
United Kingdom

**Total area:**

243,610 km²

Population:

65,648,000 (2016)

Literacy:

98%

Official languages:

English

GDP (PPP) per capita:

\$42,514 (2016 est.)

Life expectancy:

80 years

Religions:

43% Protestant, 41% Agnostic or Atheist, 9% Catholic, 3% Muslim, 1% Hindu, 1% Eastern Orthodox, 2% other religions

Prayer points

Reaching Jewish people during lockdown

Christian Witness to Israel (CWI) continues to reach out to Jewish people around the world. In the midst of the coronavirus pandemic and country-wide lockdowns, the Good News is being shared with Jewish people as they ask questions about death, suffering and human mortality. CWI missionaries have been providing answers to these questions by staying in regular touch with their Jewish contacts, most of whom are also in self-isolation, by phone and online. We have been conducting Bible studies and sharing the gospel in conversation, as well as safely distributing food parcels to addicts, the homeless, and Holocaust survivors in Israel. Please pray for all the Jewish people we are reaching out to at this time, asking that many will turn to Jesus as their Saviour. (Christian Witness to Israel - May 2020)

Pray for international students in the UK

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, universities across the UK have been closed and international travel has been restricted. This has led to tough circumstances for international students who have come to UK universities from abroad. Some have become stuck in the UK and many who have lost their part-time employment are unable to fund their studies anymore. Please pray for those who are stranded and vulnerable at this time. Pray that Christians would use innovative ways online to reach out and support these students at this difficult time. (Friends International - May 2020)

Nativity story booklets used in outreach

Hundreds of churches and schools all around the UK used Lifewords' resources over the Christmas period, with over 150,000 booklets telling the nativity story being given out at services, community events, and in schools. Please pray for all of those people who will have experienced the story, some

for the very first time. Thank God that the generosity of Lifewords' supporters enabled so many people to make a change for life in their communities, and that those churches and schools can continue to reach into their communities this year, by giving and living life words. (Lifewords - February 2020)

New Geared For Growth Bible Study Book

Thank you very much for praying regarding Geared For Growth's latest title 'Psalms 51-100' in their series of Old Testament Studies. Graham is now working on the final draft and we hope it'll be published over the next few months. For details about the other study books go here: gearedforgrowth.co.uk/store/c2/Old_Testament.html [1] A couple of ladies from Olive's church have expressed an interest in doing a Bible study. "Please pray that we can come up with a time that suits us all and that we'll really enjoy our time together and that we'll grow in the knowledge of God and his Word." (WEC International in Ireland - January 2020)

Hospitality to new students

In this first term, freshers (first year students) can feel increasingly anxious and unsettled. Many Christian Unions (CUs) are providing a warm welcome for new students within the framework of genuine, deep relationships. CU members have been able to share Christ naturally with their peers and have seen many respond in faith as a result. Pray that many more would keep exploring Christianity after experiencing God's love and welcome from the CUs' witness on campus. Also, as Christmas approaches there are increased opportunities to share the gospel as it is a time of year when students are most likely to sing carols or attend festive events, often in a church. Pray that many will attend such festivities and that they hear the gospel message and are convicted to give their lives to Christ. (UCCF - December 2019)

Football brings marginalised to Jesus

The Ambassadors' Genesis Football Program in Whitechapel, London, seeks to reach the lost and marginalised in society with the good news of Jesus, through the medium of football. The group meets every Wednesday for a match and then returns to the church for lunch and a look into the Bible. Many of the men say Genesis has given them a new sense of purpose and something to leave their accommodation for. A lot of the guys coming through our doors have battled with family rejection, addiction and homelessness, leaving Genesis as the only real community they have. We believe God cares about these individuals and football is a great way of building relationships and sharing this good news with them. Please pray for growth and ultimately, salvation. (Ambassadors Football - December 2019)

Online chats bring Jesus to students learning English

Many young people around the world are learning English to help them progress their careers and increase their ability to connect in this global culture. One way that UK believers can help is to offer an hour each week to chat online with a small group of international young people to help them improve their English conversation skills. As relationships are built, questions are asked about faith, and many people from countries antagonistic to the gospel hear about Jesus for the first time. Pray for these English Conversation Club leaders, that they will build bridges for the gospel as they build friendships through English practise. (Reach Beyond - October 2019)

