

Prayer Diary

December 2020 • February 2021

friends
INTERNATIONAL



Twelve Weeks of Prayer Points



Thank you for your continued prayers
and support for international students.

Christmas Outreach



Week 1
7th Dec

A Different Christmas

Every Christmas international students are invited into homes for Christmas dinner, to churches for carol services and to outreach events to find the true meaning of Christmas. This year, however, will look very different due to Coronavirus restrictions. Please pray that, despite the limitations, international students across the country would have opportunities to experience Christmas traditions as well as discover who Jesus really is.

Week 2
14th Dec

Christmas Cafés

Every year, as terms come to an end, our international student cafés will usually run a Christmas themed evening. This year however, many will be online. On the 19th, Friends International Dundee will be doing just that with their International Café Christmas Party on Zoom. Please pray that this event will go well, and for all the other cafés who are adapting their Christmas activities.

Week 3
21st Dec

Christmas Outside

Many of our local centres will be holding outdoor activities where possible, as this allows for larger groups to attend. Friends International Guildford are holding their Christmas walk on the 22nd – taking students on a 5-mile walk through the Surrey countryside. Please pray that this event and others like it would help forge close friendships.

Week 4
28th Dec

Looking Back; Looking Forward

1 Thessalonians 5:18 says to "give thanks in all circumstances." 2020 has perhaps been the most challenging year to be thankful for. However, we thank God for the new opportunities that have come with the huge changes. We thank God that this year has seen students' lives transformed, and we pray that in 2021 many more will come to know Him.



Training and Various Ministries

Week 5
4th Jan

Training and Development

Please pray that our upcoming National Conference, 14th-17th January, will refresh and equip staff for the coming year. Give thanks for many new opportunities to provide online training for staff, churches and CUs. Please pray for creativity and wisdom as we adapt to changing government measures with each conference (National Conference, New Staff Induction, May Training), especially as we make optimal use of “in person” gatherings. – **Lynette Teagle**, Head of Training and Development.

Week 6
11th Jan

Returnee Ministry

It has been encouraging during the pandemic to see increased contact with returnees (students who have already returned home). We give thanks for returnees joining online events. Please pray for those who returned home suddenly bringing studies to an abrupt or uncertain end. Pray also for those who have returned to countries of increasing persecution, that all might prioritise Christian fellowship at home. Finally, pray for the discipleship of current students before they leave. – **Sue Burt**, Head of Returnee Ministry

Week 7
18th Jan

'Hard to Reach' Ministry

Covid-19 means that almost all students have become harder to reach. In our local ministries we need wisdom to decide which students to focus on, asking for effective outreach pathways and divine appointments. We long for opportunities to engage with students from least-reached nations – whether students among us, current students back home or returnees – who have little chance of hearing the Gospel in their own countries. Please pray! – **Rachel Chard**, Head of Hard to Reach

Week 8
25th Jan

Events Speaking Ministry

I will soon be engaged in four Christian Union events weeks: Edinburgh (25-29 Jan), Southampton (1-5 Feb), Birmingham (15-20 Feb) and Queens Belfast (1-5 March). At the time of writing we are working on a possible approach of a combination of smaller, on-site meetings instead of big evening meals as per usual. I am hoping to use the launch of my book to encourage students to attend (online or in person), where students will receive a copy of the book if they attend. Pray for real, life-changing conversations. – **Peter Teagle**, Head of Events Speaking



Vision for Growth

Week 9
1st Feb

Liverpool

With three universities, plus other higher education institutions, there are an estimated 11,000 international students in Liverpool. This is a mission field that cannot be ignored. Please pray for us as we seek to launch a Friends International local centre in Liverpool and partner with churches and Christian Unions in the city. Pray for the right people to join the work and to push the vision forward.

Week 10
8th Feb

Reading

Reading has almost 5,000 international students and several churches already with a vision for reaching them. Please pray that we would be able to recruit a Centre Team Leader in Reading, someone who would be able to partner with churches and lead a united effort in reaching and discipling students there. Pray for the Lord to lead our recruitment efforts.

Week 11
15th Feb

Ireland

Friends International have been partnering with Christian Unions Ireland (CUI) to reach international students across the whole island of Ireland. Please pray for Hollie Tagle as she heads up the International Student Ministry Ireland Project and seeks to build partnerships with churches. Pray as we look to recruit new staff in key locations, that we would be able to find the right individuals to take the work forward.

Week 12
22nd Feb

Coventry

Did you know that Coventry University has the 4th most international students of any university in the UK – only behind UCL, and the universities of Manchester and Edinburgh? Coventry is an important city for overseas students and therefore needs to be better equipped for the harvest. Join us in thanking God for Jeremy Wardle who has started with Friends International in the city, but please pray that more would join him and that a new local centre would be established there.



friends
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