

2021: Some Dates for Prayer and Action

Collated by CCOW

This calendar is presented as a service – we hope it will be helpful to church leaders and members as they plan their personal and corporate prayer, worship and activities over the coming year. The idea isn't that everyone will do everything – but that from the overview, people note where they feel called to respond.

“Special Sundays” and days around which churches might wish to focus prayer and/or action on a particular topic are in bold and regular type: **green events** relate to environment and food issues; **blue** to peace and peacemaking; **red** to health, **light blue** to Fair Trade and trade justice. Some global events about which churches might wish to pray are in italics. Major events in the Church Year are in white on coloured backgrounds. Links go directly to resources for the given days (except where those are not yet available).

To send in corrections or to suggest events/ resources for inclusion, email info@ccow.org.uk. To read or sign up to receive our weekly prayer email, go to our website, www.ccow.org.uk.

JANUARY

1 January & first of each month – Pray and Fast for the Climate

Join people around the world praying & fasting for climate justice. Info: [Pray and Fast](#)

1 January – Circumcision/Naming of Christ

An opportunity to pray for birth registration, which gives the right to an official identity and legally recognised name, for all children. Info: [UNICEF](#), [Anglican Communion](#)

6 January – Epiphany/Theophany (Orthodox)

During the Epiphany season, could your church reflect on the journeys of the Holy Family following the Wise Men's visit ... and the journeys of refugees today?

7 January – Christmas (Orthodox)

10 Jan 2021 – Plough Sunday

Also Plough Monday/Wednesday. Pray for all who farm worldwide. Resources: [Arthur Rank Centre](#)

14 January 2021 – Ugandan General Election

18 to 25 January – Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity

Theme: ‘Abiding in Christ’ (local theme) ‘Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit’ (intl theme). Materials from [CTBI](#) (local version), [World Council of Churches](#) (intl version)

17 Jan 2021 – Peace Sunday

Theme: ‘A culture of care as a path to peace’
Materials: [Pax Christi](#)

25 to 29 Jan 2021 – World Economic Forum: The Davos Agenda

How do we rebuild after Coronavirus? This meeting will bring world leaders together and launch the WEF's ‘Great Reset Initiative’ [Website](#)

25 January – Conversion of St Paul

Some churches remember Paul's conversion on this day. It's an opportunity to pray for God to turn the hearts of persecutors ... and to pray for Syria & the Syrian church

27 January -- Holocaust Memorial Day

Theme: ‘Be the Light in the Darkness’ Materials: [Holocaust Memorial Trust](#)

31 Jan 2021 -- World Leprosy Day

Theme: ‘Beat Leprosy’ Materials from [Leprosy Mission](#), [Internat'l Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations](#)

31 Jan 2021 – BMS Day of Prayer

Materials from [BMS World Mission](#)

FEBRUARY

1 February – Pray and Fast for the Climate

1 to 21 February – Show the Love Campaign

This year's [Show the Love](#) materials from the Climate Coalition include craft activities, stories, and advocacy tips to encourage politicians to build back better.

7 Feb 2021 – 5th Anniversary of Eco Church

Could you hold a special service? Take a look at the [Eco Church worship resources](#) and maybe combine with a Show the Love event

8 February – Day of Prayer for Victims of Trafficking/St Josephine Bakhita Day

Materials from the [Santa Marta Group](#), [Human Trafficking Search](#) and [Australian Justice and Peace Office](#). See also 23 August.

12 February – Red Hand Day Campaign

A time to pray for an end to use of child soldiers. Materials: [UNICEF](#), [UN](#) (Special Representative: Children and Armed Conflict)

14 Feb 2021 – Racial Justice Sunday

Theme: Looking back over 20 years of Racial Justice Sunday. Info: [CTBI's Racial Justice page](#)

17 February 2021: Ash Wednesday

Look out for CCOW's Lent resources guide. During Lent might you try a new rhythm of prayer? Read ['Saying Yes to Life'](#) or another Lent book? Work towards being plastic-less or meat-free? Establish new patterns of giving to charity?