Mental health for young people in the UK

Mental health, especially for the UK's young people is a concern. Viva's partner network Doorsteps, based in Oxford, aims to release children and young people from issues such as this so that they can fulfil their God-given potential. One of their programmes is called Find Your Fire which aims to build the confidence, aspiration and resilience of vulnerable young people in east Oxford and runs each week over a nine-month period. Pray for the teenagers who were on last year's programme and that they will put into practice what they have learned. Pray too for the next cohort of 24 young people; that they would grow into who God created them to be by taking part in this initiative. (Viva - October

2019)

Witness to Jewish people in London

London has around 185,000 Jewish people and the most Ultra-Orthodox Jewish people in Europe. This summer, CWI distributed thousands of leaflets to Jewish people. Pray that our UK tours will bless those visited and that Jewish people trust Jesus as their Saviour. (Christian Witness to Israel - October 2019)

Students in Christian summer camps

Many students in Christian Unions around the country are serving on Christian summer camps throughout July and August. Pray that they will faithfully pour themselves out for others as Christ did for us and will see lots of young people take steps closer to the Lord as a result. Pray for energy and health as they do this. (UCCF - August 2019)

Sight Loss Friendly Church campaign

Please pray for blind people in the UK who find attending church challenging or even impossible. Many people around the UK would love to share in the fellowship of church community but are put off, or stopped entirely, by various barriers. These could include not being able to read service sheets, feeling left out of activities, or being unable to get there. Torch's Sight Loss Friendly Church campaign aims to help churches make a real difference to this issue, because no one should face sight loss alone. (Torch Trust - June 2019)

Mission weeks in UK universities

We thank God for the Mission Weeks throughout UK universities that took place in February. We are thankful that many of these had specific events to reach and answer the questions of international students. Pray during March and April that the internationals who have heard the gospel through these events would respond in their hearts and that sufficient follow-up would be in place from the CUs and local churches. (Friends International - April 2019)

Sight Loss Friendly Church Project

Pray for the people across the UK who are responding to Torch's Sight Loss Friendly church project. This project aims to enable people with sight loss to be fully integrated into their church communities, supporting them alongside their churches to achieve accessibility and inclusion on a huge scale. Pray for everyone who has sight loss in the UK; that they might receive the support they need to feel that no aspects of community are out of their reach. (Torch Trust - April 2019)

Young people pray for the world

WEC's Youth ministry in UK & Ireland ask - praise the Lord with us! In compiling our team's Annual Report recently, we were encouraged to log what has been achieved over the last year. Through WEC's World Adventure programmes and summer Camps, so many children, teenagers and their families and teachers have been praying for people in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, China, India, Iran, Japan, Malawi, Nepal, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sudan, Thailand, Tunisia and Yemen. Pray for this year's World Adventure programmes in schools and churches, and for the 2 weeks of camps 27 July to 10 August. <https://www.weccamps.org/> [2] (WEC International - February 2019)

Help for refugees

In 2017, 68.5 million people were displaced as a direct result of persecution, conflict or violence. People make treacherous journeys by foot and by sea, with few possessions. They arrive exhausted. Many are traumatised and feel unsafe and they often face resentment and extremist threats. Pray for the victims of human trafficking, who were promised hope and a future. Pray for safety and protection for people making treacherous journeys. Pray for Bible-believing churches and Christian migrants to have opportunities to respond in practical ways with the love and message of Jesus Christ. (Serving In Mission - December 2018)

International students arrive at UK universities

In the last month, hundreds of thousands of international students have arrived at UK universities. Though many will be enjoying getting stuck in, there are students who, since arriving in the UK, feel lonely, isolated and lost. One new international student recently wrote to us: "I arrived here on 13th September 2018. Since then I have been trying to make friends, but unfortunately I haven't made one. I don't know where I'm going wrong. I'm feeling very lonely. I have tried making friends in the university but people just talk and carry on, they don't really think me as a friend." Please pray for the students in your local university, especially for those who are struggling, alone and in need of friendship. Pray that they would see the light of Christ. (Friends International - December 2018)

