

We do thank you for your prayers for the work of Care for the Family.

They are a vital part of the organisation.

# Prayer for the Family

JULY-AUGUST 2024

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Further information
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## MONTHLY FOCUS

**Focus in Families & Households**

This month's focus is extracted from an Office for National Statistics report, based on the 2021 census, with details on families and households.

Married couple families remained the most common family type, at 65% (12.7 million). Co-habiting couples accounted for 18% and civil partnerships 1%. There were 3.2 million lone-parent families, 85% of which were headed up by a mother. Almost 30% of households consisted on just one person, meaning 8.3 million people live on their own, with half being 65 or over.

**Individuals:** Pray for those who live alone, especially the elderly, that they will find connection and friendship in their community and local church. Loneliness is quite common amongst this group of people and it can be hard for them to step out and find friends and fellowship.

**Local church:** Pray that churches would be welcoming, understanding and supportive of the lone parents in their congregation, offering practical, emotional, and spiritual support. Unless they have a good support network, many of them will be feeling fraught and exhausted over the summer break as they try to keep their children occupied, entertained and cared for. The local church can do so much to provide assistance such as holiday and breakfast clubs, or sports, drama and/or music activities.

**National church:** Pray that the church would speak into Government policy relating to family life and its importance in the health and wellbeing of the country. Often the impact on families is not at the forefront for policy-makers as they make decisions that can have major consequences on family life. Pray that national churches would ensure their voice is heard in both national and local government.

## JULY

Our on-tour event season is now finished until the autumn. We do have a new online event on Tuesday 9 July for those who recently became partners with us at Spring Harvest this year.

Partners are those who choose to support our work financially by giving a regular sum of money each month. We consider partnership to be two-way, and the aim of this evening is to give a behind-the-scenes look at the work that Care for the Family does, hear how the money they donate will impact lives, and our vision for the future. Rob Parsons will also give a special talk based on the Prodigal Son, and there will be an opportunity to ask questions.

**Pray that our new Partners will feel welcomed and valued – we can't do what we do without them.**

On Saturday 13 July, we will be running an online *Bereavement Care Awareness* course.

**Pray for the event teams as they take a much-needed break over the summer from travelling and being away from home.**

## AUGUST

*Take a Break* holidays for single-parent families happen weekly from the end of July through to 23 August. Every year single-parent families come and spend time together, enjoy new experiences, make memories and have great fun. *Take A Break* action holidays are packed with outdoor activities such as canoeing, raft-building and climbing.

**Pray for *Take a Break*, that parents and children will have smooth and safe journeys to the various locations (Mid-Wales, South West Scotland and to a converted lightship on the Thames in Essex). Pray for the safety of all those attending, including the staff and volunteers who support the families during the holiday.**

Touring may have ended, but preparation for the autumn season continues with the final touches being put on the *Playtime Conference* in September. Marketing plans will be reviewed to ensure as many people as possible can hear about the events we have to offer in the second half of the year.

Rob Parsons will be speaking at the Awaken festival in Lincolnshire from 23-26 August.

**Pray for Rob as he speaks at Awaken, that his words bring encouragement and hope to the hundreds who will hear them.**