



***Pray 4 Your Police –
Letter of Introduction and useful Guidance***

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Dear Friend

'Pray4YourPolice'

I am writing to tell you about 'Pray4YourPolice' a new UK wide prayer initiative that the Christian Police Association (CPA) is launching this spring. The aim is to encourage individuals and churches to mobilise in prayer for their local police and for the communities they serve. Our Project Leader for this initiative is Paul Wilson, and he has also prepared additional supplementary information and a prayer "toolkit" for your use.

At a time of real challenge and rising violent crime in our nation, we believe that our God is calling us to intercede for our land like never before. In CPA, we have felt challenged by words from Isaiah 54:2-3.

"Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back, lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes - for you will spread out to the right and to the left...."

We believe that God is challenging us in CPA and indeed, the church as a whole to enlarge our vision *'to not hold backto spread out to the left and right'* across our nation and to mobilise in prayer. We believe that God is calling CPA to play a vital part in that vision.

We want to ask you to consider partnering with CPA and with your local police, to pray for them and for the challenges they face in policing your community. We want to help you (and your church) pray for the police and your community.

However, our aim in 'Pray4YourPolice' rather than setting up another prayer scheme is very much to help strengthen existing prayer strategies that you may be involved in, such as 'Thy Kingdom Come' or '24/7 prayer' by joining with you and bringing the unique perspective and depth of insight that the police service can offer.

Why do this? Well, for two reasons. Firstly, the police service needs your prayers. The police stand in the front line of the battle against wrongdoing and injustice in our society. Every single day police officers deal with situations that the rest of us run from. They routinely witness appalling trauma and the very worst that human beings can do to one another. In the vast majority of cases, police officers do so with incredible courage and compassion, protecting the most vulnerable from harm. Secondly, because we are actively encouraged to. In his letter to Timothy, Paul writes;

'I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for allin authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives.' [1 Timothy 2]

God's word couldn't be clearer; we all have a responsibility to pray for those in authority.

But this letter is also an offer of help. The Christian Police Association has active branches of our charity across the UK. We can help you link in with your local police, to enable you to get to know them, to pray for them and to pray for the challenges they face in your community.

How can you help? The annual '**National Day of Prayer for the Police**' which CPA organises, is being held this year on **Thursday 30th May**. As part of the 'Pray4Your Police' initiative this year, we are looking to hold prayer events across the UK and we want to ask for your support. We would love to see as many churches as possible join with us on 30th May, to pray for their local police and for the communities they serve.

But we don't want this to be a 'one-off' prayer event, we want to use this as a catalyst for ongoing prayer and a closer relationship between local churches and the police. To that end, we have already contacted every Chief Constable in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, asking that they encourage their officers to link in with local faith communities in their area. At the same time CPA is making a prayer 'toolkit' resource available for to help you pray more effectively for your local police and for the challenges the police face.

For more information about the '**Pray4YourPolice**' initiative and how to get involved, please contact office@cpauk.net or go to www.cpauk.net

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for your support. We look forward to partnering with you.

Yours Sincerely

Lee Russell MA
National Director

'Pray4Your Police'
Additional Information from Project Lead – Paul Wilson

*"Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide,
do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes, for you will spread out to the
right and to the left..." Is 54:2*

Why pray for the police? Most people agree that the police do a pretty good job, often in very difficult circumstances. But why should we pray for them?

The Christian Police Association (CPA) has been supporting Christians in the police service since it was first formed in London in 1883. CPA supports Christians in the police service and has a growing and active membership all across the UK. There are more Christians in the Police Service than you might think, across all roles in policing.

The above words from Isaiah 54 are special to us. In them, we believe God is calling the church to mobilise, to step out and to enlarge our vision for prayer. With it comes a promise, that as we step out, we will see our towns and cities renewed.

The police service needs your prayers like never before. We have seen a rise in violent crime across the UK and the police service faces unprecedented challenges as they seek to tackle increasing crime with limited resources. We want to encourage you to pray for your local police and to set out how you can do it more effectively.

The CPA is launching a new prayer initiative 'Pray4YourPolice.' Through this initiative CPA can help you pray more effectively for the police. We can connect you with your local police officers, we can enable you to get to know them, to pray for them and to pray for the challenges they face in your community. In doing so, it will allow you to pray in a much more informed way.

Here are some key reasons why we think you might want to pray for your police. Firstly, God's word encourages us to. In Paul's letter to Timothy, he writes:

'I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all...in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour.'

