

# Prayer Alert

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[www.prayer-alert.net](http://www.prayer-alert.net) | [editor@prayer-alert.net](mailto:editor@prayer-alert.net)

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**I will praise You with an upright heart as I learn Your righteous laws. (Psalm 119:7)**

We are pleased to enclose this week's edition of Prayer Alert.

Please pray for key by-elections in Assam state and state assembly by-elections taking place across India (19 June). Also, three municipal by-elections taking place in Canada (21-28 June). See the [2025 Elections Guide](#).



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We invite the Prayer Alert community to join us on the free online Interseed House of Prayer app where we are praying and sharing thoughts on the weekly prayer guide issues and themes.

Interseed is available on the Android and iOS platforms. More info [HERE](#).

## Invitation - to serve with the PA team!

How would you like to join our Prayer Alert team? We are a group of volunteers based in different parts of England. If you appreciate what we do and are confident with browsing the internet, discovering relevant articles and basic editing, we would love to hear from you! Please hit 'reply', introduce yourself, and we will be in touch.

Thank you for partnering with us in praying for the nations.

David Fletcher and the Prayer Alert team.

## Praise Reports

[Landmark win for Christian teacher fired over gender views](#)  
[Jesus helped supersonic pilot see world anew](#)  
[Africa / Philippines: 87,000 Bibles given to disabled children](#)

## British Isles

[Reeves presents her spending review](#)  
[Northern Ireland: third night of violence in Ballymena](#)  
[Government's £14.2bn investment in new nuclear power station](#)  
[Wildlife Trusts call out inaccuracies in Planning and Infrastructure Bill](#)  
[NHS plans more robotic surgeries to speed up treatment times](#)

## Europe

[Austria: national mourning after gunman kills ten](#)  
[Belgium: latest signs of booming illegal sales of ketamine](#)

## Worldwide

[UN report says world fertility rates in unprecedented decline](#)  
[India: disastrous plane crash in Ahmedabad](#)  
[USA: California governor condemns Trump's use of National Guard](#)  
[Gaza: Greta Thunberg deported after Israel seizes aid boat](#)  
[Argentina: supreme court upholds prison sentence for former president](#)  
[Togo: protests after rule changes allowing president to rule indefinitely](#)

## Praise Reports

### [Landmark win for Christian teacher fired over gender views](#)

A long-running legal battle has concluded after the UK Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal concerning Kristie Higgs, a Christian teacher dismissed in 2018 for expressing her views on gender and sexuality in private Facebook posts. Higgs had shared a petition challenging government RSE policies and commented on two children's books promoting gender fluidity. Though her comments were not related to her teaching, she was dismissed by the school, which claimed the issue was her language, not her beliefs. However, in February 2025, the Court of Appeal ruled that her dismissal amounted to unlawful religious discrimination, affirming that belief-based expression outside work is protected under the Equality Act. The Supreme Court's refusal to revisit the case makes this ruling final. Higgs expressed relief, calling it a victory for Christian free speech. The Christian Legal Centre, which backed her case, hailed the decision as a landmark precedent safeguarding freedom of belief and speech for Christians in the UK workplace and beyond.

Praise: God for this affirmation of believers' rights to speak truth. Pray for the grace to do so wisely, in an increasingly hostile culture. (Matthew 5:10)

More: [premierchristian.news/en/news/article/landmark-win-christian-teacher-fired-gender-views](http://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/landmark-win-christian-teacher-fired-gender-views)

## Jesus helped supersonic pilot see world anew

Captain Brian Walpole, once commander of British Airways' Concorde fleet and recipient of an OBE, has enjoyed an extraordinary aviation career. From RAF training to piloting over 800 supersonic transatlantic flights at 1,350mph, he experienced the awe of seeing the earth's curvature at 60,000 feet. Yet it wasn't until his late forties that he truly began to see not just the world, but the Creator behind it. A dinner conversation led him to Guildford Baptist Church, where a long journey of scientific and spiritual enquiry began. Influenced by Josh McDowell's Evidence That Demands a Verdict, Brian was convinced of Jesus' resurrection and the truth of the gospel. While his own conversion was gradual, his wife Rosemary had a dramatic encounter with the Holy Spirit, and their daughter Shelley went on to serve in ministry in Canada. Now in his nineties, Brian continues to testify that no human accomplishment compares to knowing Christ. His story is a powerful reminder that eternal truth outshines earthly success.

