



Prayer changes things



Praying for our church family's needs Summer/Autumn 2025

At the moment it seems that we are in a season of scarcity at St Mary's.

God is clearly at work in the many wonderful things happening that are happening in the life of our church family, both as we reach out to the community; families coming to Messy church, all sorts of people gathering at Open House, people walking into church and joining us from the new houses etc; and within the church family where we are seeing lots of people growing in faith and encounter with Jesus through the Romans course and beyond. But at the same time, Sunday numbers are down as people come less often, the team of people serving are feeling weary and we are facing a significant shortfall in our finances (between £7,000 to £10,000) - for the first time in 20 years we may not be able to pay our parish share this year.

In response to this, from Pentecost until Advent this year we are going to have a minutes silent (or open) prayer in every service, to bring our church family's needs before our heavenly Father. Jesus commands his followers to come in prayer and ask for our needs and the needs of his mission to be met. ***"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."*** (Mtt 9:37-38)

In John 14:13-14 he says ***"I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son."***¹⁴ ***You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."***

In Matthew 7:7-11 Jesus says to them ***"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."***⁸ ***For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened... If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!"***

So that is what we are going to do. We are going to go on a faith adventure together, and come before our Father every week, thank him for what we have received, and to ask him to meet the needs of His Church.

There are five areas that we will be praying into...

- 1) **Thanks** – Thank God for all that He has already given to us and done for us.
- 2) **Finance** – money to pay the bills, cover our costs, and bless the community.
- 3) **Workers** – the opportunities in our church and wider community are huge, but we have limited people able to get involved, so let's pray for more.
- 4) **Growth** – In personal faith and in community in the church
- 5) **Growth** – Numerical growth on a Sunday, in small groups, young church and in our warm spaces.

Throughout this season we should all be asking ourselves if we are doing all that Jesus is asking of us with our time, Money and in prayer? What is God asking of us?

We will have a gift day in the Autumn to focus our response, but our main ambition is to lift our needs to God, to seek His will, and to be faithful to the mission that he has called us to – ***"To Grow Jesus' Kingdom Together"***



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