

## 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, 14 May 2017*

Loving Jesus, enter into our midst.

We lay aside our busyness and pray for rest.

Lead us and hear our prayers.

Hear our prayers in the testing moments.

Be our rock and our salvation.

Hear our prayers and shine your love on us. **Amen**

**Prayer of Praise** *Adapted from PHB p.56 2017*

**We gather just as we are,**

**With our struggles and our hopes,**

**Our gifts and our commitments,**

**Our longing to be in a better relationship with you.**

**Praise be to God for this new day.**

**Let praise resound to the God of Life!**

**Thanksgiving** *Adapted from PHB p.55 2017*

Lord, we give thanks

For Jesus who was an example of how to live,

For your spirit breathing life alongside us,

For all who have prayed in this place,

For those who have laid the foundations of the life and ministry of our church

And for those who continue to serve you every day in our communities. **Amen**

**Prayer of Confession** *Adapted from PHB p.54 2017*

O God, forgive us when we narrow our view of the world in which we live,

And our hearts and minds are closed to fresh insights

**God in your mercy, forgive us. Amen.**

**Personal Prayer** *Adapted from PHB p.58 & 59 2017*

Spirit of glory, Spirit of God, rest on us now.

Pour out your power and Love.

Drench us in the rain of your presence.

Comfort the desolate with your song. **Amen**

## Prayers of Intercession

**1. 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.

We pray in particular for the Metropolitan North Local Group of which we are a part.

Be with us all as we strive to develop working together-

Often from very different viewpoints.

**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.**

**2.** 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.**

**3.** *Adapted from Roots2, 16 & 23 April 2017*

Lord we pray for our world and in particular for the crises in Syria and over Korea.

Hold back the hands of hate and establish peace in our hearts.

Where there is terror, pain and fear, may your comfort cover those people.

Where there is mourning, illness or sadness, may hope rise again.

Where there are those who are at a loss to cope,

We pray that we or others are able to offer appropriate help.

We think especially of the famine struck countries of Africa and the Yemen.

Lord we pray for the dispossessed, the exiled and the abused,

For those who commit atrocities in the name of a god,

We pray that we can be your ambassadors to break the chains of wickedness.

**Hear our prayer. Amen**

**4.** *Adapted from Roots 14 May 2017*

We pray for those who are looking for work

And troubled about finding money to keep a roof over their heads & food on the table.

There are many people in this position within our own communities.

**Give us eyes to see them and an open heart. Amen.**

**5. Adapted from Roots 7 May 2017**

We pray Lord for those who are being damaged by abuse on-line,  
Give persistence to those trying to safeguard them.  
We pray for those longing for someone to tell them that they matter and are loved,  
May they hear your voice.  
We pray for the traumatised who have forgotten their name,  
May they hear your voice and know your Name. **Amen.**

**6. Adapted from Roots 28 May 2017**

We pray for our political leaders as we prepare for local & national elections  
And for talks over the terms of Brexit.  
Everyone is living with considerable stress over these weeks.  
Give them and us calm for perspective.  
We pray similarly for cool heads to dampen the media frenzy  
Which influences our thinking and our lives.  
Help us to make considered choices when we vote. **Amen.**

**7. For the Children of the World** *Adapted from Called to Praise #527*

**As a sign for the present time and promise for the future**

**We pray for the children of the world.**

For children born into happy families, loved & cared for from birth,  
Provided with wholesome food, caring relationships and constant security,  
We commit ourselves afresh.  
For children born into poverty, for children forced to become soldiers,  
For children frightened by domestic violence or warring nations,  
For homeless children, for abused children whose fears are never comforted,  
For children who need special care and support, for orphaned children,  
For children whose minds are never stretched or abilities fully realised  
We commit ourselves to supporting them too. **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 21 May 2017*

**Father, help us to be bridge builders**

**Between our church, our community, our homes and work places.**

**Help us to cherish our relationships.**

**Help us to speak words that encourage and inspire others.**

**Bless us as we go about our daily lives. Amen.**

# Prayer Fellowship

## At home or in Church



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

Wednesday: 3<sup>rd</sup> 11.15a.m. & 17<sup>th</sup> 8p.m. May 2017

Number 43

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