International students in the UK

It is another new academic year, and this means new students are coming to the UK. International students will be arriving from all over the world to start their studies at UK universities and language schools. This really is a unique opportunity for the UK church to welcome, befriend, and share the gospel with these students, who are only here temporarily. Some of these students will be coming from places where it is very difficult to hear about Jesus. So, their time in the UK could be life-changing. Pray for the international students in your local university. Pray that they would encounter Christians and be invited to church, and ultimately meet the Lord Jesus Christ. Maybe you could help be the answer to this prayer? (Friends International - September 2018)

Blind Fellowship Groups Volunteers

For blind and partially sighted people loneliness can be a real issue. People often feel left out, neglected and helpless. In Northern Ireland, Torch Trust has set up a number of Fellowship Groups where people can go and meet others with similar issues and needs. There is also opportunity to talk about the Bible and God, as well as times to pray if people want to. Please pray for volunteers to help keep the groups going and venues, so that people can find friends and fellowship close by. (Torch Trust - September 2018)

Reaching Indian restaurants

Many of the UK's Indian restaurants are run by Bangladeshi Muslims from the eastern region of Sylhet. They are keen to receive the 'Jesus Film' which is still probably the only movie in their once forbidden language. Pray that those who receive this film will be open-hearted as they hear the gospel, and pray for those not yet reached, that a copy would fall into their hands and they would be drawn to Christ. (Friends International - July 2018)

New Age seekers

Having rejected the religion and traditions of their ancestors, many Jewish people are attracted by the false promises of Eastern mysticism and New Age philosophies. Our outreach to New Age seekers, The Jesus Experience, will be at a large New Age festival in London at the end of May. Please pray that there will be many Jewish people who hear the gospel and respond to it in repentance and faith as they hear about Jesus, the true Light of the World. (Christian Witness to Israel - May 2018)

Sharing hope through science

Frontiers' workers who are scientists use their work, witness and words to declare God's glory in the heart of the Muslim world. One of our workers, Steve, puts it like this: "As a marine biologist, I speak with many scientists in the Muslim world. Wary at first, they are often relieved to find that I believe in God. When I further explain that as a disciple of Isa (Jesus), God has asked me to serve and work with them to bring blessing to their people, they often warm to me. This is something they welcome." Use of the sciences to share the hope within us is an underutilised means God can employ to open doors of witness in the Muslim world. Many engaged in science careers in the UK are surprised to hear that their skills, experience and training can be used to obey Christ's Great Commission to make disciples in all ethnic groups. Join us as we pray for the Lord to raise up many more from UK churches who will go to the peoples of the earth with little or no access to the gospel. (Frontiers - May 2018)

Loving and Joyous Relationship

"I invited two Muslim students to my house last weekend. Both are from middle eastern countries where it is hard for them to hear the gospel, let-alone encounter a Christian. Together we watched the Gospel of John DVD occasionally stopping to chat about what we were watching. It was such a blessing and I know the living God is working in both their hearts." We thank God for people like this stepping out in faith and offering the love of Christ. Please pray for the thousands of students who come to the UK from Muslim-majority countries that during their time here they would meet Christians and that the Holy Spirit would press the truth upon their hearts and lead them into a loving and joyous relationship with the Lord. (Friends International - March 2018)

The Millside Centre

The Millside Centre is a community centre in Bradford, West Yorkshire, serving some of the most vulnerable people in that city. It has now been open for one year, and during that time has seen hundreds of people come through the doors, gaining skills, growing in confidence, making friends and establishing community. Run by Christians, the centre serves refugees and asylum seekers, the homeless, people with addictions, victims of domestic abuse and those with mental health problems. Pray for those visiting the Millside Centre today, that they may find the help they need, experience God's compassion and reach their full potential. (Reach Beyond - March 2018)

International Students

The United Kingdom is blessed to receive hundreds of thousands of international students every year. Students come from all over the world, many from countries where it is very hard for them to hear the gospel. There's an amazing opportunity for them to meet Christians while in the UK, attend church and hear about Jesus. One couple said: *"My wife and I live near the local university and through a few friends at the Christian Union we have been taking international students to our church. Last Sunday we took two Chinese students, neither of which had been to church before, a student from the Czech Republic, who is an atheist, a student from Cyprus who is Greek Orthodox and a student from Japan who is a Christian!"* Pray that Christians all over the UK would seize these sorts of opportunities. Pray that the students they encounter would be open to hear and respond to the Good News. (Friends International - January 2018)

Short-term Mission Teams

Taking teenagers on a short-term trip that forces them to leave their comfort zone can be a great way to give them a real heart for global mission. Dave Hartwell helped lead a team of 14 people to Ethiopia over the summer. Dave said: *"We knew the young people would encounter great poverty almost as soon as they left the airport in Addis (Ababa) but we didn't want this just to be a humanitarian aid project. We wanted to show them as much about mission as possible and to show them that everyone's greatest need is to hear about Jesus."* Three of the young people are now putting mission at the forefront of their lives as they plan their futures. Pray for more of the UK's youth to get a heart for mission and for lasting fruit from short-term trips. (Serving In Mission - January 2018)

Their Best Chance...