20 February – World Day of Social Justice

Info from the [UN](#); opportunity for prayer and action on a range of social justice issues. Suggestions: [Joint Public Issues Team](#), [National Justice and Peace Network](#).

21 Feb 2021 – Church Action on Poverty Sunday

Theme: 'New Wine Skins' – the importance of building back better/justly. Materials : [Church](#)

[Action on Poverty](#)

22 to 26 Feb 2021 – UN Environmental Assembly

Theme: *Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the SDGs*

22 Feb to 7 March 2021 – Fairtrade Fortnight

Focus on cocoa and women's empowerment. Materials from the [Fairtrade Foundation](#), [Traidcraft](#) and [CCOW](#).

26 Feb 2021 -- CAFOD Lent Fast Day

Materials: [CAFOD](#)

MARCH

1 March – Pray and Fast for the Climate

2 to 4 March 21 – UN Oceans Summit/World Oceans Summit

3 March – World Wildlife Day

5 March 21 – World Day of Prayer

Theme: 'Build on a strong foundation' (prepared by women of Vanuatu) Materials: [WDP](#)

6-15 March 2021 - British Science Week

Pray for scientists and engineers, especially those whose work relates to complex ethical issues. Info: [Website](#)

8 March – International Women's Day

9 to 20 March 2021 – UN Commission on the Status of Women

Themes: Women's participation in public life and ending GBV. Info: [Website](#)

14 March 2021 - Mothering Sunday

Resources from [Mothers' Union](#), [Methodist Women in Britain](#), [Christian Aid](#)

14 March 2021 – Honduran General Election

17 March 2021 – Dutch General Election

22 March – World Water Day

24 March – World TB Day

Theme: 'It's time' Materials: [Stop TB Partnership](#), [WHO](#)

25 March - International Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave

Trade Theme to be determined. Info: [UN](#) (See also August 23rd)

27 March 2021 – Earth Hour

Annual moment of witness, focusing attention on the need to protect nature. [Info from Earth Hour](#)

APRIL

2 April 2021 – Good Friday

As you remember the sufferings of our Lord, can you pray for those persecuted for their faith in Him? Resources: [CSW](#), [Open Doors](#)

4 April 2021 – Easter

7 April – World Health Day

Theme and materials will be available from [WHO](#). Chance to raise issues of access to healthcare.

9 to 11 April 2021 – IMF/World Bank Spring Meetings

11 April 2021 – Peruvian General Election

22 April – Earth Day

Info: [Earth Day website](#)

24 April – Fashion Revolution Day

On the anniversary of the Rana Plaza disaster, a campaign for fairness in fashion.

25 April – World Malaria Day

Info will be available from [WHO](#). General information from the [Global Fund](#).

MAY

2 May 2021 – Easter (Orthodox)

5 May – Internat'l Day of the Midwife

Info from [International Confederation of Midwives](#). Opportunity to focus on maternal and child health.

8 May 2021– World Fair Trade Day

Worldwide celebration of Fair Trade principles and organisations. Information will be available from the [World Fair Trade Organization \(WFTO\)](#) and [CCOW](#)

9 to 15 May 2021 -- Christian Aid Week

Resources will be on [Christian Aid Week website](#)

13 to 23 May 2021 - Thy Kingdom Come

Global and ecumenical prayer movement. Info: [Thy Kingdom Come](#)

16 May – World Debt Day

Day to pray about unfair/unsustainable debt. Info: [Jubilee Debt Campaign](#), [Worship resources on debt](#)

16 May 2021 – World Communications Day

Theme: 'Come and See: Communicating, encountering people as and where they are' Info from [the Vatican](#)

18 to 19 May 2021 – World Health Assembly

18 to 21 May 2021 – World Economic Forum

22 May – Internat'l Day for Biological Diversity

Info from the [UN](#). Materials for churches: [CCOW](#), [A Rocha](#), [Green Christian](#)

23 May 2021 - Pentecost

31 May – World No Tobacco Day

Theme: 'Commit to Quit' Info: [WHO](#)

JUNE

5 to 6 June 2021 – Viva Network World Weekend of Prayer for Children at Risk

[Viva Network website](#) will have materials.

