

# Prayer Stations

(PST006)

**Transforming Church,  
Transforming Lives**

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# Transforming Church, Transforming Lives Prayer Stations

## Prayer Stations Aim:

To bring the twelve Guildford Diocesan Goals to life in a multi-sensory way; enabling people to pray for transformation in their lives and in the life of their church and diocese.

These prayer stations can also be used in other settings to facilitate prayer for transformation.

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## Outline of Prayer Stations

Station 1:	Goal 1: Making Disciples
Station 2:	Goal 2: Increasing Believers
Station 3:	Goal 3: Growing Youth and Children's Ministry
Station 4:	Goal 4: Developing Lay Leaders
Station 5:	Goal 5: Recruiting More Clergy
Station 6:	Goal 6: Cultivating Community Partnerships
Station 7:	Goal 7: Reaching Beyond Borders
Station 8:	Goal 8: Nurturing Education
Station 9:	Goal 9: Encouraging Generous Giving
Station 10:	Goal 10: Sharing Expertise
Station 11:	Goal 11: Communicating Effectively
Station 12:	Goal 12: Improving Church Buildings

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## Notes for the Prayer stations:

- If space allows we recommend that you leave plenty of space between each station.
- It can take anything from two minutes to ten minutes for people to engage with each prayer station.
- Prepare copies of the Prayer stations leaflet (reducing each page to A5 size) which is available at the end of this document. A leaflet should be given to each person as they arrive.
- Invite people to go round the prayer stations in silence.
- It can be helpful to play some quiet instrumental worship music in the background to help people become more aware of the Lord's presence and less aware of others around them. Suitable music would include Ruth Fazal's "Songs from the River"<sup>1</sup> (Volumes I-V).

<sup>1</sup> You can purchase Ruth Fazal "Songs from the River" CD's direct from Ruth's website at [www.ruthfazal.com](http://www.ruthfazal.com) and sometimes from Christian bits at [www.christianbits.co.uk](http://www.christianbits.co.uk)

## Goal 1: Making Disciples



### Items Needed:

- A table covered with golden yellow satin<sup>2</sup> fabric
- Wooden cross<sup>3</sup>
- At the foot of the cross are eleven small gold square gift boxes<sup>4</sup>. On top of each gift box is a printed word ie: Chosen, Adopted into God's family, Forgiven, Loved, Accepted, Peace with God, Hope, Welcomed, Provided for, Guided, Treasured.
- In front of the cross is an A5 laminated card with the following words on it:  
*"And you.....(your name) also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you.....(your name) were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit...." (Ephesians 1:13)*
- A 24cm blue bowl<sup>5</sup> filled with water
- Behind the bowl and leant against a photo frame is an A5 laminated card with the following words on it: *"I turn to Christ, I repent of my sins, I renounce evil"*
- Standing upright is an A4 acrylic holder<sup>6</sup> displaying the words of the goal (see page 4 in blue ink) and the Ephesians 1:3 Bible verse (see page 4 in green ink.)
- Either pinned on the front of the table or laid on the table is an A4 laminated sheet displaying the words from the leaflet (see page 4 in maroon ink ) and the prayer activities (see page 4 in blue ink)

<sup>2</sup> You can purchase golden yellow satin from ebay. I used 2 metres of 150cm fabric. ([www.ebay.co.uk](http://www.ebay.co.uk))

<sup>3</sup> You can purchase a cross from Eden. ([www.eden.co.uk/](http://www.eden.co.uk/)) Alternatively you can make one from a piece of wood as we did.

<sup>4</sup> You can purchase gold square boxes from Ebay by putting "nest of gift boxes" into the search bar.

<sup>5</sup> You can purchase a blue bowl from Denby seconds shop. ([www.denby.co.uk](http://www.denby.co.uk)) – by putting, "extra large nesting bowl" into the search bar.

<sup>6</sup> You can purchase A4 acrylic holders from [www.ukpos.com](http://www.ukpos.com) Put A4 Acrylic free standing poster holder into the search bar.

## Tips for Station 1 set-up:

- Fill the bowl full of water once in place on the table.
- Instead of using an acrylic holder to display the words of the goal and the Ephesians 1:3 Bible verse you could blue tac the A4 sheet onto a photograph frame.

## Words in the leaflet for this station:

### Goal 1: Making Disciples

For every parish and chaplaincy to put in place an appropriate strategy for making prayerful confident disciples in daily life

*“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.” (Ephesians 1:3)*

When we come to Jesus, putting our faith in His death and resurrection, so our lives are transformed through the power of the Holy Spirit. As we daily walk with Jesus, allowing Him to satisfy our deepest needs and obeying His commands, so we become confident and fruitful disciples.

## Prayer activities:

1. Spend some time looking at the “gifts” you can see at the foot of the cross representing some of the amazing blessings that your Heavenly Father has made available to you through faith in Jesus.
  - Praise Him and thank Him for His love.
  - Which blessing do you need to receive afresh by faith today? Ask the Lord for it.
2. Read through the Ephesians 1:13a verse inserting your name in the space, as you remind yourself that you belong to the Lord.
 

