

NMOP 2023 - A huge success

The 1277 National Month of Prayer 2023 generated a huge amount of activity. The theme for the month was 'Welcome one Welcome All' and was based on the story of Zacchaeus. Here are a few snapshots of the activity that took place, we can't possibly capture the full depth and breadth of what happened. We'd like to say a HUGE thank you to everyone who took part.

The NMOP was launched in the Houses of Parliament on Thursday June 1st. 47 toddler group leaders from across the UK came – from Penrith to Cornwall, Wales to Norfolk. The buzz in the room was wonderful and people had an opportunity to share their joys and challenges and also pray together. One attendee said, *'I don't get a great amount of support in my setting (apart from, from the children and families themselves, of course, and two trusty team members) - a lack of understanding from some of the clergy, I would say!! It was great to be among like-minded people and to be reminded of what I know so well - how wonderful, valuable, and vital church-based toddler groups are. It's spurred me on to advertise the Month of Prayer on the church's notice sheet and Facebook page - I hope people will pray, but also, it's a way of raising the profile of toddler groups, including our own 'group'.*

For the full report of the event – <https://1277.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/NMOP-Welcome-One-Welcome-All.pdf>

We were thrilled to see a huge variety of local events and activities taking place, in-person and online, for local parents and churches in different places around the UK.

A number of groups did crafts based on this theme and shared their ideas in the 1277 NMOP Facebook group.



We've been especially praying for the children, families, leaders and helpers of our Edward Bear Baby and Toddler Group during June, which was the National Month of Prayer for Toddler Groups. The children decorated leaves with their names on to hang on the tree and this morning we used them to pray for each child individually. 🙏 St Lukes Church Moulsham Lodge and Tile Kiln, Gloucester Diocese

Daily prayer ideas were shared by the Blackburn Diocese as well as daily posts in the 1277 Facebook group generated by the NMOP launch event.

As a result of attending the NMOP launch event, a [Facebook Group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/2036343743378486) was set up for toddler groups in Cornwall and this now has 55 members.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2036343743378486>

Gatherings of toddler group leaders took place in Stockport, Rushden (Northamptonshire), Brent, Harrogate. It is good to see people catching the vision and looking at meeting in places like Brighton/Hove, Hull etc. (I wonder if we need a directory for these regional gatherings?) There is a real interest in a webinar to talk about the benefits of meeting face to face with other toddler group leaders.

Portsmouth praying strategically for groups in their area

The Salvation Army posted daily on their Facebook page as they prayed for a different territory each day. They also produced resources and a video - [Link](#)



https://www.salvationist.org.uk/resources/key-dates/national-month-prayer-toddler-groups?fbclid=IwAR30QAICvpIs3lypHpsk824DyZwo40HtJ-qG-ecvIXb38sUuNX_oJKdye8w

Prayer video made in Jersey

<https://www.facebook.com/100068979416678/videos/224124227190645>

NMOP 2023 was a great success.

Looking forward to NMOP 2024 – the theme is ‘From a little seed’

The Mustard Seed Parable (Matthew 13:31- 32): it grew so that all the birds of the air could make their nests. How can our Toddler groups be a place where everyone can ‘nest’?

How can they be expressions of the Kingdom?