UK universities are once again full of international students who have come here from all over the world. Many of these students come from countries where it is not possible to hear about Jesus – so their short time studying here may be their best chance of encountering a Christian or hearing about Jesus. Please pray for the international students in your local area in the UK. Pray that these students would meet Christians, be invited to church, hear the Truth presented and ultimately come to know who Jesus really is and what He has done for them. (Friends International) (Friends International - November 2017)

Loving Muslims in Manchester

Manchester is a large multicultural city in the UK. The tragic terror attack at a concert in May by a

radical Muslim, shocked and upset the nation. But on the ground, followers of Jesus have quietly continued their ministry of compassion to all their neighbours. Our ministry team in Manchester are intentionally meeting the social and spiritual needs of Arabic-speaking Muslims who arrive on their doorstep, many from conflict zones. Some are starting to notice the love of Christ shining through. Please pray for the Muslims being reached in Manchester to powerfully hear the good news of the kingdom, seeing Jesus' love spoken through powerful acts of kindness that overcome the barriers of language and culture. (Arab World Ministry of Pioneers - September 2017)

English Language Students

During the summer many thousands of individuals come from all over the world to study English at UK language schools. The British Council estimates 400,000 students study English at language schools throughout any given year, many of whom come in the summer months. Please pray for these students, who may have a first encounter with a church or a Christian. Pray for the Friends International Summer Teams, who will be operating in eight different cities, to befriend and witness to these students. Pray that these students would encounter Christ and the truth would be revealed to them. (Friends International) (Friends International - July 2017)

Serving the Welsh community

The non-Christian Welsh community use the phrase *laith y Nefoedd* as a joke. Roughly translated it means 'everyone will speak Welsh in heaven'. It celebrates the Welsh language, while remembering its Christian history. There aren't many mission organisations reaching people through the Welsh language. That said people are coming to faith and getting baptised. There is a need for people to serve the Welsh community and for prayer support. Pray that many Welsh speakers will be found in heaven. (Greater Europe Mission UK (GEM UK) - May 2017)

Soularium

Agapé recently celebrated 50 years of ministry in the UK. Over that period many resources have been developed in the crucible of talking with non-Christians about faith in Jesus. One such resource is called Soularium designed to connect with the highly visual culture of young people raised on social media. It contains a collection of 50 photos, and the images are accompanied by questions like, "Which image best describes how you want your life to be?" or "Which image best describes your view of God?" Pray that God will continue to use this evangelistic tool to help people explore their preconceptions of the bigger issues in life and help them on their journey to personal faith in Jesus. (Agapé Ministries Ltd - April 2017)

An Easter Opportunity

There are over 430,000 international students in UK universities. These students come from all over the world and present a real gospel opportunity for UK churches. With Easter just around the corner this can be a key moment for these students to hear the eternal truth of Christ's death, burial and resurrection. Many of these students will have come from countries where it is not possible to hear the gospel preached openly. Their short time in the UK may be the best opportunity they have. Pray that Easter this year would be a time of revelation for many international students and that their eyes would be opened to who Jesus really is. (Friends International - March 2017)

A Prayer For Journalism

Journalists are often told to 'leave their faith at the door of the office' in Britain - which can mean that world events are reported without religious awareness. Pray that people will have their eyes opened and for liberty to speak deeper truth. (Lapido Media - January 2017)

