

## World Day of Prayer

### INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Every four or five years representatives of National/Regional Committees gather in a different area of the world to:

*Share experiences*

*Select themes and writing countries*

*Consider ways by which the movement may grow*

*Elect an Ecumenical Committee with representatives from Africa, Asia, Caribbean/North America, Europe, Latin America, Middle East and the Pacific*

**Through World Day of Prayer, Christians affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence in the world.**

In 1982 Irish women from North and South prepared the service together. The logo was designed by an Irishman especially for the service and was then adopted internationally. The design comprises arrows converging from the four points of the compass, four figures kneeling in prayer, the Celtic cross and a circle representing the world and our unity through all our diversity.



**World Day of Prayer** came to these islands through the missionary activity of a Scots woman, Grace Forgan, who heard of the movement at an international missionary gathering in Jerusalem in 1928. The first service was held in Scotland in 1920, then in England in 1932, Wales in 1933, Republic of Ireland in 1935 and Northern Ireland in 1943.

In **England, Wales** and **Northern Ireland** the Day of Prayer is organised through:

**A National Committee** that edits the service and prepares and distributes resource materials to its branches

**Regional Days** held around the country that help local branches to prepare for the next Day of Prayer

Over 2,500 inter-denominational local **Branch Committees** whose members promote the service in their churches and jointly organise the Day of Prayer in their area

*Offerings from the service are used to support the work of World Day of Prayer and projects run by Christian Charities.*



## World Day of Prayer

A global ecumenical movement of informed prayer and prayerful action

On the first Friday in March the Day of Prayer begins on the international dateline, in Samoa. Early in the morning, Christian women begin praying for our world. As the earth rotates, a great wave of prayer begins to build. It sweeps across the Pacific, touching Fiji and New Zealand, rolling on through Asia: Japan, the Philippines, Korea, and Bangladesh. The countries of Africa, and the Middle East are next. The wave reaches the shores of Europe as the day dawns there. Across the Atlantic, it moves onwards, the Caribbean, the Americas, and on to the Pacific again until the sun finally sets over American Samoa where the final service takes place. A worldwide circle of prayer is complete.

**Annually First Friday in March**



## World Day of Prayer

**... is a worldwide movement led by Christian women of many traditions who call the faithful together to observe a common day of prayer each year.**

More than 120 countries participate in an annual day of celebration which brings together people of various races, cultures and traditions sharing God's word and worship.

**Through World Day of Prayer, Christians around the world:**

*Affirm their faith in Jesus*

*Share their hopes, fears joys, sorrows, opportunities and needs*

**Through World Day of Prayer, we are encouraged to:**

*Be enriched by the faith of Christians of other cultures*

*Share the burdens of other people and pray for them*

*Become aware of the whole world and no longer live in isolation*

*Graphics in the decorative border represent countries highlighted in recent World Day of Prayer services.*



## World Day of Prayer

The worship service has a special annual theme. Through preparation and participation in this, we can come to know how people of other countries, languages and cultures understand the biblical passages in their context. We can hear their concerns and needs and can feel ourselves in solidarity with them. In this way it is possible to experience the richness of the Christian faith as it grows deeper and broader in an international, ecumenical expression.

### Future Themes

Prepared by Christian women in different countries

- 2025** ● *I made you wonderful*  
**Cook Islands**
- 2026** ● *I will give you rest, come*  
**Nigeria**
- 2027** ● *United in prayer for Justice & Peace*  
**WDPIC**
- 2028** ● *Leading the way in grace*  
**Costa Rica**
- 2029** ● *Compassion brings healing*  
**Italy**
- 2030** ● *As the earth rests, people can eat*  
**Nepal**
- 2031** ● *A sign of faith*  
**Jamaica**



## World Day of Prayer

The origins of World Day of Prayer date back to the 19th century when Christian women of the United States and Canada initiated a variety of activities in support of women's involvement in mission at home and in other parts of the world.

**These activities remain related to:**

*Concern for women and children*

*The role of prayer in mission work*

*A vision of Christian unity*

*Biblical study as everyone's responsibility*

*Social issues and working with immigrants*

*Linking world peace with world mission*

In 1926 the women of North America distributed the worship service to many countries and partners in mission. The response worldwide was enthusiastic: thus the call was issued for a world Day of Prayer.

For more information about World Day of Prayer in England, Wales & Northern Ireland visit: **wwdp.org.uk**

