

### Prayer changes things

- Prayer is key, powerful and changes things, it is the slender nerve, which moves the hand of God and we are asking him to intervene in our community. Prayer undergirds action and forms part of an holistic Christian response to crime reduction. Romans 13:1–5 identifies the role of the Police Service as coming from God and we are urged in 1 Timothy 2:1–2 to pray for those in authority in order that we may live peaceful and quiet lives. Ephesians 6:12 tells us that our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against spiritual forces of evil. People who commit crime are under the influence of the enemy and prayer helps to release that grip and free people from addiction and despair. The Police Service has the task of keeping the peace and the Christian community can play an active role in helping this.
- There is circumstantial evidence to suggest that prayer may help to reduce crime and community tension. (See the Case Studies pdf) Praying specifically for your local policing situation may well bring tangible results. Individuals and churches in neighbourhoods can, so to speak, ‘adopt a cop’ by praying for specific officers, staff and teams at their local police station, as well as places and issues, and so offer that prayerful support. Specifically, find out the names of your local Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) and commit to praying for them.
- United prayer highlighted in Psalm 133 is powerful eg. Transformations – in South America when the whole church came together to pray. Here we suggest ‘Churches Together’ or similar inviting a local officer (Neighbourhood team leader) to come to periodic meetings to share the local issues. To find your local NPT, contact your local police station or key in your postcode on the following link: [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk) You may wish to link up with existing prayer groups organised by CPA. We encourage prayer walks, praying with Street Pastors and linking to local ‘Houses of Prayer’ [www.housesofprayer.net](http://www.housesofprayer.net) or national movements like the world prayer centre. [www.worldprayer.org.uk](http://www.worldprayer.org.uk)
- Pray4YourPolice cards can be ordered from [www.CPAuk.net](http://www.CPAuk.net)
- Look out for the annual National Day of Prayer for the Police Service which takes place on Ascension Day – advertising literature is available from CPA. NB: The ‘Adopt A Cop’ scheme which began in 1998 is augmented or replaced by Pray4YourPolice.



#### Guidelines: What should we pray for?

##### Pray for: People –

- local NPT officers in your area by name
- frontline officers on patrol and police staff in key positions that they might build confidence and trust with the public
- success in preventing and detecting crime catching offenders and bringing them to justice
- wisdom in all situations, including juggling priorities and ‘on the spot’ decisions
- safety, especially dealing with critical incidents, public order or other potentially violent situations
- the various shifts and departments
- officers sick or injured
- the officer in charge of the area and their senior team in providing ethical and effective leadership
- the ability to resist corruption, act justly, working with an attitude of service
- the ability to deal with stress effectively and relax off duty
- the crew whenever you see a police vehicle, whether or not on an emergency call, pray for the crew. If it is responding to an emergency call, pray for the safety of the officers and for the situation to which they are going.

##### Pray for: Places –

- for a specific street, estate or area, for God’s peace, and for protection.
- to bring down crime and fear of crime
- for the overall work of the police in your area working together with the community.

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### Pray for: Issues –

– Each community has its own issues and needs. What are the specific needs of your community? Do some research, read local newspapers, talk to your Neighbourhood Police Officer, check out your local police web site, and [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk) for helpful information about crime and policing in your local area. Find out the trouble hot spots, listen to local radio and TV news and use relevant items as prayer fuel. Be informed when praying and be specific. As you find out about a particular issue, continue to pray about every aspect of it. Keep praying and keep watching. It is important to let groups know you are praying.

### Set up a Coact Prayer Group

Download the Set up prayer pdf.

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A Prayer for those in the Police Service (from the CPA Police Pocket Testament)

**Lord, thank you** for giving me the opportunity to serve in the police. I believe you are a God of justice, of truth and peace. Please give to me all that I need to help build a community founded on these, your principles.

**Give me courage** in the face of intimidation and danger to protect the vulnerable, defend the weak and bring to justice those who victimise others.

**I ask for your wisdom** and discernment in the exercise of my powers that I may be able to bring peace where there is hatred and aggression, a sense of hope to those who are in despair and comfort to those who are broken hearted.

**Protect me** from those who would seek to bring harm, but also from demoralisation or any thought of misusing my position. Help me to be a personal example of the honesty, goodness and justice which it is my duty to maintain.

**I thank you** that I will not face anything today that will take you by surprise. I ask that you will equip me to face the challenges of today and that I may fulfill my duty and win the trust and respect of those I serve. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.