

# Prayer Diary

September • November 2020

**fri**ends  
INTERNATIONAL



Thirteen Weeks of Prayer Points



Thank you for your continued prayers  
and support for international students.

# New Arrivals



**Week 1**  
**7th Sept**

## Arriving International Students – Changes

Everything has changed. Universities are wrestling with how best to provide world class education, while taking steps to protect students and staff. What they decide also impacts Friends International staff and volunteers and the potential opportunities to engage with students. Please pray that, through this turbulent time, we would be able to meet many of the arriving students and be able to support them and share God's love with them.

**Week 2**  
**14th Sept**

## Arriving International Students – Anxiety

Inevitably, with so much change and uncertainty, as well as increased isolation, students will likely experience anxiety. Please pray for the arriving international students, that they would be able to adapt to these challenges and that they would come to see God's hand at work through the tough times.

**Week 3**  
**21st Sept**

## New Staff

We are delighted to have new members of staff joining us in Manchester, Sunderland, Oxford and Dundee (with more locations possibly being filled after time of writing). We would value your prayers for these new staff members, as they start roles during a time of great change. We thank God that He has brought these new workers to us and ask that He would provide for their financial needs as they fundraise for their roles.

**Week 4**  
**28th Sept**

## Welcome Events

The end of September is the usual time of Freshers' events and welcome programmes, however in many universities these will either be scaled down, online only or just taking place later than usual. Despite this, Friends International and local churches will be hoping to run welcome events (online and face-to-face) to connect with newly arrived international students. Please pray that these events would be well attended and that it would build a bridge between local Christians and the new students.



# Churches Involved

**Week 5**  
**5th Oct**

## Vital Partnerships

We're proud to work with over 280 churches in the UK and Ireland to actively welcome and befriend international students. These are vital partnerships, which enable thousands of students to meet Christians and hear the Good News.

Please pray that more churches would see the need to welcome students that come here from abroad, and also see the strategic opportunity that it is for the Gospel.

**Week 6**  
**12th Oct**

## Just Say Hello Day (1)

This weekend, on October 18th, we are inviting churches and small groups to join the Just Say Hello Day (*Opportunity*, p4). Please pray that churches would take this opportunity to intentionally welcome new international students and to learn more about cross-cultural evangelism through the digital resource pack. Please pray that key individuals in churches would become drivers behind the efforts to welcome and include those who are studying abroad in the UK.

**Week 7**  
**19th Oct**

## Just Say Hello Day (2)

On October 18th the Just Say Hello Day took place, which encouraged and equipped churches to engage with international students. Please pray that reaching out to internationals in our midst and being cross-cultural in our witness would not just be a one-day-a-year thing. Pray that churches in the UK and Ireland would have a culture of generous welcome and hospitality.

**Week 8**  
**26th Oct**

## Hosting Scheme

Hospitality is a powerful way to demonstrate God's love, and it can have a huge impact on a student who is residing in a strange country, so different from their own. Any hosting scheme needs careful planning, especially post Covid-19. Pray that many Christians would volunteer to be hosts in the coming months and in 2021.



# A Vision for Growth

**Week 9**  
2nd Nov

## Vision – New Locations

At the beginning of the year we launched an exciting vision for expansion which includes pioneering work in 12 new locations in the UK and Ireland. We are thrilled to already have a new staff member starting the ministry in Leamington Spa. Please pray for this work as it gets off the ground; pray for new partnerships with both churches and supporters in the area.

**Week 10**  
9th Nov

## Vision – New Staff

We have a vision to recruit 20 more staff workers to strengthen existing locations. We are delighted that already in 2020 we have recruited new staff to existing teams in five different locations. We praise God for this and ask for further workers for the harvest. We pray for the right people to join the ministry.

**Week 11**  
16th Nov

## Funding the Vision

Growing international student ministry will ensure more international students encounter Christians, hear the gospel and return to their home country having been impacted by The Truth. Join us in praying for financial supporters who will back the vision and who are passionate about seeing international students and nations transformed by God.

**Week 12**  
23rd Nov

## Preparations for Christmas

It is unclear to what extent Covid-19 will impact Christmas events, Christmas hosting programmes and other festive arrangements. Please pray that, as plans are made for this upcoming season, churches and Christian unions would be able to connect deeply with international students, regardless of any restrictions.

**Week 13**  
30th Nov

## Christmas Events

We may find that some international students stay away from church gatherings due to fears around Covid-19. Please pray that fear would not hold anyone back unnecessarily from church activities and that we would all be careful to do what we need to do to protect one-another. Pray that no virus would stop the true message of Christmas reaching students.

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