

Seeds of prayer is a resource for prayer for individuals, groups, church services and other meetings. If you would like to feed back your own insights and prayers then we would be very happy to hear from you.

### 'A movement of hope'

This month's Seeds reflect the themes explored at our 'day on the farm' on 1 July.

### 'The eleventh hour'

It is the 'eleventh hour'! The order of things as we have known them in world, nation and church continues to break up. There is a sense of an ending of 'civilisation' and a seeming intensification of many signs of the 'end times'. Yet, the eleventh hour, when the 'day is far spent', is also a time of mission and harvest ([Matthew 20:1-16; 24:14](#)), a time to study the Scriptures with new fervour, and a time for renewed intimacy and fellowship with Jesus and with one another ([Luke 24:13-35](#)) ([bit.ly/11hour](https://bit.ly/11hour)). *Pray that we will understand the times and rise to its challenges, and discern God's particular purposes for His people in rural places.*

### 'The cry of creation'

At our Hope Countryside 'day on the farm' on 1 July, we shared stories of hope and the challenges faced in rural Britain today. There was a profound sense of identification with the writer to the Romans of the whole of creation groaning (Romans 8.24). *Pray that we will allow the Spirit to intercede through us to see the purposes of God revealed ([Romans 8:26b](#)).*

### Beacons of prayer and worship in the countryside

Gatherings or expressions of prayer and worship occur daily throughout rural Britain, often focused on local ministry and needs. Quiet spaces, indoors and out, are offered for those seeking a place to be still in the presence of the Lord. Many are Christ-centred, but some mix or confuse beliefs and practices from other faiths, spirits and old pagan ways. We thank God for existing faithful prayer. *Pray for greater connectedness amongst those praying and worshipping in our counties, and for regional or local clusters of believers to join together and support one another transcending traditional boundaries. Pray for a fuller, deeper revelation of the love of God and the reality of the Lord Jesus Christ as people pray. Pray for intentional prayer and worship to lift His name high and to see the spiritual climate change across our countryside, and for beacons of light and truth to be established in homes, hamlets and villages, the valleys and the hilltops, shining ever more brightly. May they fill rural Britain with the presence and knowledge of the glory of God ([Habakkuk 2:14](#)).*

### 'Nearly 30 years of 'walking with'

A few weeks ago, Christopher Jones, former Agricultural Christian Fellowship (ACF) coordinator and founder of the Farming Community Network (FCN) ([fcn.org.uk](https://fcn.org.uk)), died at the age of 82. Christopher was both a pastor and prophet, who helped define what it means to be a Christian in agriculture. Since 1995, FCN, with its distinctive 'walking with' approach ([Luke 24:13-27](#)), has extended pastoral and practical care, in the name of Christ, to thousands in the farming community ([bit.ly/ww30yrs](https://bit.ly/ww30yrs)). Give thanks for Christopher's life and work. *Pray for FCN. Pray that those whom FCN 'comes alongside' will come to know the Risen Lord as the One who gives them strength to face the difficulties of this life and eternal life in the age to come.*

### When the wind blows

Observing the weather recently, the impact of the wind has been very evident. At times, very cold air has made temperatures unseasonably cold. The wind has gathered or dispersed clouds bringing or withholding rain from us. Sometimes the impact is small, hardly noticeable. A leaf falls from a tree or seeds scatter to take root in new soil. At others stronger winds bring more radical change; branches or whole trees are brought down, or roofs ripped from man-made structures. Birds use winds to rise higher into the sky to survey the landscape below, whilst others travel from far distances to return, nest and raise their young. Celtic saints reportedly entrusted their lives and missions to the direction of the Spirit allowing, under the hand of God, their coracles to be blown where the wind willed. It was an adventurous and faith-filled way to let the Lord direct their travels and encounters. Creation is very sensitive to the wind. When the wind blows something changes. *Pray for the faith, freedom and sensitivity to yield and adapt to the blowing of the Holy Spirit, and openness and discernment to recognise the people, conversations and prayers to which we are being directed moment by moment.*

*"The wind blows where it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit" ([John 3:8](#)).*

### 'A movement of hope - continued'

#### Online prayer and sharing

7.30-9.00 PM, 20 September 2023

Link: <https://web.zoom.us/join>

Meeting ID: 875 5492 4270

Passcode: 308704