Praise: God for opening hearts at every altitude and age to the truth and beauty of Christ. (Psalm 19:1)

More: [www.godreports.com/2025/06/jesus-helped-supersonic-pilot-see-world-anew-at-60000-feet/](http://www.godreports.com/2025/06/jesus-helped-supersonic-pilot-see-world-anew-at-60000-feet/)

## Africa / Philippines: 87,000 Bibles given to disabled children

A new partnership between CURE International and Biblica is set to distribute over 87,000 Bibles in 22 languages to families receiving free surgical care at children's hospitals across Africa and the Philippines. These hospitals, run by CURE, offer operations for conditions like spina bifida and hydrocephalus. The initiative brings physical healing and spiritual hope, rooted in CURE's founding mission inspired by Luke 9:2 - to preach the Kingdom of God and heal the sick. CURE has performed over 330,000 surgeries and shared the Gospel with over 2.1 million people since 1996. Biblica's role is to ensure Scripture is available in the heart languages of the patients. The collaboration addresses deep spiritual and cultural challenges, including widespread beliefs in curses and witchcraft surrounding disability. Through intentional ministry, Bible distribution, and community connections with local pastors, CURE is seeing lives transformed as parents witness healing and turn to faith. This \$500,000 effort is a striking example of Kingdom collaboration bringing the light of Christ to the most vulnerable.

Praise: God for this gift of Bibles bringing healing, hope, and faith to children and families across Africa and Asia. (Psalm 107:20)

More: [www.christianpost.com/news/ministries-deliver-bibles-to-disabled-children-in-22-languages.html](http://www.christianpost.com/news/ministries-deliver-bibles-to-disabled-children-in-22-languages.html)

## British Isles

### Reeves presents her spending review

Rachel Reeves' new spending review represents a pivotal moment for the Labour government, aiming to launch a narrative of 'renewal' after a challenging first year. With £600 billion allocated over four years, the review balances significant capital investment with modest growth in day-to-day departmental spending. Major announcements include £14.2 billion for nuclear power at Sizewell C, £15 billion for public transport in the North and Midlands, and a new rail link between Liverpool and Manchester. An additional £113 billion in capital spending will target the government's three pillars: health, security, and the economy. However, this largesse will be offset by tighter controls on daily budgets, with unprotected departments - particularly the Home Office and local councils - facing real-term cuts. Discontent is rising over pressure to reverse disability cuts, lift the two-child benefits cap, and increase winter fuel support. While Reeves insists the rises are funded by tough tax decisions, growing public dissatisfaction may force further fiscal changes by autumn. The Government hopes visible investment projects will reassure voters and build lasting trust. Breaking news: the UK economy shrank by 0.3% in April, a worse result than expected, which Reeves has described as 'disappointing'. See

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2025/jun/12/uk-economy-shrinks-firms-hit-by-higher-taxes-and-trump-trade-war>

Pray: for our leaders to govern with justice and compassion, balancing economic renewal with care for the vulnerable. (Proverbs 31:9)

More: [news.sky.com/story/the-spending-review-is-a-massive-deal-for-rachel-reeves-labour-and-the-country-heres-what-to-expect-13381824](https://news.sky.com/story/the-spending-review-is-a-massive-deal-for-rachel-reeves-labour-and-the-country-heres-what-to-expect-13381824)

### Northern Ireland: third night of violence in Ballymena

Ballymena, County Antrim, has experienced three consecutive nights of violent unrest following a protest over an alleged sexual assault. Initially peaceful, the protest escalated into serious disorder after two teenage boys appeared in court, denying the charges via a Romanian interpreter. Demonstrations turned hostile as crowds in the Clonavon Terrace area threw petrol bombs, fireworks, bricks, and bottles at police officers. The police deployed riot control measures including baton rounds and a water cannon. Seventeen more officers were injured overnight, bringing the total to 32, and five arrests were made. Several cars were set ablaze, and windows of local homes were smashed. Police have described the violence as 'racist thuggery', suggesting that ethnic tensions had contributed to the escalation. Authorities are calling for calm amid concerns about further disturbances and are urging communities to reject hatred and violence. Update: on the third night a leisure centre in Larne was [set on fire](https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/petrol-bombs-thrown-at-police-with-baton-rounds-fired-at-rioters-in-ballymena-as-larne-leisure-centre-also-attacked/a1432369102.htm) (<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/petrol-bombs-thrown-at-police-with-baton-rounds-fired-at-rioters-in-ballymena-as-larne-leisure-centre-also-attacked/a1432369102.htm>).

