

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

1 Timothy 2:1-6

Prayer Points for August, 2025

Matters 'at a glance:

- 1: Christian Concern report on the 'vindication' of street preacher, John Steele.
- 2: Christian Concern's Press Release regarding the appointment of the new Archbishop of the Church in Wales, Cherry Vann, who is a lesbian.
- 3: The Christian Institute reports that Peers have called for plans to create an Islamophobia definition to be scrapped.
- 4: The Christian Institute reports that the nation's monarch, King Charles III, has hosted a ceremony in honour of 'mother earth' at a gathering to promote his philosophy of 'Harmony'. Conducted by Mindahi Bastida, the 'guardian' and Ritual Ceremony Officer of a Mexican indigenous people group, the fire pit ceremony included incantations and 'blessings'.
- 5: Barnabas Aid reports that gunmen killed a Pastor and church member in Katsina State, northern Nigeria.

Prayer Matters in Full

1) Christian Concern reports that street preacher, John Steele, has been vindicated after the Crown Prosecution Service dropped charges against him following his arrest in Rotherham town centre for asking a member of the public what the Quran says about domestic violence. The incident which led to Mr Steele being detained and threatened with a 'non-crime hate incident' (NCHI) will spark widespread and escalating concern over policing priorities and the erosion of Christian freedom in the UK.

The story reveals embedded two-tier policing in Rotherham, where over many years South Yorkshire Police have failed to act on the systematic rape of young girls by predominantly Islamic men, but on this occasion swiftly arrested a Christian preacher for asking a question about the Quran.

John Steele, 60, who is being supported by lawyers at the Christian Legal Centre, was arrested on 21 June 2025 after engaging in a 30 -second conversation with a Muslim wearing a hijab at a public awareness stall offering support to ethnic minorities/Pakistani women experiencing domestic abuse. Mr Steele, who has preached the gospel in public spaces for 25

years without incident, asked using a small microphone how Islamic teachings on wife-beating could be reconciled with the stall's message.

He was referring to the controversial verse in Quran 4:34 which says "Men are in charge of women, because Allah hath made the one of them to excel the other, and because they spend of their property (for the support of women). So good women are the obedient, guarding in secret that which Allah hath guarded. As for those for whom ye fear rebellion, admonish them and banish them to beds apart, AND SCOURGE THEM. Then if they obey you, seek not a way against them. Lo! Allah is ever High, Exalted, Great." (Pickthall translation). The Pickthall translation is regarded as the most faithful translation of the Quran in English.

Mr Steele then shared with the woman how, in comparison, Paul the Apostle commands Christians to love their wives in the same way that Jesus loves the church (Ephesians 5:25).

He said he shared what he did to offer hope and understanding, as it is well-known that most Muslim women do not engage with, or learn some of the Quran's concerning teachings.

Despite the brief and non-threatening nature of the exchange, an hour later he was surrounded by four police officers demanding his personal details and threatened him with arrest if he failed to comply.

The motivation for getting Mr Steele's details appears to be to record an NCHI against his name. In the body-worn video footage of the arrest, Mr Steele can be seen holding a banner quoting verses from the book of Acts and 1 Timothy.

"The world has gone mad" Mr Steele said.

"This is the world we live in" the police officer responded, and added, "I think it was your delivery".

"I asked a simple question", Mr Steele said calmly and politely.

The police officer said however, that his question was 'anti-social', and therefore "Section 50 of the Police Reform Act 2002 allows a uniformed police officer to require a person to provide their name and address if they have reason to believe that the person is or has been engaging in anti-social behaviour...If you don't provide your details...we have a power of arrest to obtain those details".

"I haven't behaved in an anti-social behaviour [manner] " Mr Steele said.

"That's your opinion" the officer snaps back.

"We are recording an incident" a female officer interjected. "That incident is a hate incident. We require details to report that".

"I am not admitting to something I have not done" Mr Steele said, "what you are doing is threatening me".

The police officer said "We're saying you behaved in an anti-social manner because [the Muslim woman] felt harassed, alarmed or distressed by your behaviour".

Referring to the decision in June by M P's to make it lawful to allow abortion up-to-birth, Mr Steele said, "Can you go and arrest all of them in Parliament? They've caused me alarm and distress".

"We are dealing with this right now" the officers responded in unison.