6 June 2021 – Environment Sunday

(Sunday closest to **World Environment Day, 5 June**) [Links to worship materials](#)

8 June - World Oceans Day

Info: [World Oceans Day website](#)

12 June – World Day against Child Labour

Materials will be available from: [International Labour Organization](#)

6 June 2021 – Tax Justice Sunday

Materials: [Church Action for Tax Justice](#)

14 to 20 June 2021 -- Refugee Week (incorporates 20 June, World Refugee Day)

Theme: 'We cannot walk alone' Info and materials: [Refugee Week](#)

18 June 2021 – Iranian Presidential Election

20 June 2021 – Sanctuary Sunday

22 June – World Rainforest Day

Info: [World Rainforest Day](#)

23 June – International Widows Day

Widowhood in many countries brings vulnerability and loss of rights. [Info from UN](#)

26 June – International Day of Support for Victims of Torture

Materials: [Action by Christians against Torture](#)

JULY

1 July 2021 – UN Food Systems Summit

11 July 2021 - Sea Sunday

Materials: [Apostleship of the Sea](#), [Mission to Seafarers](#), [Sailors' Society](#).

25 July 2021 – National Maritime Week begins

Info: [Wildlife Trusts](#)

AUGUST

7 August – Hiroshima Day

9 August – International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

Info: [UN](#), [Indigenous Climate Action](#) Prayer materials: [Anglican Church of Canada Indigenous Ministries](#), [Christian Reformed Church Indigenous Ministry](#), [Document of the Synod on the Amazon](#)

12 August – International Youth Day

Info: [UN](#). Could youth in your church lead prayers for young people worldwide?

12 Aug 2021 – Zambian General Election

19 August - World Humanitarian Day

Pray for humanitarian workers' efforts worldwide. Info: [UN](#). Prayer resources: [CCOW](#)

23 August – International Day for Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition

Info: [Equiano Project](#), [Liverpool Museums](#), [Slavery Remembrance](#). Materials on modern slavery from [Antislavery International](#), [Stop the Traffik](#); [Clewley Initiative](#), [Wilberforce Institute](#)

23 to 27 August 2021 – World Water Week

Theme: 'Building Resilience Faster' Info: [World](#)

[Water Week website](#), Church materials: [Water Aid](#), [CCOW](#). Pray for water conservation and safe access to clean water for all; raise funds for water access.

30 Aug – International Day of the Disappeared

Materials from the [UN](#), [Global Dimension](#), [Amnesty](#), [Human Rights Watch](#)

SEPTEMBER

1 September to 4 October – Season of

Creation/Time for Creation (Includes Day of Prayer for Creation on 1 Sept and opportunity to pray & fast on 1 Sept/4 Oct) Materials available from [Season of Creation](#); [CTBI](#); [Catholic Bishops Conference \(E and W\)](#), [Church of England](#); [Climate Sunday](#); [CCOW](#)

1 – 30 Sept – Organic Month

Time to consider organic farming and questions around sustainable food.

5 Sept 2021 – Hong Kong Legislative Elections

12 Sept 2021 - Education Sunday (also Sunday closest to World Literacy Day, 8 September) Pray for education locally and worldwide. Materials from [Churches Together in England](#).

14 – 30 Sept 2021 – UN General Assembly

19 Sept 2021 -- Peacemaking Sunday

(Closest to UN's Internat'l Day of Peace) For general peacemaking, see materials from [CHIPS](#), [Catholic Social Teaching](#), [UK Quakers](#), [QUNO](#), and [Mennonite Peace and Justice Support Network](#). Peacemaking Sunday materials: [Joint Public Issues Team](#), [Fellowship of Reconciliation](#).