Pray: for peace and repentance in Ballymena, and for healing where racial hatred has erupted violently. (Psalm 34:14)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0k3le25r8ro](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0k3le25r8ro)

### Government's £14.2bn investment in new nuclear power station

Rachel Reeves has confirmed a £14.2bn investment for the new Sizewell C nuclear power station in Suffolk, projected to begin supplying power by the mid-2030s. She hailed it as the dawn of a 'new era of nuclear power', with the plant expected to power six million homes and create thousands of construction jobs. Keir Starmer emphasised fiscal caution, warning there will be no 'blank cheque' for the decade-long project, with the current funding covering only four years. The plant, to be built by EDF, sits on an existing nuclear site and comes amid efforts to replace Britain's ageing nuclear infrastructure. The government also announced a £2.5bn programme for small modular reactors (SMRs), touted as quicker to build and better suited for decentralised energy needs. Though some locals welcome the investment, others decry environmental destruction near the RSPB Minsmere reserve. The Scottish government remains opposed to new nuclear developments. The overall goal is to expand UK nuclear capacity to around 24GW by 2050 to secure clean and reliable electricity.

Pray: for stewardship and sustainability in the UK's energy future, with justice and reparation for affected communities. (Psalm 24:1)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/c3v50qy35pwt](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/c3v50qy35pwt)

## Wildlife Trusts call out inaccuracies in Planning and Infrastructure Bill

The Wildlife Trusts have challenged claims made during a recent Commons debate on the Planning and Infrastructure Bill, accusing ministers of misrepresenting the impact of environmental protections on housing development. Housing minister Matthew Pennycook suggested that safeguards like nutrient neutrality were obstructing housebuilding. However, a growing weight of evidence indicates otherwise. For example, a recent survey of 500 councillors found environmental issues ranked 20th among 24 causes of delay; skills shortages in the building sector and developer land banking were much more significant. Evidence also shows that irreplaceable habitats are at risk due to proposed changes in part 3 of the bill, which would weaken the habitats regulations by introducing a more subjective 'overall improvement test.' The Office for Environmental Protection warns this could allow harmful developments in ancient woodlands and other vital habitats. Despite over 30,000 public emails to MPs and cross-party concerns, the Government has not committed to full revisions. The Wildlife Trusts are urging ministers to abandon unfounded claims about environmental 'blockers' and adopt a more evidence-based approach that balances housing needs with robust nature protection.

Pray: that UK leaders uphold strong protections for God's creation while addressing genuine housing needs responsibly. (Proverbs 31:8)  
More: [www.wildlifetrusts.org/news/wildlife-trusts-call-out-inaccuracies-commons-debate-planning-infrastructure-bill](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/news/wildlife-trusts-call-out-inaccuracies-commons-debate-planning-infrastructure-bill)

## NHS plans more robotic surgeries to speed up treatment times

The NHS is planning a major expansion of robotic-assisted surgery to improve treatment times and patient outcomes. Currently, one in five keyhole surgeries is robot-assisted, but NHS England projects this will rise to 90% by 2035, with procedures increasing from 70,000 annually to around 500,000 over the next decade. Health secretary Wes Streeting, himself a kidney cancer survivor who benefited from robotic surgery, highlighted the potential of such technologies to transform healthcare delivery. Robot-assisted surgery enables greater precision, faster recovery, and shorter hospital stays. Surgeons operate using a console linked to robotic instruments and cameras, with some orthopaedic surgeries already partially automated. NHS leaders stress that embracing innovation, including robotics, AI, and data research, is essential to meet targets like reducing elective waiting times by 2029. John McGrath, chair of the NHSE robotic surgery committee, added that efficient use of robotic surgery could ease system-wide pressure. The initiative aligns with broader efforts to modernise the NHS and deliver faster, more effective care to patients across multiple medical fields.

Pray: for NHS innovation to serve patients wisely, relieving pressure while upholding compassion and dignity in care. (Colossians 3:23)  
More: [www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/nhs-robotic-surgery-treatment-england-b2767490.html](http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/nhs-robotic-surgery-treatment-england-b2767490.html)

## Europe

### Austria: national mourning after gunman kills ten

Austria has declared three days of national mourning after a 21-year-old former student fatally shot eight pupils and a teacher at his old high school in Graz, later taking his own life. A tenth victim, critically injured, has since died, and eleven others remain in hospital. Austria's chancellor, Christian Stocker, called it a 'national tragedy', and the president said, 'What happened today ... strikes our country at the heart. These were young people who had their whole lives ahead of them.' The gunman, armed with legally owned firearms, opened fire in two classrooms. His motive remains unclear as the investigation continues. Mass shootings are rare in Austria, even though the nation has one of Europe's highest civilian gun ownership rates. In response to the tragedy, crisis teams are supporting affected families and the community. The mayor of Vienna stressed that hate and violence must not prevail, and European leaders have expressed deep sorrow and sympathy.

