

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.94*

Great God! We praise you!

We are surrounded by your love.

You remember us

And you are always with us.

Great God! We praise you! Amen

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Confession *Adapted from Prayer Handbook 2016 p.86*

Lord, we thank you for parents & families who have nurtured and cared for us.

We thank you for partners who have held and trusted us.

We thank you for children who have delighted us.

We thank you for our lives, for our freedom and happiness.

Yet you call us to let these relationships go so that we can properly follow you.

You call on us to count the cost of discipleship

So that our actions build your kingdom and we rid ourselves of distraction.

We confess that the way of the Cross is difficult and

Although our Spirits are willing, our Bodies are weak. **Amen**

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

Personal Prayer *Adapted from Roots, September 25 2016*

Lord, help us to build bridges between

Those who have lots of friends and those who are lonely-

Help us see where we could build bridges,

To pray for those bridges to be strong enough to carry heavy traffic

And to be bridges ourselves. Amen

Prayers of Intercession

1. *Adapted from Roots 4 September 2016*

Lord, We pray for those with difficult decisions and choices to make:

- For politicians and religious leaders,

In particular our new Prime Minister and her government,

Whose choices affect the lives of millions of people,

Bless them with integrity;

- For migrants travelling in hope and fear

Whose future is uncertain and frightening,

Bless them with courage and resilience to face what each new day brings;

- For those whose lives and homes have been devastated by natural disasters

And help us to continue to remember them as they fade from the news headlines,

Bless them with patience and those who are trying to help them with energy & skills.

-For those who face difficult personal choices at home or at work

Which will affect not only themselves but their families,

Bless them with clarity of thought to be able to look for your guidance. Amen

2. *Adapted from Roots 11 September 2016*

Lord, we pray for those whose friends or family members have gone missing,

For those still searching and those who have lost hope.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who go in search of the lost, lonely & abandoned on our city streets,

Who persist in transforming lives by believing that everyone matters.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who feel that **you** have gone missing,

Or are still seeking your presence

Or have given up believing that you are here with us.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Your parables taught us to be **active** seekers of the lost.
Guide us to be active in restoring what is lost in our lives.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen

3. Stewardship of our community and local environment

Lord, we pray that each member of our local community is aware of their responsibilities to be good neighbours

And to treat each other as they would want to be treated themselves.

We pray your healing peace on neighbours who dispute.

We pray that each person is conscious of their stewardship of the resources of our planet and treats them with care. **Amen**

4. *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.

5. 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 1 & 25 September 2016*

May God grant us music in the silence

Joy in our friendships

And courage on our journeys through the week.

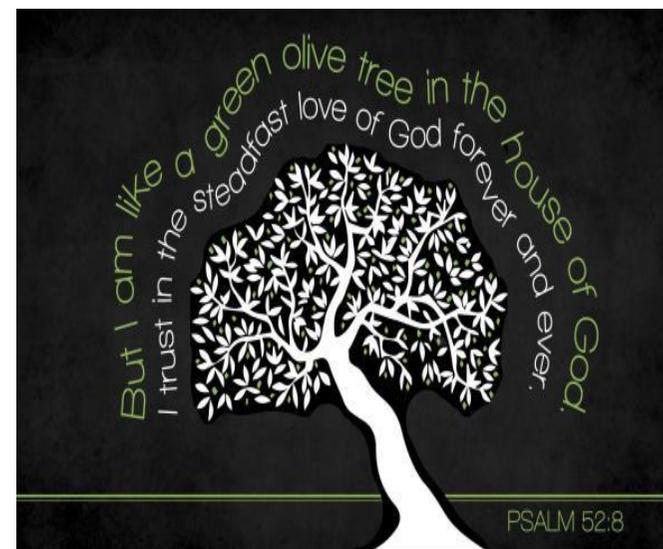
May God be in our choices and plans.

God bless us and all those we love.

Amen

Prayer Fellowship

At home or in Church



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

Wednesday: 21st 8p.m. September 2016

(Note: no morning meeting on 7th)

Number 35

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