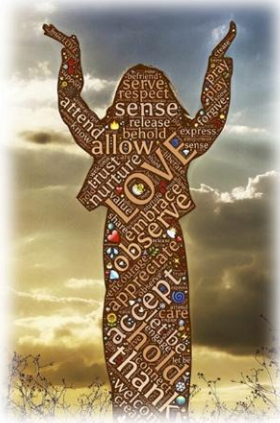


## SUGGESTIONS ON LEADING INTERCESSIONS IN THE DIOCESE OF COVENTRY



### 1. Why is prayer for others so important?

***Intercede = Prayer for others; asking God to help them or intervene in some specific way.***

### 2. Why pray together?

- a. *Matthew 18.19-20* – corporate prayer is a powerful thing
- b. If God has spoken to us through the sermon, this is a way we can address ourselves back to God in prayer
- c. *Acts 2.42* – it is a mark of a healthy, growing church
- d. *2 Thess. 1.11-12* – when we pray together God is glorified

***Why do you pray? Does anything from these bible passages impact you especially?***

3. **For what?** (see *Common Worship*; page 174 (*Forms of Intercession*), and pages 281-287)
  - a. For our world (*1 Timothy 2.1-2a*)
  - b. For church leaders (*Colossians 4.3*)
  - c. On behalf of all – about issues facing is (*Ephesians 6.18*)

***Which is most important for our church to develop?***

### 4. The style of the service – sequence of concerns; optional responses.

- a. A series of short prayers or topics. With responses.
- b. Several longer prayers. With 'Amen' ending.

***What alternatives responses to the normal 'Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.'?***

### 5. CHECKLIST Where do I start? Ideas for starting points ....

- a. The *Diocesan Prayer Diary* – daily prayer for churches, schools, Deaneries, Mission Hubs etc
- b. Bible readings for the service
- c. The Season we are in
- d. Ask service leader or preacher for suggestions
- e. What is happening in the world? News. Internet. Papers – national and local. Listen for a few days before you lead prayers.
- f. Church notices – suggesting needs and activities
- g. Special services coming up – e.g. weddings, baptisms, healing, memorial
- h. Draw from prayer resources left out in your church or a small chapel (Diocese, world region, partner Dioceses, CMS, CPAS, Feed the Hungry, Embrace, Christian Aid etc).
- i. Decide on topics, make your prayers 'clear and specific' so people can say 'Amen' with confidence. But don't push people to pray for something controversial or impossible to them.
- j. Dos – use language natural to you; keep prayers short (3-5 minutes total); make endings clear whether responses or 'Amen'; use silence to allow space; leave space for others to think of their own issues and needs ...'and there are others .... (silence)'
- k. Do nots – avoid chatting/explaining to the congregation; your prayers should be directed towards God; take care not to preach to the congregation; stick to one form of prayer; use a single sheet of paper; never assume people know anything by heart.





















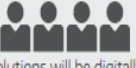
***Any other ideas you want to make a note of? Questions you'd like to ask?***

**Recommended resource:**
**Anna de Lange & Liz Simpson 'How to Lead the Prayers: A Training Course'** (Grove Booklet, 2002, W 169) £4.95

**6. What do I pray about? – try hard to relate to all groups in the congregation (different generations have very different characteristics) especially in any Inter-Generational or All-Age worship.**

- Children can pray too – they are often more aware of the world around them.
- What is going on in the congregation – Schools starting back? Guide or scout groups? Specific groups with children? Bereavement group(s).
- Pray for the less obvious. Residents at care homes or those living in almshouses? Links with local primary/secondary/special schools, naming their headteachers? Villages and events (in parish)? Groups meeting in villages/areas each week/month? Pray for an adjacent parish – anything you can think of or see on their website?
- 'Do not get parochial' – there is a world beyond the church building and church family. The world is our parish, as John Wesley said.
- 'Do not be tempted to preach or make political points. You are helping people to talk to God, not haranguing them.