Pray: for comfort and healing for grieving families, and that authorities will know how they can best prevent another such tragedy. (Psalm 34:18)  
More: [www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jun/10/students-killed-in-school-shooting-in-austria-graz](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jun/10/students-killed-in-school-shooting-in-austria-graz)

### Belgium: latest signs of booming illegal sales of ketamine

Customs officers at Brussels airport were stunned when crates expected to contain ketamine were actually full of salt. Authorities believe the drug was diverted into the black market during its complex journey from India, exploiting loopholes in Europe's varied regulations. Ketamine, classified as a medicine in some nations, is shipped legally through multiple borders, making tracking difficult. Criminals forge documents, use front companies, and manipulate legal supply chains to mask their operations. Since 2023, Belgian investigators have uncovered 28 similar cases involving an estimated 28 tonnes of ketamine. The drug's illegal trade is growing so fast that gangs now profit more from ketamine than from cocaine. In the UK, ketamine use surged 85% in one year, linked to 53 deaths in 2023. Its legal use in hospitals complicates enforcement. European police forces are now coordinating with Indian authorities to stem the flow.

Pray: for protection of youth, and for integrity among authorities combating drug trafficking. (Psalm 106:3)  
More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c201jgkvjlo](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c201jgkvjlo)

## Worldwide

### UN report says world fertility rates in unprecedented decline

In India, Namrata Nangia and her husband long to have another child, but are held back by financial and time pressures - a dilemma increasingly shared worldwide. According to a new UN report, a global decline in fertility is not due to personal choice alone; many couples feel unable to afford larger families. Of 14,000 people surveyed across fourteen nations, one in five reported having fewer children than desired. Key barriers included financial limitations (cited by 39%) and lack of time. In nations like South Korea, the figure rose to 58%. Surprisingly, infertility accounted for just 12%. The UN urges caution against panicked policy responses, warning that such crises can prompt harmful nationalist or gender-conservative measures. Today's challenges mirror shifts seen in countries that once feared overpopulation. As living costs, job demands, and social expectations rise, many parents like Namrata choose to focus their love and energy on one child - wrestling with the tension between desire and reality.

Pray: for families worldwide seeking to raise children amidst growing economic pressures. (Psalm 127:3)  
More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/clynq459wxgo](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/clynq459wxgo)

### India: disastrous plane crash in Ahmedabad

In one of India's worst aviation disasters in decades, at least 240 people were killed when a Boeing 787 owned by Air India crashed in Ahmedabad soon after takeoff. The sole survivor, Vishwash Kumar Ramesh, is in hospital but out of danger. The plane, bound for London, struck a residential building housing medical students; five students were killed and dozens injured. Charred wreckage and bodies were found across the crash site. Firefighters battled flames fed by full fuel tanks, while Indian army teams assisted rescue efforts. Eyewitness footage showed the plane descending before erupting into a fireball. Authorities reported the aircraft issued a mayday call before losing contact. Narendra Modi expressed profound sorrow, and Boeing is investigating its first-ever 787 Dreamliner crash. Investigators will analyse flight data to determine exactly what happened. Air India's chairman said, 'At the moment our primary focus is on supporting all the affected people and their families.'

Pray: for healing for survivors, comfort for grieving families, and wisdom for investigators. (Psalm 147:3)

More: [apnews.com/article/india-plane-crash-cad8dad5cd0e92795b03d357404af5f8](https://apnews.com/article/india-plane-crash-cad8dad5cd0e92795b03d357404af5f8)

### USA: California governor condemns Trump's use of National Guard

Gavin Newsom, the governor of California, has condemned Donald Trump's uninvited deployment of the National Guard to quell unrest in Los Angeles, calling it an illegal escalation and 'brazen abuse of power'. The unrest followed protests against Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids targeting illegal immigrants. Newsom argued that California could have managed the protests without federal intervention and accused Trump of using force theatrically, inflaming tensions. He warned that such actions threaten democracy nationwide. Newsom also criticised the Trump administration's indiscriminate deportations, which target hardworking immigrant families and foster fear. 'Authoritarian regimes begin by targeting the vulnerable but do not stop there,' he cautioned. Linking Trump's actions to broader attacks on American institutions, from the judiciary to the press, he called for peaceful resistance. Urging citizens to reject fear and silence, Newsom ended with a call to defend constitutional freedoms.

