

## January

Ever hopeful God, in Jesus Christ and his resurrection you teach us never to give up hope, even when life brings us to a cross. At the beginning of this new year fill our hearts with hope for increasing justice and peace in our world, and give us the strength and determination to work with your Spirit in changing the world around us. Amen

*by David Warrington. Baptist Minister*

**Focus for Hope:** Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. <https://ctbi.org.uk>

## February

Thank you God that you give us everything we need to live as your fully devoted followers. Help us to see clearly that there is no greater priority in our lives than putting you and the priorities of your Kingdom first. Give us eyes to see the needs of others. Fill our hearts, minds and hands with passion to act and serve in practical ways with love and grace and voices to share boldly the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Amen

*From the Salvation Army*

**Focus for Hope:** Liberty Tea Rooms, Hemel Hempstead. <https://www.libertytearooms.co.uk>

## March

Be Our New Life

God of creation mystery and the holy place draw us to yourself.

God of the Word incarnate spoken enacted be our strength.

God of love may the forgiveness and the power of tenderness be our new life. Amen

*By Alasdair Pratt, URC Minister*

**Focus for Hope:** Churches Together in Watford and Garston witnessing to their community by acting together to clean up the local cemetery.

## April

Living God, deliver us from a world without justice and a future without mercy; in your mercy, establish justice, and in your justice, remember the mercy revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*From the Church of England*

**Focus for Hope:** Easter Walks of Witness bringing Christians together across the County,

## May

Take time to consider the many blessings God has given you. Give thanks for how you have been blessed:

- Physically
- Mentally
- Spiritually

*From the Redeemed Christian Church of God*

**Focus for Hope:** Thy Kingdom Come [www.thykingdomcome.global](http://www.thykingdomcome.global)

## June

Breathe into me, Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy.

Move in me, Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy.

Attract my heart, Holy Spirit, that I may love only what is holy.

Strengthen me, Holy Spirit, that I may defend all that is holy.

Protect me, Holy Spirit, that I may always be holy.

*Prayer of St. Augustine*

**Focus for Hope:** Churches Together in Hitchin working to combat loneliness and promote intergenerational relationships.

## July

Praise the God of New Things

God puts a new song into our mouth, are we willing to sing it. God puts a new heart into our bodies, are we willing to use it. The love of God empowers and enthuses, are we willing to accept the gift. Let us praise the God of new things, whose gifts are abundant and whose faithfulness is great. Amen.

*By Nigel Warner, URC Minister*

**Focus for Hope:** Churches Together in Radlett and Aldenham provide a Summer Hamper scheme for those families whose children would usually benefit from free school meals.

## August

Consider sitting in 'expectant silence' as a way in to pray.

"Take heed, dear Friends, to the promptings of love and truth in your hearts. Trust them as the leadings of God whose Light shows us our darkness and brings us to new life".

*From the Quaker Faith and Practice*

**Focus for Hope:** Churches across Hertfordshire coming together to serve their community providing children's holiday activities.

## September

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing, chosen us in Christ to be holy and blameless, destined us in Christ to be God's children, and granted us through the blood of Christ redemption and the forgiveness of our sins. Amen.

*From the Methodist Church*

**Focus for Hope:** Focus for Hope: Workplace Matters - bringing meaning and purpose to work. [www.workplacematters.org.uk](http://www.workplacematters.org.uk)

## October

Let us give thanks to the beneficent and merciful God, the father of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ, for he has covered us, helped us, guarded us, accepted us to Him, spared us, supported us and brought us to this hour. Let us also ask the Lord our God, to guard us in all peace, this day and all the days of our life.

*From the Coptic Orthodox Church*

**Focus for Hope:** Church Leaders and Ecumenical Officers from across Hertfordshire meet together for prayer and discussion.

## November

God of compassion,  
your love for humanity was revealed in Jesus,  
whose earthly life began in the poverty of a stable  
and ended in the pain and isolation of the cross:  
we hold before you those who are homeless and  
cold especially in this bitter weather.  
Draw near and comfort them in spirit and bless  
those who work to provide them with shelter, food  
and friendship. We ask this in Jesus' name.  
Amen.

*From the Church of England*

**Focus for Hope:** New Hope in Watford. Preventing homelessness, transforming lives.  
[www.newhope.org.uk](http://www.newhope.org.uk)

## December

O Lord, stir up our hearts  
that we may prepare for Thy only begotten Son,  
that through His coming we may be made worthy to  
serve Thee with pure souls.  
Through the same Christ our Lord.

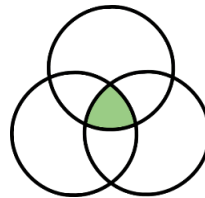
*From the Roman Catholic Church*

**Focus for Hope:** Christians coming together to celebrate the birth of Christ our Lord.

## How do we work ecumenically to further Christian Unity?

The term "ecumenism" refers to efforts by Christians of different Church traditions to develop closer relationships and better understanding.

All ecumenical work and activity has Christ in the centre, in relationship with individuals and as part of our relationships together. Christ is the focus of all ecumenical thought and action. One way to think about ecumenism is to consider the different but overlapping types of ecumenism, all with Christ at the centre:



*Spiritual Ecumenism – Christ in Me and Christ in You*

- Praying and Worshiping together
- Friendships and Informal Dialogues

*Social Ecumenism – Christ in Communities*

- Local mission
- Seeking Justice
- Community Engagement

*Structural Ecumenism – Christ in the Church*

- Committees and Structures
- Constitutions and Agreements
- Formal National Dialogues
- Local Ecumenical Partnerships

Please contact us to learn more about how we can support your Church community as we work together towards greater Christian Unity.



## Churches Together in Hertfordshire

### Prayer Calendar 2019

Churches Together in Hertfordshire are Christians who seek to fulfil the vision of Jesus for his followers across Hertfordshire. We work across the county, supporting every kind of activity that aims to achieve the goal of Christian unity.

We support local Churches Together groups, Local Ecumenical Partnerships, ecumenical projects and other types of local co-operative working where unity in mission strives to transform villages, towns or communities with the love of Christ.

“I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one – as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me”

*John 17 :21*

**Please join us to pray and work for unity in Hertfordshire.**

*Find out more at [www.ctherts.org.uk](http://www.ctherts.org.uk)*