After being told that he is not guilty of a hate crime, Mr Steele then asks, "So what is it going down as?". "A non-crime hate incident" the officers responded.

"I'm not hating anybody" Mr Steele responded. "Why should I have something against me that I haven't done?".

"She says she has been harassed, alarmed and distressed by your behaviour" the officer said. "Does that make me guilty?" Mr Steele asks. "No" the police officer responds

As an aside, a female police officer then said to another officer: "Common sense might prevail when we do lock him up".

Refusing to give his details, he was arrested under Section 50 of the Police Reform Act 2002 and ked away to a police car. Taken to the police station, he was detained, finger-printed, and DNA-swabbed.

A court date was set, but the Crown Prosecution Service has since discontinued the case, stating that prosecution was "not needed in the public interest". Commenting on his experience and vindication, Mr Steele said: "I've spent my life trying to help people find hope and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. I've seen the devastation caused by abuse and I wanted to speak truth in love. Instead, I was treated like a criminal".

On what it was like to be arrested, he said, "I was shocked and gob-smacked. How can asking a question be labelled as hate?".

"Hate is a strong word. If I haven't done anything wrong, why was I treated like a criminal? I couldn't get my head round it. It was degrading. They took my DNA and fingerprints, for what? A 30-second conversation. This wasn't about me. It's about the erosion of our hard-won freedoms and the right to speak the truth in love. I've never been arrested in 25 years. I wasn't there to cause trouble, I was there out of love, to show hope and help people understand the love of Christ. When I heard the charges were dropped, I was relieved, but also angry. So much time, energy and stress wasted for nothing. I go out because people are hurting. I won't let fear silence the gospel. This country was built on the bible. We need boldness and must not be intimidated in this hour".

Andrea Williams, Chief Executive of the Christian Legal Centre condemned the police's actions saying, "We welcome the fact that this case has been dropped, but it never should have progressed as far as it did. This is a clear and disturbing example of two-tier policing. It is both irrational and unlawful for police officers to threaten members of the public with so-called 'non-crime hate incidents' simply for expressing lawful and peaceful views. The irony could not be more striking: a Christian preacher is arrested for questioning Islamic beliefs in the very town where police for years failed to protect vulnerable girls from Islamic grooming gangs".

2) Christian Concern has issued the following Press Release regarding the appointment of the new Archbishop of the Church in Wales, Cherry Vann, who is a lesbian.

The Church in Wales has appointed an Archbishop who is openly living in defiance of Christian teaching.

Andrea Williams, Chief Executive of Christian Concern, comments, "Cherry Vann lives with her civil partner, Wendy, in a same-sex relationship. This directly contradicts the Church's historic and biblical doctrine that marriage is the lifelong union of one man and one woman, and that sexual relationships are reserved for marriage.

"As an ordained minister, and now Archbishop, Cherry Vann has sworn to uphold the teaching of the Church. Instead, she is publicly living in deliberate rejection of those very doctrines. That she was elected with a two-thirds majority of the Electoral College demonstrates that the Church in Wales has now institutionally turned away from biblical teaching on sexual morality. What is a church if it refuses to uphold the doctrines it professes to believe? What does the Church in Wales actually stand for, if not the gospel handed down through the centuries?

"The appointment marks a tragic moment, evidence that the Church in Wales is in open rebellion against God's Word. It is a clear sign of apostasy. No Bible-believing Christian can remain under the spiritual leadership of someone who so publicly rejects the clear teaching of Scripture. God will judge His Church for abandoning the gospel. As James reminds us, those who teach will be judged more strictly (James 3:1). And yet, there is hope. My prayer is that this judgement would bring repentance, that the Church in Wales would turn back to God, recover the truth of the gospel it once proclaimed, and again become a faithful witness in this land".

3) The Christian Institute reports that Peers have called for plans to create an Islamophobia definition to be scrapped, warning of a "chilling effect on free speech". In a letter signed by 36 members of the House of Lords, the Peers called the attempt at a definition "misguided" and stated that it would only increase division in communities.

A working group has been set up to agree suitable wording for the definition, but has been widely criticised. The Labour Party's current definition, which has been slammed for being too broad, claims "Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness".