Europe Needs Evangelising

In Europe there is a huge amount of humanitarian aid but very little gospel outreach. Yet there are many opportunities to take the gospel to those who have never heard it in emerging migrant communities. In Italy, most migrants are African, but there is great gospel need. There is enormous

potential for sports ministries, teaching and practical training. In Athens also, there is a huge need for Arabic speakers to connect with migrants; however the Greek Evangelical Church is small and underfunded, existing in a climate with a total ban on evangelism in official centres. The only way to reach people in these communities is through unofficial ministries and programmes. Pray that many migrants may hear the gospel in Europe while we have this open door of opportunity like never before. Pray for the budding Christian ministries that are joining together to help bring Christ to refugees. May the Western Church also be open to the evangelisation and blessing Christian migrants bring. (Serving In Mission - January 2017)

Friendship Without Vision

Please pray for people living with sight loss across the UK, particularly those who feel alone, left out, or no longer able to take part in things they used to enjoy. Pray that the network of support for people in these situations will continue to grow wider and stronger, reaching more and more people. Often what people need most is companionship, friendship and adequate provision of tools that will enable them to participate fully in all areas of life. Pray that through such friendships and partnerships people will discover Christian faith and lead fulfilling Christian lives. (Torch Trust - November 2016)

Student Evangelism

Pray for ongoing fruit after the Forum conference, that those who have been equipped will continue their ministries with boldness, strength, and wisdom to the student community. (IFES - September 2016)

Longing to see clearly

People with visual impairment are four times more likely to experience difficulties with access outside the home, a third more likely to face restrictions with going on holiday, and twice as likely to be unemployed and face economic hardship. Unsupported, a diagnosis of sight loss can mean isolation and loneliness. Pray for services around the UK, such as Torch's accessible Holiday and Retreat Centre in Sussex, offering fellowship and pastoral care through residential short breaks and holidays for people at any stage of the sight loss journey. (BMS World Mission - September 2016)

A Friend In a Lonely Place

Each day across Britain, 100 people learn that they are losing their sight. It is not unusual for people to experience loss of sight as something like a bereavement. Diminishing sight can make it hard to get out and about. Loneliness and depression are a real risk. In response to this large and growing need Torch Trust has launched Journeying With, a distinctively Christian befriending service which brings Christian volunteers alongside people who are struggling with sight loss. Torch is currently in the process of setting up more local schemes across the nation and prayer for this service would be greatly appreciated. (Torch Trust - July 2016)

Word Alive and beyond

Word Alive is a Christian holiday week away in North Wales. Word Alive features a dedicated series of seminars just for international students - which helps explain and explore the Christian faith. Hundreds of internationals go to Word Alive every year and it is always an enjoyable and fun week away! During the weeks and months after Word Alive, international students will face challenges of living out their faith especially often when they return home. Pray that what they have learnt would not be lost and that they can build on their spiritual growth. Pray for those especially that will become Christians as a result of attending Word Alive. Pray that young faith would be protected. (Friends International - May 2016)

Partnership for sight loss

Torch Trust provides accessible Christian literature to people with sight loss via its free postal lending library and large catalogue of books for purchase. Torch is continually seeking to broaden its available catalogue and is working with Christian publishers and bookshops to achieve this. Please pray for

these partnerships that they may flourish and serve those who need them. Pray for the readers for whom reading material can be a true lifeline and a link to the world outside. (Torch Trust - May 2016)

Students go on Block Placements

Please pray for our students this Easter break as many have joined with mission organisations around the world in order to serve alongside the Church in local community based projects. As part of the training here at All Nations, students are encouraged to go on Block Placements so that they can apply what they have learnt in the classroom to real life, cross-cultural situations. Students join in with various forms of cross-cultural ministry that can be challenging as well as fruitful. Please pray: That students will experience God's peace and protection as they travel. That they will have the opportunity to put into practice what they have learnt so far. That great lasting relationships will be established and that people will come to know Christ through All Nations students. That students will grow through their Block Placement experience and arrive home safely, feeling invigorated for the summer term. That their experiences will shape their future ministries as they seek God's calling upon their lives (All Nations Christian College - April 2016)

English for Muslim women

The government estimates that over 2 million Muslim women in the UK do not have the ability to speak, read, or write English. This can prevent them from integrating, remaining isolated and under the control of male relatives. David Cameron goes so far as to assert that this can contribute to radicalisation. In addition, thousands of refugees shall be arriving without enough English to fill out forms and read labels, let alone build relationships. Please pray that many ordinary believers will get qualified to teach English through courses like TESOL, in order that they may provide a much needed service whilst building lasting friendships. But even more, pray that Muslim women and refugees would be positively integrated to life in the UK. (YWAM England - March 2016)

