

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2019



*The Week of Prayer is international and offers local opportunities to meet and pray with fellow Christians of different denominations. The theme this year is **Only Justice**.*

Resources for 2019 have been prepared by Christians from Indonesia, the largest country in South East Asia, made up of more than 17,000 islands, 1,340 different ethnic groups and over 740 local languages, united by one national language Bahasa Indonesia. With some 86% of its 260 million people estimated to be Muslim, it has the largest Islamic population of any country. About 10% of Indonesians are Christian. Indonesians have lived by the principle of *gotong royong* which is to live in 'solidarity and by collaboration', regarding all Indonesians as brothers and sisters.

But *gotong royong* sits ill at ease with the neo-liberal approach to economics that has led to economic growth, and corruption infecting politics and business, often with devastating effects on the environment. Meanwhile those who are supposed to promote justice and protect the weak fail to do so. As a consequence, a country rich in resources bears the burden of many people living in poverty. Particular ethnic and religious groups are often associated with wealth in ways that have fed tensions.

The Christians of Indonesia found that the words of Deuteronomy, 'Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue...' (see Deut. 16:18-20) spoke powerfully to their situation.

The Week of Prayer is an annual worldwide event. It is a great joy to meet with members of other churches; please come to as many of these days as you can.

For Sudbury & District:

Day 1: Sunday 20th January, 6:30 pm, United Service at St John's Methodist Church.

Speaker: Lieutenant Rachel Hepburn from Sudbury Salvation Army.

Day 2: Monday 21st January, 12:30, St Gregory's Church, Sudbury

Day 3: Tuesday 22nd January, 12:30, Suffolk Road Church, Sudbury

Day 4: Wednesday 23rd January, 12:30, - St Mary's Church, Glemsford

Day 5: Thursday 24th January, 7 for 7.30pm, Open Forum at Sudbury Catholic Church

The main focus will be to be on the vision for CTiS&D, with discussion taking place in small groups. This is your chance to hear how local churches work together in a range of ways, and to contribute your own views. All are welcome – please do come along!

Day 6: Friday 25th January, 12:30, Freedom Fellowship, Gregory Street, Sudbury

Day 7: Saturday 26th January, 8 – 9:30 am, Prayer Breakfast at Sudbury Baptist Church

Day 8: Sunday 27th January nothing arranged

Refreshments will be provided after most services.

For those leading worship and for those wishing to follow each day's theme at home, the material for the eight days can be downloaded from www.ctbi.org.uk .