**Interests of the congregation? Do we pray enough for the world outside church?**

| Characteristics   | Maturists<br>(pre-1945)  | Baby Boomers<br>(1945-1960)  | Generation X<br>(1961-1980)   | Generation Y<br>(1981-1995)   | Generation Z<br>(Born after 1995)   |
|---|--|--|---|---|---|
| Formative experiences   | Second World War<br>Rationing<br>Fixed-gender roles<br>Rock 'n' Roll<br>Nuclear families                     | Cold War<br>Post-War boom<br>"Swinging Sixties"<br>Apollo Moon landings<br>Youth culture<br>Woodstock<br>Family-orientated<br>Rise of the teenager | End of Cold War<br>Fall of Berlin Wall<br>Reagan / Corbachev<br>Thatcherism<br>Live Aid<br>Introduction of first PC<br>Early mobile technology<br>Latch-key kids;<br>rising levels of divorce | 9/11 terrorist attacks<br>PlayStation<br>Social media<br>Invasion of Iraq<br>Reality TV<br>Google Earth<br>Clonbury         | Economic downturn<br>Global warming<br>Global focus<br>Mobile devices<br>Energy crisis<br>Arab Spring<br>Produce own media<br>Cloud computing<br>Wiki-leaks |
| <b>DIFFERENT GENERATIONS CAN HAVE VERY DIFFERENT WORLDVIEWS</b> |  |  |   |   |   |
| Percentage in U.K. workforce*                                   | 3%   | 33%  | 35%   | 29%   | Currently employed in either part-time jobs or new apprenticeships  |
| Aspiration  | Home ownership   | Job security   | Work-life balance   | Freedom and flexibility   | Security and stability  |
| Attitude toward technology                                      | Largely disengaged   | Early information technology (IT) adaptors   | Digital Immigrants  | Digital Natives   | "Technoholics" – entirely dependent on IT; limited grasp of alternatives  |
| Attitude toward career  | Jobs are for life  | Organisational — careers are defined by employers  | Early "portfolio" careers — loyal to profession, not necessarily to employer  | Digital entrepreneurs — work "with" organisations not "for"   | Career multitaskers — will move seamlessly between organisations and "pop-up" businesses  |
| Signature product   | <br>Automobile            | <br>Television  | <br>Personal Computer  | <br>Tablet/Smart Phone                 | Google glass, graphene, nano-computing, 3-D printing, driverless cars   |
| Communication media   | <br>Formal letter         | <br>Telephone   | <br>E-mail and text message   | <br>Text or social media               | <br>Hand-held (or integrated into clothing) communication devices      |
| Communication preference  | <br>Face-to-face          | <br>Face-to-face ideally, but telephone or e-mail if required   | <br>Text messaging or e-mail  | <br>Online and mobile (text messaging) | <br>Facetime   |
| Preference when making financial decisions                      | <br>Face-to-face meetings | <br>Face-to-face ideally, but increasingly will go online       | <br>Online — would prefer face-to-face if time permitting   | <br>Face-to-face                       | <br>Solutions will be digitally crowd-sourced                          |

\*Percentages are approximate at the time of publication.

## 7. Do something different

- a. How about a time of open prayer? 'Would two or three people pray for [a named/known missionary overseas; a local community centre] ....' (having shared brief news)
- b. You could use visuals as a focus for prayers (pictures on a TV screen)
- c. Use a backing track of relevantly themed music
- d. Invite people to write prayers on pieces of paper as they arrive/wait for the service to start
- e. Invite different groups (e.g. Messy Church, PCC, Church Hall Committee, local farmers, artists, musicians) to suggest prayer needs to include in a Sunday service
- f. Have a musical response (sung) or even sing the intercessions using a familiar tune like Beauty for Brokenness by Graham Kendrick
- g. Prayer for different areas of employment and unemployment, like the NHS, teachers, business and trades people, named shops or stores in the area
- h. Pray for specific national and international mission agencies (see 5 h. above)
- i. Use different voices (as can also be so effective with some bible readings)
- j. Sometimes we need to allow silence, where there is something difficult to verbalise



***Which one idea could you use next time you are leading our intercessions?***

## 8. On the day – chat with churchwarden for latest news? think delivery?

## 9. Where to stand to lead intercessions? (at lectern/in congregation/back of church)

- a. You may be able to use a hand-held microphone.
- b. Move to different locations to stress particular themes and issues.
- c. Make sure you can get out of your seat easily; wherever you will be standing.
- d. Take your time. Speak slowly. Pause at the end rather than rushing away back to your seat.
- e. Look out rather than down if possible. Imagine you are talking with someone at the back of the church.
- f. Stand straight, well-balanced, feet apart, no shuffling.



***Would you appreciate practising before the service? Check volume if using microphone.***

**10. CLICK LINK [Prayer - Diocese of Coventry \(anglican.org\)](https://www.anglican.org/prayer) - from the Diocesan website**

**11. CLICK LINK [e.g. Advent and Christmas Prayer Resources - Equip Hub](#) – from the Diocesan Equip Hub**

**12. John Pritchard's books: '*Intercessions Resource Book*' (SPCK, 2018) and '*The Second Intercessions Handbook*' (SPCK, 2004) are useful resources to guide the preparation of your own prayers. Also The St Hilda Community, '*The New Women Included: a book of services and prayers*' (SPCK, 1991), and there are many more than these three!**



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

## A POSSIBLE FRAMEWORK FOR LEADING INTERCESSIONS

| SECTION   | For example  | Your own ideas/notes/differences |
|---|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Response, or Use Amen</b>                                       | Explain. Address biddings to people; prayers to God. E.g. Series of biddings and silence (no responses).<br>30 seconds           |                                  |
| 2. <b>Original ideas including visuals</b>                            | Use a single image for each theme. What approach will I take?  |                                  |
| 3. <b>Theme 1<br/>Wider church</b>                                    | For the church in Kenya, for other local churches, for special seasonal services<br>up to 1 minute                               |                                  |
| 4. <b>Theme 2<br/>Creation, society, the King, those in authority</b> | For political processes, for the King, the prime minister, government, international concerns.<br>up to 1 minute.                |                                  |
| 5. <b>Theme 3<br/>The local community</b>                             | For schools, specific parts of the parish, doctors, nurses, social workers, teachers.<br>up to 1 minute                          |                                  |
| 6. <b>Theme 4<br/>Those who suffer</b>                                | For the sick, the bereaved, the lonely, those with mental health challenges, those under pressure.<br>up to 1 minute             |                                  |
| 7. <b>Theme 5<br/>The communion of saints</b>                         | Giving thanks for the lives of any who have died, for anniversaries and memories of those who have gone before us.<br>30 seconds |                                  |
| 8. <b>Total time?</b>   | up to 5 minutes  |                                  |

Revd. Clive Hicks, December 2025