Eternal significance

Over the Easter period many international students in the UK will be invited to Easter events including re-enactments, Good Friday services and Easter Sunday sunrise celebrations. We pray that many would take up these invitations and that they would see the event as more than just a cultural experience. May they come to know the true and eternal significance of Easter and what Jesus has done. May they realise that Jesus did it for them and that this truth would be made evident throughout the Easter events. We also pray for that local Christians would be faithful in inviting students and showing hospitality. (Friends International - March 2016)

Home for Christmas

Over the Christmas break many international students in the UK will not be able to return home. They can often experience loneliness and isolation, especially if they are one of the only students left on campus. Pray that friendships with local Christians would mean that these students would not have to face Christmas alone, but will know the warmth and welcome of friends. Pray also, that over this time they would come to see what Christmas really means and who Jesus really is. (Friends International - November 2015)

Doctors strike

For the first time since 1975, doctors are lining up to strike in response to government changes in the NHS. "We need to respond compassionately to our colleagues who may well be in turmoil about their futures. We have a tremendous opportunity to speak of the security we have in Christ, that even when all is stripped away we can still be supremely satisfied in Jesus." Pray for Christian doctors throughout the UK to display Christ at this tumultuous time. (Christian Medical Fellowship - November 2015)

Christmas for the Christian Unions

As the Christian Unions begin a busy term of outreach events and all of the evangelistic opportunities

that Christmas brings, please pray that the Lord's hand will be over all that they do and that through the Christian Unions, many would hear the good news of the gospel. Pray for students to be bold and courageous as they speak words of truth into the lives of their friends and coursemates. Pray too for the staff workers who support and encourage them. (UCCF - November 2015)

Bibles in braille

Torch Trust provides accessible Bibles and Bible-related literature in a range of formats such as braille, audio and giant print. Pray for the people receiving this literature, pray that it may help enable them to pursue active, independent Christian lives. (Torch Trust - September 2015)

International Students

During September hundreds of thousands of international students will come to the UK to start studying at language schools and universities. Many of these students will come from backgrounds where it is almost impossible for them to hear about the good news of Jesus. Please pray that while these students spend months and often years in the UK they would meet and be befriended by Christians who can introduce them to the Good News. Pray that they would return home as a child of God and with the desire to love the world. (Friends International - September 2015)

Building friendships

Pamela Sikahall is a Guatemalan working with Latin Link in Norwich, serving among the large student population there. She says: "I have started a home group for international students every Thursday. We have been meeting for seven weeks. We have at least six nationalities represented and most are not Christians. It has been special to build friendships and get to know them. Pray for friendships based on God's love, for salvation and commitment, and that these young people come to know Jesus." (Latin Link - July 2015)

Retreats for those with sight loss

People with visual impairment are four times more likely to experience difficulties with access outside the home, a third more likely to face restrictions with going on holiday, and twice as likely to be unemployed and face economic hardship. Unsupported, a diagnosis of sight loss can mean isolation and loneliness. Pray for services around the UK, such as Torch's accessible Holiday and Retreat Centre in Sussex, offering fellowship and pastoral care through residential short breaks and holidays for people at any stage of the sight loss journey. (Torch Trust - November 2014)

'Journeying With' initiative

A diagnosis of sight loss can mean isolation and loneliness. Positive feedback from the Torch *Journeying With* initiative piloted in Northern Ireland suggests that people losing their sight find a trained volunteer befriender is - quite literally - a Godsend. The befriending service will now be rolled out around the UK. Following training, a befriender gets alongside someone newly diagnosed for up to six months. He or she helps as someone deals with the emotional, social and physical impact of sight loss on their everyday life, supporting them as they make adjustments. (Torch Trust - September 2014)

Disability Sunday

Eleven million people in the UK have a life-limiting long-term illness, impairment or disability - that's one in six of the population, and the number is rising. Society often pushes disabled people to the margins - but are they any better represented in our church congregations? Disability Sunday - this year on 6th July or any convenient Sunday following - is an annual opportunity for churches to consider how they reach out and involve people with disabilities. A [free resource pack](#) [3] is available from Churches for All, a network of Christian disability organisations. (Torch Trust - July 2014)

