

Women's World Day of Prayer

March 2, 2018

Origins

Web resources and links



This logo was designed for the 1982 service. The design comprises arrows converging from the four points of the compass, four figures kneeling in prayer, the Celtic cross and a circle representing the world and our unity through all our diversity.

Origins

The origins of Women's World Day of Prayer date back to the 19th century when Christian women in the USA and Canada initiated a variety of cooperative activities in support of women's involvement in mission, at home and abroad.

These activities centred around the following areas:

Concern for women and children – In spite of strong opposition from all-male mission boards, from 1861 onwards women founded numerous and effective women's boards for foreign and home missions, whereby they could work directly with and for women and children

The role of prayer in mission work – Since 1812 women had encouraged one another to engage in personal prayer and to lead communal prayer within their mission auxiliaries and associations. This emphasis on prayer led to annual days and weeks of prayers within individual denominations.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER IN THE BRITISH ISLES

It was in **1928**, at an international missionary conference in Jerusalem, that Scotswoman Grace Forgan first learned of the world day of prayer and brought the news to these islands.

The first services were held:

1930 in Scotland.

1932 in England

1933 in Wales

1934 in Ireland

The Second World War was a time of great growth – drawing women together in prayer and fellowship.

It was not until the reforms of the second Vatican Council that Roman Catholic women were able to take a full part in the day of prayer and in **1967** the day was celebrated at a special service in Westminster Cathedral, by invitation of Cardinal Heenan.

In **1969** the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations encouraged Roman Catholic women worldwide to participate in WWDP and to make this possible WUCWO moved their own day of prayer from March to May.

In **1982** the service was prepared by the women of Ireland, both north and south.

In England, Wales and Northern Ireland there are now over 3,000 branches holding 5,000 services

every year. Last year 275,000 copies of the order of service were printed.

Web resources

Home page -

Preparation days

Registering a service

<https://www.wwdp.org.uk/>

Resources

CD of Music for the 2018 service

CD Rom with Powerpoint presentation

Downloadable pdfs including:

Press Release for adaptation,

Dramatised service,

Resources for leaders of children's groups,

Children's activity sheet and insert

<https://www.wwdp.org.uk/resources/>