Pray: for leaders to govern with integrity and for protection of democratic freedoms. (Psalm 32:8)

More: [time.com/7293071/gavin-newsom-california-los-angeles-protests-speech-warning-nation-trump/](https://time.com/7293071/gavin-newsom-california-los-angeles-protests-speech-warning-nation-trump/)

### Gaza: Greta Thunberg deported after Israel seizes aid boat

Greta Thunberg, the climate-change inspiration for millions of young people world-wide, has condemned Israel's seizure of a Gaza-bound aid boat she was aboard, calling it 'an illegal act'. The British-flagged yacht Madleen had sailed from Sicily intending to breach Israel's sea blockade of Gaza. Thunberg and eleven others were detained in international waters and brought to Israel. She described their treatment as forced and restrictive, but stressed the real issue is Gaza's 'systematic starvation' and the blockade preventing essential supplies. Israel countered with footage of the boat's passengers being given food, which Thunberg dismissed as a PR stunt. She was put on a plane back to Sweden on 10 June, and three others have agreed to deportation, but the rest remain in detention. Meanwhile, tensions in Gaza escalate: Hamas reported three paramedics killed by Israeli strikes, and local authorities say Israeli fire killed at least 17 Palestinians at a US-backed aid site. The Israeli military says it is investigating. Aid routes remain perilous, with over 130 Palestinians killed near such sites in recent weeks.

Pray: for innocent lives amid conflict and for compassionate resolution and peace. (Matthew 5:6)

More: [news.sky.com/story/israel-releases-photo-of-greta-thunberg-being-deported-after-gaza-aid-boat-seized-13381514](https://news.sky.com/story/israel-releases-photo-of-greta-thunberg-being-deported-after-gaza-aid-boat-seized-13381514)

### Argentina: supreme court upholds prison sentence for former president

Argentina's supreme court has upheld a six-year prison sentence for former president Cristina Fernández de Kirchner on corruption charges, barring her permanently from public office. The ruling sparked protests in Buenos Aires, where her supporters accused the court of serving the nation's economic elite. Fernández de Kirchner, who led Argentina from 2007 to 2015, was convicted in 2022 of directing irregular public works contracts to an ally. She denounced the decision as politically motivated and appealed, but the court stated that it was 'based on the abundance of evidence produced', and said that her conviction did nothing more than protect Argentina's democratic system. President Javier Milei, her fierce political rival, welcomed the verdict. The decision seems to mark the end of a significant chapter in Argentine politics, just days after Kirchner had launched a campaign for the Buenos Aires legislative elections in September. She has five days to turn herself in to the authorities, but her lawyer has requested house arrest due to her age (she is 72).

Pray: for truth and justice to prevail in Argentina's leadership and governance. (Psalm 106:3)

More: [www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/6/11/argentinas-top-court-upholds-fernandez-de-kirchners-prison-sentence](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/6/11/argentinas-top-court-upholds-fernandez-de-kirchners-prison-sentence)

### Togo: protests after rule changes allowing president to rule indefinitely

Faure Gnassingbé, Togo's president, faces rising unrest after constitutional changes that could extend his rule indefinitely. Recent protests in the capital, Lomé, were met with arrests and alleged mistreatment of demonstrators. Gnassingbé, in power since 2005, was recently sworn in as president of the Council of Ministers - an influential role without term limits. Critics call this a 'constitutional coup'. About forty of the arrested protesters have been released, but at least 25 remain detained. Government officials have defended the arrests as necessary to uphold state institutions. However, a coalition of political groups has demanded not only the release of all prisoners but also an end to Gnassingbé's regime, which they describe as repressive after two decades in power. Protests are rare in Togo, where demonstrations were banned in 2022 after a deadly attack.

Pray: for justice, freedom, and the restoration of true democracy in Togo. (Amos 5:24)

More: [www.africanews.com/2025/06/11/togos-president-faces-calls-to-resign-after-protests-over-new-role-allowing-indefinite-rul/](https://www.africanews.com/2025/06/11/togos-president-faces-calls-to-resign-after-protests-over-new-role-allowing-indefinite-rul/)

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C/O World Prayer Centre, 167 Newhall Street, Birmingham, B3 1SW

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