

Delivering intercessions

- ◆ Allow the congregation to settle
- ◆ Use the microphone either at the lectern or you can use the portable microphone whatever makes you most comfortable
- ◆ If you need to practice, then please ask
- ◆ Speak slowly and clearly using your normal speaking voice, making sure that everyone can hear.
- ◆ Reinforce the expected response
- ◆ Wait at the end for a few seconds before returning to your seat
- ◆ Feel free to use more than just yourself to deliver the prayers

Remember
Thankful
Brief
Clear
Specific
Expectant
Humble
Bold



A Short Guide to preparing and leading the Intercessions at St Mary's Weldon



Thank you for offering to lead the Intercessions. It is an important part of the service as it is the opportunity to lead people in prayer.

This leaflet is to give you some guidance and ideas if you are unsure or lack a little confidence or you are not exactly clear as to how to do it. It is not a 'must do' manual as everyone has their own styles and there is no right or wrong way to pray. Nor is this the only guidance that you can use.

So let's begin

What are Intercessions?

This is the point in the service when we pray for God's world, the Church, our community and each other. It is part of our relationship with God when we put before him our concerns. It shows our belief that through prayer situations can be touched and changed for the better. We aren't telling God what he should do but asking him to help those in need. There are many references to prayer in the Bible and it is something that Jesus himself specifically tells us to do

What should we pray for?

This is a helpful check list but doesn't need to be followed every time, you should include a maximum of 5 topics.

- ⇒ The Church of Christ both local and beyond the parish
- ⇒ Creation, human society, the Monarchy and those in authority
- ⇒ The local community
- ⇒ Those who oppose and persecute the Christian faith as we are taught to love our enemies and forgive them
- ⇒ The world we live in
- ⇒ The sick and those who suffer
- ⇒ Bereavement

How do I begin ?

Firstly pray for God's guidance before you begin, you will find that God will talk through you as to what he wants you to say.



Some suggestions that may help you:

- ◆ Readings and theme for the service, available from the Rector
- ◆ Ask the Rector if there is anything specific to pray for
- ◆ Upcoming events
- ◆ Any thing to give thanks for eg from the previous prayers
- ◆ Any particular needs from members of the congregation or community.
- ◆ Anything from the prayer tree
- ◆ Any concerns raised by the children
- ◆ Important school events eg new term, GCSE results and so forth
- ◆ Charity work and appeals
- ◆ Particular Church festivals and Holy Days or forthcoming seasons. These can be found in the lectionary on the Church of England website
- ◆ Current events local, national and international, stuff that is in the news headlines
- ◆ Recognising that you are trying to help people be 'full time' Christians and whatever they do all week is part of spreading the Gospel.
- ◆ The environment , remember we are stewards of God's creation
- ◆ Missionary and outreach work

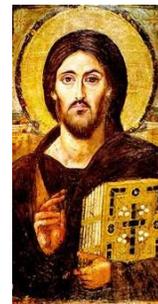
Remember that this isn't a forum for your own particular views but you are also challenging people to remember that their prayers are for the whole world.

How long should they be?

About 5 minutes is ideal. That's why you can't include every topic that you might like to. However there's nothing to stop you requesting that people pray for particular things throughout the week. You can always produce a handout if you wish or give out a copy of a particular prayer. Also remember that you may wish to include moments of stillness for reflection.

The Intercessions themselves

You might prefer to write your prayers out in full or just a few bullet points, its up to you how you feel most comfortable. If you are unsure about the Intercessions then check with the Rector before the service, especially if there is a last minute inclusion plus you may need to find out names of specific people who are sick.



If you are using responses then it may be helpful to inform the congregation as to what the response will be;

Here are a few suggestions

Lord, in your mercy *Hear our prayer*

Lord, hear us *Lord, graciously here us*

Lord, meet us in the silence *Give us strength and hear our prayers*

Jesus, Lord of Life *In your mercy here us*

You may also wish to just use 'Amen' but make sure that your prayer has clear cue lines to indicate the ending

At the end it is usual to end with

Merciful Father *Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, Our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.*

If you are using moments of silence/stillness then you may wish to use a bidding inviting people to bring their own prayers to God then use guidance such as ' in a moment of silence, let's bring before God.....' About 30 seconds is a useful length.

Don't be afraid to find prayers off the Internet. Start with the Church of England website as they have some specific prayers but there are hundreds of resources out there. Just type in your theme or particular topic and there will be plenty of options from all different Churches and denominations. You can either use them as they are or adjust them as you see fit. This is a wonderful opportunity to guide people