*“And you.....(name) also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you.....(name) were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit...” (Ephesians 1:13)*

  - Ask the Lord to deepen your relationship with Him so that you can become confident in your knowledge of His love and His presence with you.
3. Following Jesus in daily life can be very costly. Jesus says:
 

*“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” (Matthew 16:24)*

  - Dip your finger into the water then make a sign of the cross on your forehead as, remembering your baptism; you recommit yourself to following Jesus and being part of His purposes wherever you are each day.

## Goal 2: Increasing Believers



### Items Needed:

- A table covered with black crushed velvet<sup>7</sup> fabric
- Red heart rug<sup>8</sup> (70cm x 70cm) in the centre of the table
- Either side of the mat is a 20cm wicker basket<sup>9</sup> containing multi-coloured plastic pegs.<sup>10</sup>
- Standing upright is an A4 acrylic holder<sup>11</sup> displaying the words of the goal (see page 6 in blue ink) and the 1Timothy 2:4 Bible verse (see page 6 in green ink.)
- Either pinned on the front of the table or laid on the table is an A4 laminated sheet displaying the words from the leaflet (see page 6 in maroon ink ) and the prayer activities (see page 6 in blue ink)

<sup>7</sup> You can purchase black crushed velvet fabric from ebay. I used 2 metres of 150cm wide fabric. ([www.ebay.co.uk](http://www.ebay.co.uk))

<sup>8</sup> You can purchase a red heart rug from ebay by putting "Love Heart fluffy bedroom rug" into the search bar.

<sup>9</sup> You can purchase 20cm wicker baskets from ebay by putting "Bamboo baskets round hamper wicker" into the search bar.

<sup>10</sup> You can purchase multi-coloured plastic pegs from most supermarkets or DIY stores.

<sup>11</sup> You can purchase A4 acrylic holders from [www.ukpos.com](http://www.ukpos.com) Put A4 Acrylic free standing poster holder into the search bar.

## Tips for Station 2 Set-up:

- Lay the rug out flat a day before you set up the prayer stations to allow it to flatten before use.

## Words in the leaflet for this station:

### Goal 2: Increasing Believers

Together to increase the number of new Christians of all ages through persistent prayer, confident faith-sharing, life-giving worship and the development of a hundred new worshipping communities by 2027

*“God our Saviour wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.” (1Timothy 2:4)*

Our Heavenly Father’s heart longs for his “lost” children to come home to Him. He gave His very precious Son to make this possible. Our part is to pray persistently for those who don’t yet know the Lord and to be willing to share our faith as opportunities arise.

## Prayer activities:

1. As you touch the softness of the rug:
  - Ask the Father to give you and the members of your church his compassionate and kind heart for those who don’t yet know him.
  - Ask Him to give you confidence in sharing what Jesus has done in your life.
2. Pick up a peg and as you hold it think of someone you know who hasn’t yet met Jesus.
  - Pray that their eyes will be opened to how much Jesus loves them and what He has done for them.
  - Pray that they will be reconciled to their Heavenly Father and as you do that clip your peg onto the edge of the heart mat.
3. Pray that the Holy Spirit will bring to birth new types of worshipping communities in your area that will enable people from different backgrounds to encounter Jesus.
  - You may like to end by spending a few moments worshipping the Lord, thanking Him for His kindness to you.



## Goal 3: Growing Youth and Children's Ministry



### Items Needed:

- A table covered with purple satin<sup>12</sup> fabric
- A shoebox is placed underneath the fabric at one side of the table to give height.
- On top of the raised part of the fabric is placed a large scallop shell<sup>13</sup>
- Inside the shell is placed a 40mm ivory pearl bead.<sup>14</sup>
- Draped around the shell and 40mm bead is orange two tone organza voile<sup>15</sup> fabric
- Small wooden bowl<sup>16</sup> containing a couple of hundred 8mm cream coloured beads<sup>17</sup>. On the table are a few of the 8mm beads threaded onto 0.8m thread<sup>18</sup>
- Wooden letters<sup>19</sup> on a small wooden tray<sup>20</sup>
- A5 laminated card displaying the words of Matthew 13:45-46
- Standing upright is an A4 acrylic holder<sup>21</sup> displaying the words of the goal (see page 8 in blue ink) and the Psalm 78:4b Bible verse (see page 8 in green ink.)
- Either pinned on the front of the table or laid on the table is an A4 laminated sheet displaying the words from the leaflet (see page 8 in maroon ink ) and the prayer activities (see page 8 in blue ink)

<sup>12</sup> You can purchase purple satin fabric from ebay. I used 2 metres of 150cm wide fabric. ([www.ebay.co.uk](http://www.ebay.co.uk))

<sup>13</sup> You can purchase a large scallop shell from ebay by putting, "large scallop shell" into the search bar.

