for 18th - 24th June

We pray for receptionists, telephonists and workers in call centres,

struggling to smile,
sometimes in the face of abuse.

Let them not be destroyed
by the pressure of keeping a smiling face,
putting on an act
twenty times an hour.

Lord, bringer of health and wholeness,
hear our prayer.

SYWC