Programmes in Urdu and Hindi

There are a number of radio stations in the UK serving the Asian community but very few of these ever broadcast programmes with a Christian flavour. One group of radio producers in Yorkshire are

trying to reverse this trend by producing creative programmes in Urdu and Hindi covering major Christian festivals such as Christmas and Easter. Pray for Whistling Frog Productions and their on-going campaign to bring the name of Jesus onto local Asian commercial radio stations and for listeners to respond to his life-changing message. (Reach Beyond - July 2014)

Equipped and encouraged

Caleb came from Cameroon to study in the UK. He came as a Christian, and while in the UK had the opportunity to be discipled and taught Bible handling skills. He then returned home a strong and confident believer, and even started a teaching class for his church. Thousands of international students arrive in the UK each year, some come from countries where it is not possible to speak openly about Jesus and others from countries where the church does not have strong Biblical teaching. Pray that these international students would encounter God in the UK. Pray that those who arrive as Christians would be equipped and encouraged, like Caleb was, so that they may return home and have a positive impact for Christ. (Friends International - May 2014)

Reaching Muslims

God is doing a new work in an English city where 25% of the population of this city are Muslims, with immigrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and North Africa. A small group of Christians who are committed to reach their Muslim friends with the gospel is regularly meeting to encourage each other, worship and pray together. Please pray for fresh vision to reach Muslims in the UK - for new strategies and resources and for more believers with a heart to reach them. (YWAM England - March 2014)

Discipling international students

Hundreds of thousands of students come to UK universities from all over the world. During February many Christian Unions ran weeks of events and talks that offered opportunities for international students to hear the gospel for the first time. Pray for the students that took the opportunity to find out about Jesus, that God would open the eyes of their hearts to the truth of what they heard. Pray too for effective follow up and for new Christians to be discipled and connected to churches. (Friends International - March 2014)

Loneliness

Loneliness is as harmful to your health as 15 cigarettes a day. And 800,000 people in England say they feel lonely most or all of the time. These statistics, reported by the Campaign to End Loneliness, have added poignancy for organisations working with blind and partially sighted people such as Torch Trust. People with sight loss are more likely than sighted people to live alone. Pray for new and ongoing initiatives aimed at countering the isolating effects of sight loss. (Torch Trust - January 2014)

Reversing the trend

Whilst the BBC continues to produce religious programmes both nationally and locally, the world of commercial radio has almost completely turned its back on such programmes. In the past, these stations had to broadcast religious programmes by law, but since that law was abandoned in the 90s many of the 340-plus commercial stations keep well away from anything to do with Jesus. One group of radio producers in Yorkshire are trying to reverse this trend by placing creative and entertaining Christian programmes on commercial stations. Pray for Whistling Frog Productions and their on-going attempt to bring the name of Jesus back onto the mainstream airwaves. (Reach Beyond - November 2013)

Journeying With

A small team of trained 'befrienders' has begun meeting one-to-one with people in the Southern Trust area of Northern Ireland who have recently been diagnosed with sight loss. This pilot project aims to support people through the difficult or even traumatic stages of early sight loss, helping them resource all they need to lead a fulfilling life and to connect to others, avoiding the social isolation so prevalent among blind and partially sighted people. Pray for this Journeying With project which will be

rolled out in the UK from 2014. (Torch Trust - November 2013)

Sex-grooming ring uncovered

The news that seven members of a prolific undercover sex-grooming ring have been convicted of abusing six girls aged between 11 and 15 in Oxford, over an eight-year period, has left many with a sense of shock. The details of the girls' ordeal, made public after the trial at the Old Bailey, makes difficult and disturbing reading. There were sustained acts of physical and sexual violence, drug-taking, and one of the girls was forced to have an illegal back-room abortion aged just 12 years old. Girls were trafficked into prostitution to other parts of the UK. Pray for police forces in the UK and around the world as they work to free those caught in human trafficking operations. (Viva - July 2013)

Children living in poverty

There are an estimated 3.5 million children living in poverty in the United Kingdom - more than one in four children in the country. Sadly, with the current economic problems, there are fears that this number will increase unless something is done. Pray for children and families living in poverty, that they will be able to find strength and comfort in God, as well as have enough for basic needs. Pray that the parents will not take out their frustrations on the children as they look for opportunities to provide a more stable situation at home. Pray for wisdom for the government and that they will consider the likely impact on children when making decisions. Finally, pray for Christian organisations and churches to be effective in helping and supporting those in need. (Viva - March 2013)