The Bible says quite clearly that we should support and pray for all in authority if we want to live peaceful lives. But more than this, it goes on to say, that it actually *pleases* our God when we pray for those in authority.

Secondly, the police service stands in the front line of the battle against evil and wrongdoing in our society. Nationally, we have seen a rise in violent crime, with the number of both homicides and robberies increasing too. We have all seen the recent tragic murders of young people across the country. Knife crime has risen nationally and, in London, even more significantly. Whilst the police service is making every effort and prioritising the tackling of serious criminality, the reduction of

around 20,000 police officers nationally in recent years is having an impact. Of course, this reduction is by no means the sole reason for the rise in crime, but it is without doubt, a significant contributory factor.

Thirdly, policing is a tough job which can take a serious toll on our police officers and police staff, who are of course, human beings and have families just like anyone else. Every traumatic incident that officers attend can have an impact. Many police officers have been exposed to more trauma in their lifetime than most people can imagine. If I think back over my career (and I have, by no means, experienced as much as some) I have been to more suicides and serious crime scenes than I care to remember. I've been to countless serious and sometimes fatal accidents, road crashes, train crashes, sudden and unexpected deaths, all of which have a devastating effect on the families of those involved. You might say it goes with the territory, which of course it does, that's what policing is about, but each one has an effect on you. I worked in hospital operating theatres before I joined the police, so was quite used to unpleasant sights, but nothing quite prepares you for experiencing some of the tragic incidents I have attended.

Because it's a tough job, mentally the effects can be even tougher. During my career, I saw countless numbers of police officers go through divorce and broken relationships. A significant number struggled with alcoholism, as they tried to cope by drinking too much. Two police colleagues were almost killed on duty, one when he was attacked and stabbed by an offender with a machete, the other when he was beaten unconscious by four men. Thank God both recovered, but one was never able to return to policing again. Two other officers left the job, so traumatised by incidents they attended and the things they witnessed first-hand and were unable to continue policing. Most tragic of all, during my time in policing, a number of police colleagues who I knew well, took their own lives. Perhaps the saddest thing, was that not one of us had a clue what they were going to do, I guess they put on a brave face and just "carried on" as police officers do. Thank God, and I do thank God, that by His grace and with the support of a loving wife and family, I came through it all. But most police officers will tell you a similar tale, my experiences are nothing unusual.

Finally, the police can help you pray more effectively for policing priorities and for your communities. If you want to know what's going on in your community, then talk to the police. If you really want to know what the problems are in your community, just be a 'fly on the wall' in your local police station custody block at 10pm on a Saturday night – society's issues come through the door one after another.

In late 2018, I shared to our CPA Leadership team from across the country, how God had spoken to me and had given me a picture from Isaiah 54. As I read the verses *'Enlarge the place of your tent, spread out to the left and the right...'* I saw a picture of a huge canopy flying high over the whole of the UK. The canopy was held in place by guide ropes, each attached to a stake in the ground, one in each and every police force area right across the UK.

I believe that the canopy I saw was a canopy of prayer across this nation, held in place and anchored by God's people praying in every area. We believe God is calling the church to *'Enlarge the place of our tent, to stretch our tent curtains wide, not to hold back; to lengthen our cords, strengthen our stakes.'*

There is both a need and an opportunity like never before for the Church to mobilise in prayer, to pray for the police and for the issues the police face in your community every single day. But if we

are to be effective, then we must not just pray, but must pray in a targeted way. You may have heard of the expression 'Intelligence-led Policing.' Well we believe that if we want to see real change in our communities, it's time to adopt 'Intelligence-led prayer' that prays right into the heart of the crimes impacting on our communities. Only that way, we believe, will we see a real impact across our land.

So CPA has teamed up with 'Redeeming Our Communities' (ROC), 'Thy Kingdom Come' and many others to provide prayer resources that enables you to focus pray into your police and the challenges that they face.. The Christian Police Association is inviting you to join with us and pray for your local police by:

- Signing up to the **National Day of Prayer for the police – to be held this year on Thursday 30th May** – by organising a prayer event, perhaps 'one day' of 24/7 prayer or something similar - to pray for your police and the challenges they face in your community. Our aim is to see such a prayer event in every force area across the UK.
- Link with the police in your area - CPA can connect you and your church with your local police - to help you get know them and to build a close and effective relationship with them.
- Visit the CPA web site www.cpauk.net – to find useful information that will help you pray more effectively for those men and women who police your community.
- Joining with your local police to pray specifically into the challenges they face in your community.

