



PRAYER FOR THE NATION

Prayer for the Nation Impact Report

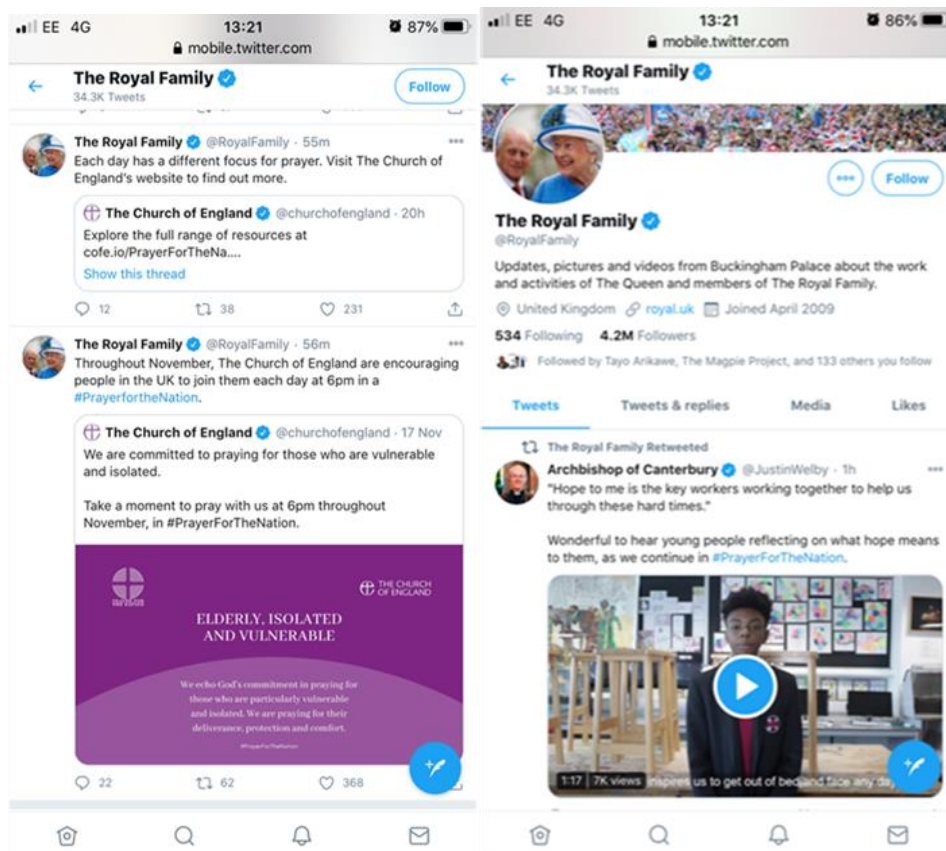
Prayer for the Nation was a month-long prayer campaign, initiated by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York [inviting](#) Christians and all people of goodwill, to pray for England during the second Lockdown.

The month of prayer united thousands of Christians in prayer following a daily prayer focus repeated weekly, with a daily collective moment of prayer at 6pm each evening. Prayer themes included praying for the Elderly, Isolated and Bereaved; Businesses and economic wellbeing; Children and young people and educational establishments and local and national governments. [Resources](#) were quickly produced and disseminated to equip churches and individuals to take part.

The campaign has to date **received coverage in UK media outlets – print, online and broadcast and across religious and mainstream media**. This includes **The Times** (op-ed from Archbishops of Canterbury and York and a separate op-ed from Bishop Graham Tomlin); Church press, including the Church Times and coverage a range of regional newspapers. It was also mentioned in Archbishop Justin Welby's interview with ITV's **Good Morning Britain**- arguably Britain's flagship magazine breakfast programme and, highlighted in Archbishop Stephen Cottrell's interview with Emma Barnett on **Radio 5 Live**.

Here is a selection of highlights from the campaign:

A Royal Endorsement: In a series of retweets, the Royal Family account shared several posts from the Archbishop of Canterbury and CofE's accounts, with their 4.5million followers, inspiring many to join in prayer.



The campaign not only mobilised Christians in **England** to pray, but churches and individuals around the world took part, including the diocese of Colombo in **Sri Lanka** (committing to pray for their own nation during this time), **New Zealand, Australia and America**.

Throughout the 28 days **influential church leaders** prayed for the nation in a number of video reflections. Contributions included **Pete Greig** (founder of 24-7 Prayer); **Churches Together In England Presidents – Pastor Agu Irukwu, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop Angaelos**, Archbishops of Canterbury and York; Artists **Guvna B** and **Pete James**; Pippa Cramer founder of **Daily Hope** telephone line; Carl Knightly, CEO of **Faith in Later Life**; Caroline Ward, Children and Young People's Officer, **Walsingham** and various Bishops including **Bishop of Warrington** Bev Mason and **Bishop of Burnley**, Philp North. The videos were viewed hundreds of thousands of times in the month of November.

During this time, the **Archbishop Justin Welby** also led the nation in prayer, on **Facebook Live**, praying for specific themes and people's need. **Archbishop Stephen Cottrell** also led prayers in a series of pre-recorded videos, specifically **for those grieving and struggling with physical and mental ill-health**. Both were well received, drawing tens of thousands of views from around the world.

The Association of English Cathedrals, the membership body for Cathedrals across England galvanised support, with Cathedrals committing to ring a bell at 6pm daily to pause and pray for the nation. This includes including **Durham, York Minster, Liverpool, Lichfield, Exeter, St Albans and Gloucester** who played different hymns from the bells at 6pm each evening.

The campaign was supported by several organisations including **Hope Together and 24-7 Prayer GB** producing resources, mobilising their audiences to pray and hosting Facebook Live prayer sessions.

We have been greatly encouraged by the number of **bishops and dioceses** that participated including creating their own customised content based on the daily themes and video reflections. Key resources were centrally produced to enable participation including prayers written by Archbishop Stephen Cottrell, Professor NT Wright and Pete Greig.

The level of engagement from the Christian public has also been wonderful to see. For example, on social media, people are using the daily themes to **pray for specific individuals and groups related to the day's intention such as specific healthcare workers, hospital wards, or hospital chaplains on Thurs, teachers and schools on Monday or for their local MP and councillors on Friday**. It's also been heartening to know, that beyond prayer, which is powerful and profound, it was being used as a means to publicly celebrate individuals / groups for their service and hard work.

The campaign received a number of **positive comments from the Christian public**, with many churches and individuals still continuing in this pattern of prayer for the nation. Here's a few of the responses:

- *Firstly, thank you for facilitating this shared wave of prayer for our land. It's been a real blessing to me personally to be part of it. And then in week one we had the first good news about a viable vaccine. In week 4 we had the first vaccine to be licensed for use anywhere in the world. Plenty to give thanks for anyway!*
- *It has given me a focus for each day. Thanks to everybody who has worked so hard to create and present the daily programmes.*
- *We've had over 800 people opt into prayer along with it through the PrayerMate App - and I know that I personally am finding it very helpful. I am thankful to the Archbishops for this much needed initiative at this difficult time.*
- *Thank you for inspiring us to pray! This has been an amazing initiative, thank you again!*
- *Thank you for inviting me to join with you in prayer a time of joyful fellowship. Love and fondest prayers.*