



# ***The Link Benefice***

*Serving the villages of Bawdrip, Cossington,  
Pawlett, Puriton and Woolavington*



## **Leading Intercessions in Church**

Thank you for helping lead the prayer and worship of the church in this Benefice. Below is a short guide to leading intercessions.

### **Introduction**

Leading intercessions in public worship is a wonderful ministry in which to share. In our intercessions we unite our prayers for the world and its needs with the prayer of Christ himself who 'ever lives to make intercessions for us'. Those that lead intercessions have the responsibility of enabling the rest of the congregation to share in this offering of prayer as they give voice to the concerns, hopes and thanksgivings of the community.

The intercessions are the sum of all our individual thoughts and prayers - a time to bring our corporate concerns to God. The Intercessor is leading the prayers of the people - which is why it's so important that it is the laity's role to lead them if possible.

## **Why Pray?**

There are many examples of prayer in the Bible. Jesus prayed, he taught the disciples to pray and we are to follow His example.

"In the morning, while it was still very dark, Jesus got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed" Mark 1:35

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" Acts 2:42

## **What do we pray for?**

**For our world** - First of all then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions... 1 Timothy 2:1-2a

**For the church** - At the same time, pray for us as well that God will open to us a door for the word, that we may declare the mystery of Christ. Colossians 4:3

**On behalf of all** - Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Ephesians 6:18

Books of prayers can provide helpful resources, but it is good to also directly address the circumstances of your parish and the issues of the day

## **How should I pray?**

The best prayers are simple, brief and modest. Try to use language which can be understood by everyone. Try to be inclusive and avoid praying

for a list of people. Try not to be political – it is ok to pray for the government, but avoid opinion.

Please avoid using long passages of the Bible, and avoid telling God about events in the world. It might seem obvious prayers starting with Merciful Father will often get the congregation saying ‘Accept these prayers....’

Intercessions for a Sunday Holy Communion should ideally last 2- 3 minutes, and can include periods of silence.

There is no right or wrong format for the prayers and there as many ways of praying as there are people. Don’t be afraid to offer a time of silence, however it is useful to say ‘we will now have (a specific time) of silence for our own prayers’

### **One format for prayers** (from the ASB 1980)

Let us pray for the Church and for the world and let us thank God for his goodness.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you promised through your Son Jesus Christ to hear us when we pray in faith.

#### *A prayer for the church.... ending with*

Strengthen *N* our bishop and all your Church in the service of Christ; that all who confess your name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

#### *A prayer for the world.... ending with*

Bless and guide Elizabeth our Queen; give wisdom to all in authority; and direct this and every nation in the ways of justice and of peace; that all may honour one another, and seek the common good.

#### *A prayer for families and our community... ending with*

Give grace to us, our families and friends, and to all our neighbours; that we may serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit.

*A prayer for those who are sick or suffering*

give them courage and hope in their troubles; and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Hear us as we remember those who have died in the faith of Christ

*A prayer for those who have died or who mourn*

according to your promises, grant us with them a share in your eternal kingdom.

*A prayer of praise for all God has done*

Rejoicing in the fellowship of (N and of) all your saints, we commend ourselves and all Christian people to your unfailing love.

### **Another format**

Let the congregation know you will be allowing periods of silence and then introduce a topic ie

‘We pray for the Church in the world, especially...’

‘We pray for the world...’

‘We pray for those who are suffering or in any kind of need...’

Then use a simple prayer at the end to which all can respond **Amen.**

### **Responses may be used between prayers**

Lord in your mercy

**All      Hear our prayer**

or

Lord hear us

**All      Lord graciously hear us.**

or

Thy Kingdom come

**All      Thy will be done**

at the end

Merciful Father

**All      Accept these prayers  
For the sake of your Son  
Our saviour Jesus Christ,**