22 September – World Car Free Day

A chance to hold a "Walk to Church Sunday"?

26 Sept 2021 – German Federal Election

28-30 Sept 2021 – Pre-COP youth summit 'Youth4Climate: Driving Ambition' Website

OCTOBER

1 October – International Day of Older Persons

Info: [UN](#), [Help Age International](#)

1 Oct 2021? – CAFOD Harvest Fast Day (date tbc)

4 October – Feast of St Francis, Pray and Fast for the Climate, End of Season of Creation/Time for Creation See 1 September. You might want to look at CCOW's [Canticle of Creation powerpoint](#)

5 October – World Teachers Day

7 October – World Day for Decent Work
Organised by the International TUC. [Information](#)

10 to 16 Oct 2021 - Prisons Week
Materials from [Prisons Week](#); see also [Prison Fellowship International](#)

15 – 17 Oct 2021 – IMF/World Bank Annual Meeting

16 October - World Food Day (part of Churches' Week of Action on Food)
Materials: [World Council of Churches](#)

17 Oct - Internat'l Day for the Eradication of Poverty
Info: [UN](#). Pray and act in conjunction with anti-poverty groups locally and globally.

17 to 24 Oct 2021 – One World Week (incorporates 24 October, UN Day)
Info: [One World Week website](#)

22 Oct 2021 – Japanese General Election

24 Oct 2021 – World Mission Sunday (Roman Catholic Church)
[Info/materials from Missio](#)

24 Oct 2021 (tbc) – Bible Sunday (Roman Catholic Church celebrates in December)
Materials: [Bible Society](#)

30 to 31 Oct 2021 – G20 Leaders' Summit
Rome, Italy. [Website](#)

NOVEMBER

1 – 12 Nov 2021 – COP26
UN climate talks in Glasgow. Website

14 Nov 2021 – Remembrance Sunday
Resources from [CTBI](#); links from [CCOW](#), [Pax Christi](#)

21 Nov 2021 – World Youth Day (Roman Catholic)
Theme: "Stand up. I appoint you as a witness of what you have seen"

21 Nov 2021 – Women against Violence Sunday
Materials: [Methodist Church](#)

21 Nov 2021 – Chilean General Election

25 November – 10 December - Sixteen Days of Activism against Gender Violence
Info/materials from [Anglican Church of Southern Africa](#), [Anglican Communion](#), [CCOW](#), [CRCNA](#), [Mothers' Union](#), [Restored](#), [WCC](#)

28 November 2021 – Advent Sunday

DECEMBER

1 December - World AIDS Day
Info: [UNAIDS](#), [Global Fund](#). Worship materials and Reflections: [Diakonia](#), [CABSA](#)

3 December – International Day of Persons with Disabilities
Info: [UN](#)

9 December – International Anti-Corruption Day
Info from [UN](#). Also a good time to pray for [ECCR](#), [Publish What You Pay](#), [Tax Justice Network](#), [Church Action for Tax Justice](#) and other organisations fighting corruption

10 December – Human Rights Day
Info from [UN](#), [Human Rights Watch](#), [Forum18](#), [Amnesty](#). Worship materials: [Diakonia](#), [Sisters of St Joseph \(Australia\)](#),

18 December – International Migrants Day
Prayers: [Social Justice Resource Center](#), [Irish Catholic Bishops Conference](#)

25 December – Christmas

26 December – St Stephen's Day
Many churches remember St Stephen, first martyr. An opportunity to pray for those who suffer for their faith in Christ. Resources: [CSW](#), [Open Doors](#)

28 December – Holy Innocents
A day to pray for children who are victims of persecution, oppression and conflict. Materials: [War Child](#), [World Vision](#), [Save the Children](#)