

## 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 PHB 2017 p.32*

You make us welcome, God of love, at your feast of life.

The door is open and the table set, the cup is full and all is ready.

**Give us grace to accept your invitation and to receive your love for us. Amen**

**Prayer of Praise** *Adapted from Roots 19 March 2017*

**God of all, we come with shouts of praise to make a joyful noise!**

**You have poured your love into our hearts**

**And by the actions of your Son, Jesus Christ,**

**You have reconciled us to yourself. Amen**

**Thanksgiving** *Adapted from Roots 26 March 2017*

God, you are the restorer of our souls,  
Our provider in times peace and of trial.

You nurture us, support and encourage us.

**We thank you for your great mercy and ever-abundant love. Amen**

**Prayer of Confession** *Adapted from Called to Praise p.54 #115*

**Have mercy on us, patient Companion.**

You listened gently to your disciples when they misunderstood you  
Or when they looked for power rather than service.

When they went their own way

You still held them in your care and did not reject them.

Even when they deserted and denied you, you stayed faithful to them.

We who follow you still misunderstand, seek power, forget to serve,  
Desert, neglect and fail in your service.

**Have mercy on us, patient Companion. Amen**

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

**Personal Prayer** *Adapted from PHB 2017 p.26*

Teach us again, Lord,

The delights of human companionship,

The satisfaction of work well done,

The humility of obedience,

The honesty to admit our faults,

The limits of our will,

**Give us, O Lord, strength to resist subtleties of temptation**

**And insight to distinguish good from evil**

**So that we may live truly as your servants. Amen.**

**Prayers of Intercession**

**1. Lent** *Adapted from PHB 2017 p.27*

**Loving Jesus, your broken body became fresh bread for us all.**

We pick up the stones of the hurts of the world wanting you to turn them into bread.

We expect you to transform every painful or evil situation

-the accidental and those of our own making.

**Loving Jesus, your broken body became fresh bread for us all.**

**Help us to transform these hurts and sins**

**By feeding our famished world with the fresh bread of your healing love.**

**Hear our prayer. Amen**

**2. Our troubled world** *Adapted from PHB p.30 2017*

Lord, in faith we pray, for a troubled world:

For many, just existing each day is a test,

**Let there be hope of relief;**

In a world weighed down by fear of what tomorrow's political turmoil might bring,

**Let there be hope of peace;**

In a world where many are helpless under tyranny and longing for liberation,

**Let there be hope of justice.**

**We long for you to heal the world of this pain and suffering.**

**Hear our prayer. Amen**

**3. Perseverance to give relief from suffering**

Lord, we pray for people faced with starvation and thirst, death and hopelessness

Due to destruction of their landscapes & societies by wars & commercial greed.

**Pour out your spring of life-giving water**

**To transform the evil in the hearts of their leaders**

**Into compassion for those suffering before them.**

**Open our hearts to provide what we can give to relief organisations.**

**Hear our prayer. Amen**

**4. Migrants** *Adapted from Roots 12 March 2017*

Lord, we pray for those on journeys onto which they were driven;  
For those who have been uprooted, violated, exiled.  
May your power of redemption bring light to the hardest of roads  
And the darkest places of suffering.  
We think especially of the plight of unaccompanied vulnerable children.

**Hear our prayer. Amen**

**5. Doing God's work.** Lord, we ask for your blessing on the hands and minds  
Of those who do your work not only in our Churches but in wider communities.  
You have no hands but our hands to do your work.  
Guide us in our choices of how best to use them for your glory.  
Help us to have open minds to hear your voice of guidance.

**Hear our prayer. Amen**

**6. 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.**

**7.** 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*** *Adapted from Called to Praise, p.56, #119*

**Lord, send us out now into our communities**

**In hope, anticipation and excitement.**

**Be to us, as each one most needs.**

**Be father, mother, brother, sister, friend,**

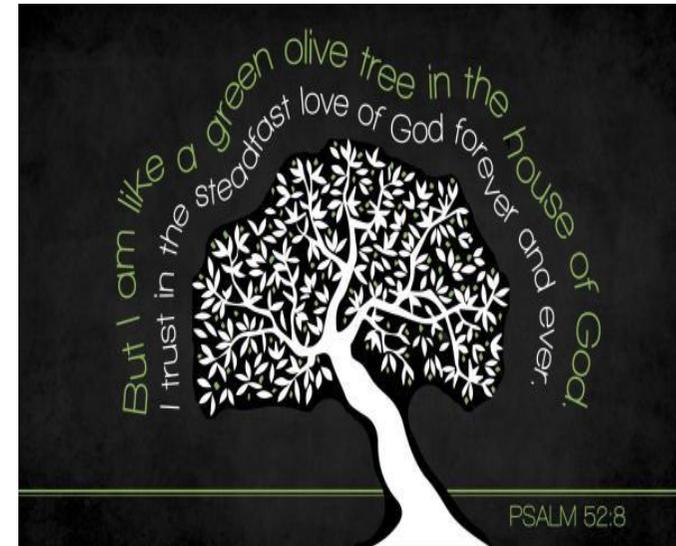
**Be lover, neighbour, confidante, companion,**

**Be strength and hope to us,**

**Making us one trusting, caring family. Amen**

# Prayer Fellowship

## At home or in Church



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

**Wednesday: 1<sup>st</sup> 11.15a.m. & 15<sup>th</sup> 8p.m. March 2017**

**Number 41**

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