Business trips

Danial (not his real name) is a UK-based Iranian whom God is using to reach fellow Iranians. What originally began as business trips to Iran have now become opportunities for him to talk to people about Christ. Danial says, "It's as if the Holy Spirit is sending me. With everyone I speak to, God says, 'Speak to this person - this is my son, this is my daughter.' And they are very open to Jesus." One man rang Danial a few days after their meeting. He said "I have news for you. From the first day I believed in Jesus, everybody was shouting at me at work. They didn't know I had come to Jesus, but I prayed and after a few days they said, 'You are changed. What's happened? Your face is so shiny!'" (SAT-7 - January 2013)

Hungry asylum seekers

A new shelter set up by a mission partner has helped keep 17 homeless and hungry asylum seekers off the streets this winter in Glasgow. They were able to take in asylum seekers from Afghanistan, Libya, Zimbabwe, Palestine, Uganda and Tanzania. Pray as they follow up with them and show Christ's love, and for F, an asylum seeker from the Middle East who recently decided to follow Jesus after attending Bible studies. (Church Mission Society - May 2012)

Engaging with international students

With almost 100,000 international students in higher education, London is clearly a highly favoured destination for prospective international students. This is an amazing position for London to be in but there is a deep need for churches to be active in engaging this people group. Please pray that there would be unity and an increased urgency amongst churches to reach out to international students. Pray also for the students that they may encounter Christians and hear the gospel in their short time here, especially as many come from countries that are closed to the gospel. (Friends International - January 2012)

Students returning home

Prayer is needed for Christian international students who have returned to their home countries having studied in the UK. Many students return to cultures with intense work ethics and long working hours, for example China, and face huge pressures in balancing work and life. Some of these former students who get a job in their home country are torn between glorifying God in and through their work so as to be a witness to their colleagues, and church ministries; when reality hits home the

sense of failure in juggling it all is acute. Please pray that Christians in this situation will withstand these pressures in God's strength. (Friends International - September 2011)

Orthodox Jewish communities

Surprisingly, scriptural literacy is often lacking amongst Orthodox Jewish communities. Please pray that those living in Orthodox areas of London who have recently received offers of the Bible in a number of languages, including Hebrew, on CD will request copies of the disks and that the entrance of God's word into their lives might bring true light. Please also pray for success in upcoming opportunities and outreaches that are taking place over the summer months to Orthodox communities and individuals across England and Wales. (Christian Witness to Israel - July 2011)

Coping with sight loss

With an ageing population, it's becoming increasingly common that people are receiving a diagnosis of sight loss at their GP surgery or local eye clinic. Many of these people receive this devastating news without support or counselling of any kind and frequently return to an empty house to grieve. Although sight loss is akin to bereavement in its effects, the care offered is often minimal. Pray for Torch Trust, traditionally known for its services to long-term blind people, which is now developing new strategies to meet people at their point of greatest need, as they begin their sight loss journey. (Torch Trust - May 2011)

Deep distrust

Hundreds of years of persecution and perceived anti-Semitism within Christianity has resulted in the development of a deep distrust of Christians within Jewish communities the world over. Christian work to build relationships with Jewish people, as well as to share the gospel, can present a variety of challenges. These difficulties are particularly felt by Jewish believers in Christ, who are often opposed or rejected by their own communities or families. Please pray for the bridges being built by Christian workers (both Jewish and non-Jewish) with Jewish communities in London and across the UK. (Christian Witness to Israel - January 2011)

New international students

As the new academic year begins, tens of thousands of international students will begin their studies at universities across the UK. Friends International runs a meet and greet scheme at Heathrow Airport to welcome students from all over the world and assist them on the next part of their journey. As a result of this early contact, many students look up Friends International when they arrive at their university and get involved in the local activities. Pray for the Holy Spirit to open the hearts and minds of these students. (Friends International - September 2010)

Source URL: <https://www.globalconnections.org.uk/prayer/northern-and-western-europe/united-kingdom>

Links

[1] https://www.gearedforgrowth.co.uk/store/c2/Old_Testament.html

[2] <https://www.weccamps.org/>

[3] <http://churchesforall.org.uk/disabilitysunday/>