

Thames Valley Circuit Prayer Diary

“Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive.” Matthew 21²² (NRSV)

Prayer for today

Loving God, we remember before you those whose own beliefs have made a difference in our own lives, giving thanks for those still alive, and celebrating the lives of those who have gone before us and met their heavenly Father.

Loving God, thank you for the new ways that the Connexion is working on to encourage more people to offer for ordained ministry. The process is partly in the development stage, and partly “live”. Several members of the circuit are already heavily involved, and we pray for them, whether they are in the process of applying, or being part of the support which has now been put in place. This is a time of discernment for all involved, and we ask God’s blessing on this new process.

Loving God, we pray for this circuit, for the range of projects that are being developed into more than ideas, for the people who have the will to move things forward without leaving everything to somebody else. Loving God, may we respond positively to requests that we can realistically accomplish.

Prayers for the Circuit

At the November Circuit Meeting, our Superintendent, Vicci, encouraged us all to think about the strengths and vulnerabilities of the churches. The following is a summary of a way forward.

Here are some suggestions to help us in our prayers, as sometimes it helps to have an outline to guide our prayers so that we focus on the topic, rather than rambling all round it in an unfocussed way.

Start by thinking about the church you attend:

- How well do you know it?
- Pray for one thing that you think it is doing really well.
- Pray for something that you think needs improving.

These don’t have to be the large, grand projects, they can be something small and simple. These are your concerns.

How well do you know the churches in the circuit?

- How well do you know the church geographically nearest to you? Start there.
- Pray for one thing it does well.
- Then pray about something you think could be improved.

If you don't know what these are – how can you find out, and who would you talk to?

Perhaps the next nearest church isn't the one you know nearly as well as your own, but there is one you know through other connections. Pray about that church in the same way.

Talk to members from the other churches and you'll probably find that they have the same concerns as you have. Building up links and connections helps us to be a praying, caring circuit, supporting those needs and giving thanks for successes.