

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 of God
PHB 2013 p.75*

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 Roots February 12 & 19 2017*

Lord, sometimes it is very hard for us to approach you,
To open ourselves up in your presence.

We are frightened of where you might lead us.

We pray that today we will allow you into those parts of our lives

That we keep to ourselves.

Teach us to live without fear, to be fully attentive to you

And ready to walk in your ways. Amen

Prayer of Praise *Adapted from PHB p.15, Roots 5 & 26 February 2017*

Lord, we come to receive more of your light in our lives.

May we too see you in your glory like Elijah and Moses,

So we can give thanks and praise

And get to know you better and worship you.

May your light be our light, shining before others

So that they may see the good works of your people

And give glory to you. **Amen**

Thanksgiving *Adapted from PHB 2017 p.17 & Roots 19 February 2017*

We thank you Lord God, our Father for the gift of Life.

We thank you, Lord Jesus, our Redeemer for the gift of eternal Life.

**We thank you, Holy Spirit, for being our ever present Companion and Guide,
Supporting our work in progress & helping us to grow closer to that perfect love,
Which takes away our fears. Amen**

Prayer of Confession *Adapted from Roots 26 February 2017*

Forgive us Lord for the times we jump to wrong conclusions,

Act before we think and open our mouths before engaging our brains. Amen

Pause for silence & reflection as we prepare ourselves for prayer.

Personal Prayer *Adapted from Roots 5 & 26 February 2017*

Lord, whatever today brings, whatever we are doing, help us to take time out,
To think about Jesus transfigured on the mountain,
Shining in glory for all to see.

May your love, power and presence shine through me.

Lord, we don't always find it easy to be the salt to those around us.

Help us to trust that you will show us how to lead our lives in ways which glorify you.

Amen

Prayers of Intercession

1. *Adapted from Roots 5 February 2017*

Lord, we think of all the people in this world who have seen your light
But worship you at great personal cost.

We name in our hearts those people and countries that we are aware of
Where there is active persecution.

We ask you to send the Holy Spirit to bless them. Amen

2. *Adapted from Roots January 1,8,15 2017*

Lord, we pray for those faced with very difficult situations
As a consequence of unjust rulings.

We pray for those facing difficult times in their life journeys today.

Bless them with assurance that your love surrounds them and strength to persevere.

We pray for asylum seekers who face journeys of great hardship

And whom we do not always welcome.

Open our hearts and give them hope, Lord.

3. *Adapted from 12 February 2017*

Lord, we pray for people whose lives are affected by anger
Who are not able to let go of the grudges they bear
And for people hurt by others' thoughtlessness.

Hear us as we cry to you for forgiveness and reconciliation.

We pray for people whose anger leads them into trouble,
For those who end up in prison and need support to change.

Support their families who suffer difficulties with their relationships
And may have to forgive wrongs.

We pray also for prison staff, visiting social workers and chaplains who work with them
To open their minds and hearts to change.

Hear us as we cry to you for healing and reconciliation.

We ask you to bless all these people with your love. Amen

4. Adapted from Roots 19 February 2017

Lord, we live in a troubled world with a great diversity of neighbours.
So we pray for the many opportunities that there are for us to do God's will
And help our neighbours - to love them as ourselves.
We pray in particular for those who daily put themselves in danger in the course of
their work to uphold the values of our society and care for those in trouble,
Showing Love in practical ways:
For the fire service, for ambulance paramedics, for police & community police,
For Gps and District Nurses, for social workers, for prison officers –
All who take risks and often confront very difficult situations with no thanks.
We thank you for all of these people and ask you to sustain them. **Amen**

5. Our Churches 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. Amen.

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

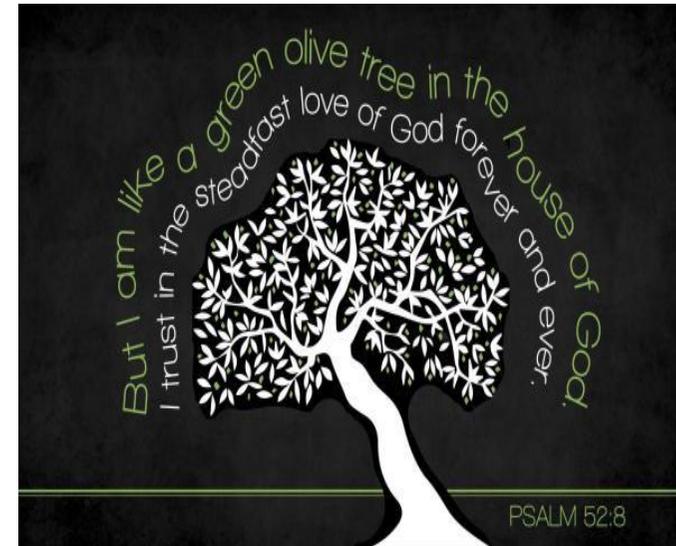
Reflection time – on what we have just prayed about AND
Time for those present to add their prayers, if they wish to,
for the life of St John's & St Martin's, our communities & the World
either in open prayer
or by using stones symbolically & placing them at the foot of the Cross.

Closing Prayer

Lord, send us out now into our communities
In hope, anticipation and excitement,
Ready to meet and share you with others in our daily lives
To spread your fragrance of light and love
So it pervades all we do.
We ask your Holy Spirit to guide us and be with us always. Amen

Prayer Fellowship

At home or in Church



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

Wednesday: 1st 11.15a.m. & 15th 8p.m. February 2017

Number 40

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