As Christians, surely we cannot just stand by and watch from the side lines. We must cry out to our God in prayer to heal our nation. Our communities and our police need our support now more than ever.

So, let us together "*Enlarge the place of our tent, stretch our tent curtains wide, and not hold back.*" – let us pray and intercede for our nation like we've never done so before.

Paul Wilson
CPA Project Lead for **Pray4YourPolice**

Note:

Paul is a retired police officer, having worked in Birmingham, Sussex and in various parts of London for the last 17 years of a 30 year police career – retiring as a Chief Inspector in 2011. Paul has been member of CPA for more than 40 yrs.

Christian Police Association - A National Voice for Christians in Policing

'Pray4YourPolice' - Toolkit

'Pray4YourPolice' – this 'toolkit' is intended to enable you to pray for your police in a more focused and 'intelligence-led' way. In doing so, you can join with many other individuals and churches across the country to pray for the police. Thank you so much for your support.

To find out more about 'Pray4YourPolice' please contact visit [our CPA website](#) or contact office@cpauk.net

Below is a list of options/ideas to inform your prayers:

- **National Day of Prayer for the police on 30th May 2019** – please join with 'Pray4YourPolice' - organise a local prayer event for your police on 30th May – please contact office@cpauk.net to let us know if you are interested in praying for the police. Your local CPA contact can be found via [local CPA contact details](#)
- **Pray for your local CPA representative** – as they work to support their colleagues in policing - they can also facilitate contact with your local police & help with information you may need – visit [local CPA contact details](#) to find your local CPA contact point
- **Pray for your Response Police officers** – for front line officers responding to emergency calls & other serious incidents – pray for compassion, for courage, also for the safety and protection of officers as they confront wrongdoing and injustice and seek to help those in real need. Visit <https://www.police.uk/> for details of your local team
- **Pray for your local Neighbourhood Officers** as they work to 'problem solve' ongoing community issues - invite your local officers and support staff to your church, hear about their job first hand - get to know them and actively support them in prayer as they tackle community challenges. Visit <https://www.police.uk/> for details of your local team
- **Pray for specialist officers** – for CID officers as they investigate serious crime, for firearms officers responding to the most dangerous incidents, for traffic officers and many more who bring important specialist skills to police your community.
- **Pray for your Chief Constable & senior police leaders** – find out who they are from your police website – pray that God will grant them wisdom and guide them as they seek to serve the community, identify priorities and juggle resources to meet rising demand. Visit <https://www.police.uk/> for details of your local team
- **Pray for your local Police & Crime Commissioner /Mayor** as they seek to support your Chief Constable in maintaining an efficient and effective police force. Visit <http://www.apccs.police.uk/find-your-pcc/> for details.

- **Pray for Police support staff** - for control room staff and many others who do a critical job in directing and supporting front line officers.
- **Pray for those supporting the most vulnerable** - for Family Liaison Officers supporting those traumatised by serious crime, for officers supporting victims of abuse – for officers supporting those who may be suicidal or feeling lonely and isolated or in poor mental health.
- **Pray against knife and gun crime** - in your community, pray into emerging crime trends - that the police will respond quickly and effectively - check with your local officers about these priorities.
- **Pray for safety on your roads** - for accident hotspots – some locations often see repeated serious accidents – pray for protection and safety at these locations - your local officers can provide more information of where to target your prayers.
- **Pray for urgent policing needs** in your force area – check out the ‘Twitter’ feed of your local force – follow them on twitter - you can find live information of serious crimes and major/critical incidents, also vulnerable missing persons and much more – pray for all of those affected, pray for the police as they seek to bring offenders to justice.
- **Pray for the families of police officers** - for their home lives - pray that officers would have opportunity to spend quality time with their families and that they would be able to manage their work/life balance effectively.
- **Pray for support and healing** - for those officers who have experienced traumatic situations in their work and find it hard to deal with them. Pray that there would be spiritual protection over them as they face some of the darkest aspects of human nature. Ask God to give them the qualities they need to be able to do their job and not to become hardened and cynical. Pray that they would find hope and peace in Jesus.
- **Pray for police officers working specifically to build bridges** – those working to build greater cohesion in your community – with the rise of extremism and hate crime - pray against those who would sow division and those who would plan acts of terrorism - that your community will be a safe place for everyone.
- **Pray for vulnerable locations/public places** - those locations particularly affected by persistent problems in your community. Liaise with your local CPA representative about focused prayer initiatives such as a prayer walks/ targeted prayer events.