

## New mission ideas

*O Lord, without whom our labour is but lost, and with whom the weakest go forth as the mighty; be present in all we do as a church, especially (whatever is planned) and give to those who work for you pure intentions, patient faith, sufficient success on earth and the bliss of serving you in heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

## A wedding in the parish

*Dear God, it's so good to hear about (N & M) getting married today at church. As they celebrate their love together with family and friends, help (vicar or whoever is taking the service) to share their joy, and to show them the joy of your love for them shown in Jesus, that it may hold them for all their lives together, for his sake.*

## A funeral in the parish

*Have compassion, O Lord, on all who are mourning N today, who was dear to them, and upon all who are lonely and desolate. Be to them a comforter and friend; let them find such earthly help as they need now; and give them a fuller knowledge of your heavenly love, for your holy name's sake.*



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## Prayers

For the Life of the Church.

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Some of these prayers have been adapted from other books or are attributed to historic Christian leaders, as shown, but I have written others to provide a variety of tone as well as to cover more different situations. They are not intended to be at all prescriptive, but to show that we can and should pray in all sorts of times and places, and to give you ideas so that you can form prayers of your own as the Spirit moves you.

### **A PCC meeting or Synod**

*O God, who has guided the counsels of your Church through the centuries by your Spirit, be with us as we gather to do your work and seek your purposes for our (parish, deanery etc): help us to listen to one another, keep focussed on the business at hand, and remember the voices of those affected who are not present with us today, that we may find and do your will, for Jesus' sake.*

### **A difficult meeting**

*Lord, sometimes you were frustrated with your disciples when they didn't seem to understand, and just wanted space to think and pray. I'm frustrated with (the PCC/Mr X/the Messy Church team/etc) and can't understand why we find it so difficult to agree. Please help me to listen carefully, speak wisely, and love more as we try to find a way together to build up your Kingdom.*

### **Renewal in the parish**

*Dear God, send your Spirit to lift us up in our work for you here; help us find new ideas and new energy to share your love here in .... May the hope of the Gospel inspire old and young, lifelong resident and green incomer alike to work together for your Kingdom in this place, and give us all the joy of salvation, in Jesus Christ our Lord.*

### **Your incumbent**

*Father God, I pray for (N, our vicar/rector etc) in all their work for you. Let your Spirit guide their words and actions so that other people see you through them, and give them wisdom to negotiate the many demands on their time and energy. Above all, let them know that whether in sadness or joy, heaviness or delight, they are doing your work and building your Kingdom.*

### **Readers/Lay Officers**

*Thank you God for N who gives so generously of their time to serve your Church as (a Reader/churchwarden/PCC secretary etc), and especially for their (whatever they do well) that helps me to see you more clearly and follow you better. Help him/her to keep up their study and prayer so that their gifts in your service may be renewed year by year, in Jesus' name.*

### **A Lay ministry team**

*O Almighty God, look mercifully on the world, redeemed by the blood of your dear Son, and move the hearths of those who have offered themselves to the work of your Church, that by their labours light may shine in the darkness and guide your people into the way of peace, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.*

### **Musicians**

*Almighty God, who has ordained that human hearts should be kindled by music, and our mind thereby attuned to understand your divine mysteries: grant, we pray, that all who lead your praises may know themselves to be your ministers, and that the hearts of all may be lifted to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

### **Youth Group/Children's work/Messy Church/Sunday School**

*Lord, bless our church's work with children and young people, especially through (particular event/group/programme) and N and M who lead it. Give them ideas and enthusiasm, kind hearts to show your love and wise words to show the way, that every generation may come to rejoice in the knowledge of your love shown in the cross of Christ.*



### **A baptism in the parish**

*Thank you God for N, who was baptised into your family today. May your Spirit guide them as they grow in years and knowledge, and lead his/her life in truth. Bless (N & M) his/her parents with love and care, and keep their home a place of faith and peace, for Jesus' sake*

### **The confirmed**

*God, our Father, complete the work you have begun and keep your Holy Spirit active in the hearts of those who have been confirmed. Make them ready to live his gospel and eager to do his will. May they never be ashamed to proclaim to all the world Christ crucified, living and reigning for ever and ever.*