

Welcome

Join in saying the underlined words in **bold** type together.

Prayer of Gathering

From Psalm 52:8 Like a green olive tree in the House

1. With roots in the soil
Of past generations

**We worship you,
Living, loving God.**

2. Through layers of soil

At times fertile,
At other times depleted,

**We reach for experience and
Sustenance from saints of old.**

3. And in our own time, we offer to you, fresh shoots and new ideas
Borne upon branches shaped and gnarled by life,

And pray our worship shall be to you fruitful, sweet and rich. Amen

Prayer of Approach *Adapted from Handbook 2015 p.81*

Merciful God we come to you.

We come with a yearning the world cannot satisfy;

Feed us today with your living bread.

God we come just as we are.

Receive us now, we pray. Amen

Prayer of Praise *Adapted from Prayer Handbook 2015 p.87*

Let us stand for a moment alone with you,

Lover of the world,

Whose heartbeat is the pulse of all creation,

Whose Spirit is the breath coursing through the earth,

The stroke of whose fingers cause nature to blush

With every colour and every shade.

Let us stand a moment in awe of you,

Lover of the world,

Lover of our lives,

Faithful, forever God. Amen

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Confession *Adapted from Prayer Handbook 2016 p.85*

Lord, Forgive us for our selfish actions and hurtful words.

Forgive us for our pride and arrogance that judges others.

Forgive us for our greed and complacency

Faced with the injustices of the world.

Lord, We thank you that you are merciful and life-transforming.

We thank you that you forgive us

And enable us to drink deeply of your living water. Amen

Personal Prayer *Adapted from Prayer Handbook 2016 p.79*

When faith feels as insubstantial as a spider's web,

When I dangle terrified,

Unconvinced of the realities that I do not see, blinded by fear,

Help me to **hear** the stories of the faithful witnesses who have gone before,

Who have lived lives of hope,

A web of lifelines in the darkness,

Creating a thread of faith which will never break. **Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

1. We pray for Justice.

Faithful God, we bring to you those facing unjust persecution,

Those who have been betrayed, misunderstood and wrongly judged-

Within our own communities and in the wider world,

Especially in states where political confusion reigns. **Amen**

2. *Adapted from Roots 14 August 2016*

We pray for Peace-

Peace that comes from trust and not from war.

We pray for places where war and conflict rage.

We pray for peace-

Peace that comes from understanding and not from mistrust.

We pray for places where reconciliation is needed.

We pray for peace-

Peace that comes from love and not from hatred.

We pray for places where hope and goodness are lacking.

We pray for peace-

Peace that comes from God

And surpasses everything we know and understand. Amen

3. *Adapted from Roots 17 July 2016*

We pray for those with tasks to do:

For those in positions of national leadership around the world

And here at home with the particular stresses of the present time,

For those whose decisions govern our lives not only in national but local government,

For Business managers of transport networks, electricity, gas and water supplies,

For Planners of food supply chains, for Co-ordinators of health services,

For Organisers of refuse collection and sewage pumping services,

For the Leaders of the Police, Fire and Ambulance Services

And for the Commanders of our security forces.

That they think of the greater good and do their tasks diligently. Amen

4. Adapted from Roots 10 August 2014

We pray for the migrants fleeing the horrors of war and seeking asylum.
We have responsibilities of care for our fellow travellers in this world.
So encourage us not to sink with worry and despair beneath their expectations
But to be clear in our thinking and realistic in what we can do
To alleviate their misery rather than being angry and inactive.

5. Adapted from Prayer Handbook 2014 p.64

Summer comes with holidays: tours & trips, days out with friends & family,
Thank you God for the time to rest and recover our balance, to do something out of the ordinary and to spend time with people whose company we enjoy.
Encourage those with few friends or little money to find opportunities to relieve boring or dull lives. Amen.

6. Adapted from Prayer handbook 2014 p.67

We pray for congregations, large and small:
For elders and ministers, who serve with dedication,
For members who exercise their ministries quietly and competently,
For all those who serve the Church.
God who stands at the doorway and welcomes us with open arms,
Guide us, your church, to do the same in our community
To show that your love is reflected and offered to all.

7. Bless those suffering from ill-health.

We remember those bereaved recently or still mourning past losses.
Bless them with courage, healing and love.
If possible help us to make a practical gesture of support. **Amen.**

Reflection time – on what we have just prayed about AND
Time for those present to add their prayers, if they wish to,
for the life of St John's & St Martin's, our communities & the World
either in open prayer
or by using stones symbolically & placing them at the foot of the Cross.

Closing Prayer Adapted from Roots 7 August 2016

May God grant us
Lives to live for the sake of others,
Purses that will not wear out with giving,
Bodies that are strong to work for others,
And resilient Spirits that that are refuelled by the love
That you pour from heaven. Amen

Prayer Fellowship

At home or in Church



To pray for the work of our Church and the life of our community

Wednesdays: 3rd 11.15a.m. & 17th 8p.m. August 2016

Number 34

St John's URC Northwood & St Martins URC South Oxhey