# Prayers

## A Prayer for Safeguarding Sunday

**Dear God,**

Help us to be a church that:

Loves, welcomes, protects.

Listens, learns, serves.

Repents, restores, transforms.

Values, cares, believes.

God of Justice and compassion, hear our prayer.

Help us, heal us, guide us, we pray.

In Jesus name.

**Amen.**

Download a video of the prayer to use in your worship service, featuring 24 church leaders and Safeguarding Leads from across the Church in the UK. <https://we.tl/t-4L7tWzBvWw>

## A Prayer for victims, survivors, and those with lived experience of abuse

**Dear God,**

We pray for all those who have suffered hurt and harm within the family of the Church,

whether they are known to us or not, we know that you know them by name.

For those who feel trapped, grant them a way of escape,

For those in pain, bring comfort and healing,

For those who seek justice, may they have courage and strength.

As Church we are one body and if one part suffers, every part suffers with it.

Give to all who suffer people who will listen, support, and walk with them we pray,

**Amen**

## A prayer for those working in safeguarding

**Dear God,**

We pray for all those who serve in a safeguarding role within our Church.

We especially pray for [Name(s) of your Safeguarding Lead or team].

Thank you for their willingness and time they give to fulfil this important task.

Give them your wisdom, discernment, and strength.

Help us support them in their role, remember them in our prayers, and respond to their

requests and advice so that we might be a safer place for everyone.

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

**Amen**

## A prayer for church leaders

**Dear God,**

We pray for all those who serve in a position of leadership in our Church.

We especially pray for [Name(s) of your Leadership team].

Thank you for their commitment to serve us in this way.

As they make decisions, set the culture, and seek to lead us in our worship and witness,

give them wisdom, humility, and courage to follow Jesus’ example of servant leadership we pray.

Help us support them in their role, remember them in our prayers, and ensure they have others

around them who can help, challenge, and encourage them so that we might be a safer place

for everyone.

In Jesus name

**Amen**

## A responsive prayer

Into the dark places of our world

Where people are frightened and hungry

**God bring light, bring love**

Into places where people are violent

Into places where people are fighting

**God bring light, bring love**

Into the places where we feel unsafe

Into situations that hurt us and scare us

**God bring light, bring love**

We ask our prayers in Jesus’ name

and in the Holy Spirit’s power

**Amen**

## A prayer of lament

**Lord God,**

We humbly come to you as a church,

and acknowledge that we don’t always get things right.

We’re human – made in the image of God humans, beautiful and broken humans,

in need of your love and the restoration you bring.

We cannot ignore those who have been harmed and hurt by those who in the wider Church.

We must lean in and listen.

The way some people deal with trauma is not one-size-fits-all,

Some shrink; others appear to stand tall.

Like the prophets in scripture who cried out for justice and mercy,

so we too cry out for justice and mercy.

We must protect your vulnerable ones,

and pray you heal the wounds of your daughters and sons.

It's not enough to forget,

the pain that caused so much regret.

To ignore sin,

and troubled hearts burning within.

Let's learn from where we've gone astray,

And strive to do all we can every day,

to make our church a safer place.

The church is not a perfect place, but it can be a source of grace.

Let's speak up for the ones in need,

And sow the seeds of loving deed.

Help us stand with the crushed in spirit,

Love with no limits,

And weep with the weary.

Yet, because of your great love, we are not consumed,

for your compassions never fail.

They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

For in protecting the weak and small,

We truly answer your call.

**Amen**

## A survivor’s prayer

**Written by Cerys Morgan, a victim and survivor of church-based abuse.**

**Father,**

Thank you that as your church you entrust to us your work here on earth.

We pray that through your Spirit, you will empower us to do the right thing for the benefit of those suffering abuse and injustice.

That we will not fear to be bringers of your justice. That we will be your voice for those whose voices are silenced.

That when your light shines into dark areas of abuse we will have courage as your representatives, to face our fears, and to show forth your heart of compassion and justice, and to speak your words of life and freedom into broken hearts.

Teach us as a Church to be your body fully knitted together and working in unity. To care for one another with extra care and dignity.

Enable us to be instruments of your love, that chains will be broken and broken hearts restored.

That we will teach everyone how precious they are to you.

That they will know you are a God who sees and feels their pain.

We pray that through your Spirit and your church fully trusting in your word, victims will become victors and their mess become a precious message to your love and restoration in their lives.

We ask this in your name and for your glory.

**Amen**