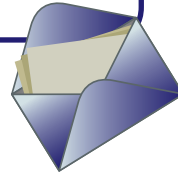


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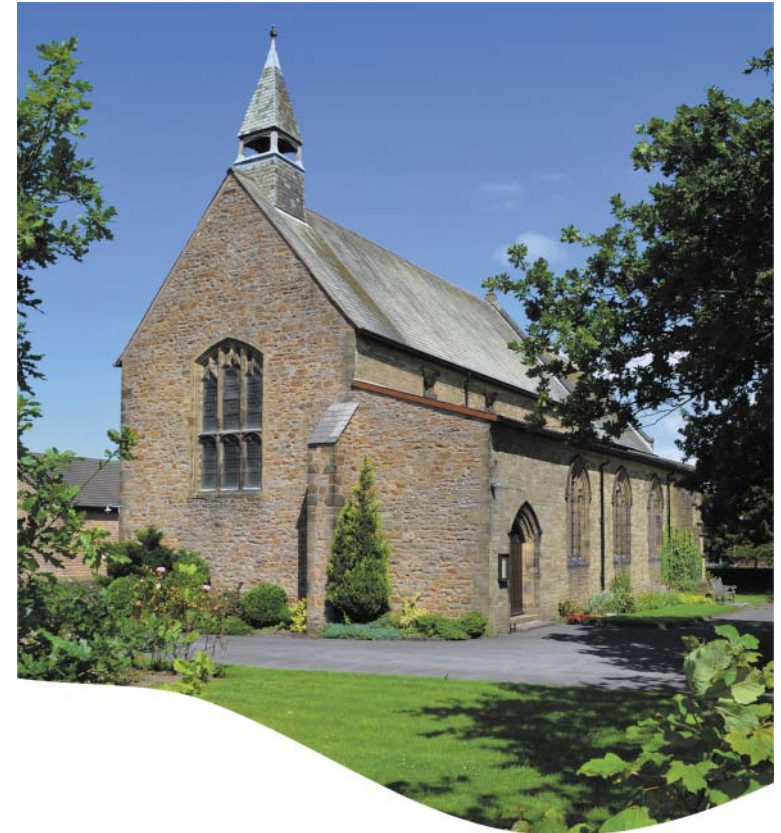
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Acknowledgements

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Prayer



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'I have so much to do that I spend several hours
in prayer before I am able to do it.'

Charles Wesley

Night

Visit, we pray you Lord, this house and family,
And drive far from it all the snares of the enemy.

Let your holy angels dwell in this place
for our protection and peace,
and let your blessing be always upon us.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

or

We give you thanks, Almighty God,
for all the gifts you have given us during this day.

Keep our hearts open to your love and grace,
that we may always deserve to be called your children

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen

General Prayer

Lord of Life

Why do I anticipate the worst

when time and time again the worst never happens?

Even when it does, life goes on and every day comes to an end.

Lord, help me to overcome my fears

in this brief moment of reflection.

Calm my mind, help me to relax.

Let your comforting Spirit enter into me

and fill me with peace

Amen

Prayers for the Day

Morning

Father you have brought us the beginning of a new day.

Your hand is upon us to care for and protect us.

We offer you our loves and hearts.

May we always do your will

and love our neighbour as ourselves.

Amen

Noon

Grant, O Lord

that none may love you less this day because of me;

that never word or act of mine

may turn one soul from thee;

and ever daring, yet one more grace would I implore,

that many souls this day,

Because of me, may love thee more.

Amen

Evening

Thank you Lord

for the love and protection you have shown us throughout this day.

Stretch your hand of blessing over us this evening

that we may end the day as we began it,

by praising your holy name.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

What does the Bible say about prayer?

The Bible says a lot about prayer. The first mention of prayer is in Genesis 4:26 – ‘... Then men began to call on the name of the Lord’.

Why should I pray?

Prayer develops our relationship with God. Prayer is communicating with God and helps us grow closer and more intimately connected with Him. Jesus instructs us to pray.

Matthew 7:7 – ‘Ask, and it will be given to you; search and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened.’

Matthew 26:41 – ‘Keep alert and pray. Otherwise temptation will overpower you’.

Luke 18:1 – ‘Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.’

Ephesians 6:18 – ‘And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.’

What words should I use?

Prayers need not be wordy or impressive.

Matthew 6:7 – ‘When you pray, don’t babble on and on as people of other religions do. They think their prayers are answered only by repeating their words again and again.’

Ecclesiastes 5:2 – ‘Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few.’

What is the correct way to pray?

In the Bible people prayed on their knees (1 Kings 8:45), bowing (Exodus 4:31), laid prostrate (2 Chronicles 20:18; Matthew 26:39), and standing (1 Kings 8:22).

What if I don't know how to pray?

The Holy Spirit will help you to pray.

Romans 8:26-27 – 'In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.'

What are the requirements for successful prayer?

Humility

2 Chronicles 7:14 - 'If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.'

Total giving of self

Jeremiah 29:13 – 'You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.'

Faith

Mark 11:24 – 'Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.'

Righteousness

James 5:16 – 'Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.'

Obedience

1 John 3:22 – 'And we will receive whatever we request because we obey him and do the things that please him.'

Does God hear and answer prayer?

Psalm 4:3 – '...the Lord hears when I call to him.'

Psalm 18:6 - 'In my distress I called upon the lord; to my God I cried for help.'

also

Psalm 34:17 Psalm 91:15 Proverbs 15:29 Isaiah 58:9 1 Samuel 1:27

Should I pray alone or with others?

Together

Matthew 18:19 – 'Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.'

also Luke 1:10 Acts 1:14

Alone

Matthew 6:6 – 'But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen.'

Mark 1:35 – 'Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.'

also Luke 5:15-16 Luke 6:12

'I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had absolutely no other place to go.'

Abraham Lincoln

'When I pray, coincidences happen, and when I don't pray, they don't.'

William Temple