The Peers warned that although the definition would be non-statutory, it would still have consequences, particularly in universities: "defining 'Islamophobia/Anti-Muslim Hatred' and urging universities to prohibit it will inevitably inhibit legitimate academic research about Islam".

They cautioned that "any member of a university that says or does something that falls foul of the definition would face potential penalties". The letter gives the example of Trevor Phillips who was suspended from the Labour party under its non-statutory Islamophobia definition, before later being cleared.

Other concerns included that any new definition "will likely include legitimate criticisms - as well as accurate observations - of the religion of Islam".

The Peers highlighted how the term 'Islamophobia' had already been misused, noting Sarah Champion, the labour MP who exposed the grooming gangs in Rotherham, was shortlisted by the Islamic Human Rights Commission for 'Islamophobe' of the Year', as was Baroness Casey.

As well as the threat to free speech, the Peers argued that a definition is unnecessary: "there are already laws on the statute book that protect Muslims and other racial and religious groups from hatred and discrimination, such as sections of the Public Order Act 1986 that criminalise stirring up racial and religious hatred, the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and the Equality Act 2010".

In response to the Islamophobia Working Group's Call for Evidence, the Christian Institute explained: "A new term risks confusing criticism of Islam as a religion - a democratic right - with hostility to Muslim people. This confusion is most explicit with the term Islamophobia".

The Institute continued: "Formally embracing a concept of 'cultural racism' risks threatening the freedom to criticise aspects of Islamic culture. A member of an organisation that has signed up to this kind of definition could be disciplined for Islamophobia if they criticise mandatory female head coverings or suggest the UK law is preferable to sharia law.

"Free speech protections are afforded for discussion and criticism of religion under section 29J of the Public Order Act, which do not apply to race. If defined as a race, Islam could therefore receive special protection from criticism, thereby undermining healthy debate and democratic discussion".

4) The Christian Institute reports that the King has hosted a ceremony in honour of 'mother earth' at a gathering to promote his philosophy of 'Harmony'. Conducted by Mindahi Bastida, the 'guardian' and Ritual Ceremony Officer of a Mexican indigenous people group, the fire pit ceremony included incantations and 'blessings'. The 'Harmony Summit' was a collaboration between the King's Foundation and the Circular Bioeconomy Alliance, both founded by His Majesty, and Bastida's 'Earth Elders' - a group that counts a medicine woman and a 'healer of dreams' among its leaders.

Describing the event, the BBC Royal Correspondent said, "We raised our arms in honour of nature as we stood around a fire, which was burning within a ring of flowers. During the ceremony, in which King Charles participated, the Correspondent reported, "we rotated as we honoured the north, south, east and west and then Mother Earth".

He also described a conch shell being blown, the holding up of feathers as a blessing to the King, and the reading of incantations". According to the Correspondent, "The King, in a light summer suit, spoke a few quiet words of welcome, wearing a circlet of feathers and a scarf that had been draped ceremoniously around his shoulders".

Bastida hailed the event as "an important step towards rebalancing our systems by centering Indigenous knowledge, protecting sacred lands, and remembering that true progress begins with listening to nature". He also said, "To move forward, we must go back - to restore our relationship with the Earth, guided by ancestral wisdom and original thought".

The King's Foundation has said His Majesty's philosophy "sees everything in nature as interconnected, including ourselves. This means taking a holistic approach to the challenges facing our planet, and looking to solve these challenges by working with nature, rather than working against her".

Christian Institute Director Ciarán Kelly said, "The event and the philosophy underpinning it celebrates paganism and conflicts directly with His Majesty's coronation vow to be the Defender of the Faith".

5) Barnabas Aid reports that gunmen killed a Pastor and church member in Katsina State, northern Nigeria. Witnesses reported the appearance of between 15 and 20 gunmen who arrived on motorcycles and targeted the church. The two victims were Pastor Emmanuel Na'allah and Mallam Samaila Gidan Taro, a convert from Islam. One woman was also abducted by the assailants.

The attackers shouted "Allahu Akbar" (God is great) and "Death to infidels". "They came in shooting. The Pastor told us to stay calm and hide, but they reached him first and shot him. Pastor Na'allah stood between them and us. They killed him without mercy and dragged a woman away".

Muslim majority Katsina is one of 12 states in northern Nigeria that have Instituted Sharia (Islamic) law.