<sup>14</sup> You can purchase a 40mm ivory pearl bead from ebay by putting "40mm ivory pearl bead" into the search bar.

<sup>15</sup> You can purchase orange two tone organza voile from ebay by putting "orange two tone organza voile" into the search bar.

<sup>16</sup> You can purchase a small wooden bowl from IKEA

<sup>17</sup> You can purchase 8mm cream coloured beads from ebay by putting "8mm cream coloured beads" into the search bar.

<sup>18</sup> You can purchase 0.8m thread from ebay by putting "Natural white silk string thread for stringing pearls" into the search bar.

<sup>19</sup> You can purchase wooden letters from ebay by putting "Mini Wooden Large Uppercase Letters" into the search bar.

<sup>20</sup> The mini wooden letters sometimes come on a small wooden tray which works well for displaying them.

<sup>21</sup> You can purchase A4 acrylic holders from [www.ukpos.com](http://www.ukpos.com) Put A4 Acrylic free standing poster holder into the search bar.

### Tips for Station 3 Set-up:

- Position the shoebox on one side of the table before covering the table with the purple satin.
- You may want to secure the 40mm pearl inside the large scallop shell with a piece of bluetac.

### Words in the leaflet for this station:

#### Goal 3: Growing Youth and Children's Ministry

For every parish to develop a safe, attractive and spiritually-enriching children's and youth ministry, encouraging sharing of resources where appropriate.

*"We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done." (Psalm 78:4b)*

Jesus once talked of the good news of the kingdom of God as the "pearl of great price." We have the responsibility to pass on this beautiful and precious pearl to the next generation. It is vital therefore, that our churches are safe, attractive and spiritually enriching places for children and young people.

### Prayer activities:

1. As you look at the beauty of the large pearl, thank Jesus for the people in your life who shared the good news with you.
2. Jesus said: *"And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me."* (Matthew 18:5)
  - Think of a child or young person who belongs to your church (or your family or another child you know.) Pick up the wooden letter that is their first initial. As you hold the letter, thank Jesus for this child/young person and that He knows them by name.
  - Ask Jesus to show you ways that you can make them feel more welcome and valued in the church community.
  - Pray for your church community that it might be full of the presence of Jesus and feel like a safe and attractive place to this child/young person.
3. Now pick up a small pearl. As you hold it in your hand you might like to pray something like: *"Lord please help me and the church to which I belong, do all we can, whatever the cost, to pass on the gospel to the children and young people we know or have the privilege to have contact with. Amen."*
  - As a sign of your commitment to passing on the "pearl of great price," add your pearl to the string of pearls on the table then lay the letter on the table.



## Goal 4: Developing Lay Leaders



### Items Needed:

- A table covered with white satin<sup>22</sup> fabric. On top of the satin on the LHS of the table is a white hand towel<sup>23</sup> covered in gold organza voile.<sup>24</sup>
- On top of the organza voile are four large 60mm glass paperweights<sup>25</sup> in different colours (eg red, yellow, green, blue) and two large 80mm glass paperweights in different colours (eg aqua, purple)
- In the centre of the table is a large outline picture of the word, "JESUS" on A3 white card with the words, "*Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it*" (1Corinthians 12:27) at the top of it. (See final page of the document)
- On the RHS of the table is a 20cm wicker basket<sup>26</sup> containing large self-adhesive acrylic jewels.<sup>27</sup>
- Standing upright is an A4 acrylic holder<sup>28</sup> displaying the words of the goal (see page 10 in blue ink) and the Ephesians 4:11-13 Bible verses (see page 10 in green ink.)
- Either pinned on the front of the table or laid on the table is an A4 laminated sheet displaying the words from the leaflet (see page 10 in maroon ink) and the prayer activities (see page 10 in blue ink)

<sup>22</sup> You can purchase white satin fabric from ebay. I used 2 metres of 150cm wide fabric. ([www.ebay.co.uk](http://www.ebay.co.uk))

<sup>23</sup> You can purchase a white hand towel from most supermarkets eg Sainsburys.

<sup>24</sup> You can purchase organza voile from ebay. I used 1 metre of 150cm wide fabric. ([www.ebay.co.uk](http://www.ebay.co.uk))

<sup>25</sup> You can purchase 60mm and 80mm glass paperweights in different colours from ebay by putting, "60mm glass paperweights" or "80mm glass paperweights" into the search bar.

<sup>26</sup> You can purchase 20cm wicker baskets from ebay by putting "Bamboo baskets round hamper wicker" into the search bar.

<sup>27</sup> You can purchase large self-adhesive acrylic jewels from amazon at [www.amazon.uk](http://www.amazon.uk) by putting "large self-adhesive acrylic jewels" into the search bar.

<sup>28</sup> You can purchase A4 acrylic holders from [www.ukpos.com](http://www.ukpos.com) Put A4 Acrylic free standing poster holder into the search bar.

### Tips for Station 4 Set-up:

- Photocopy and enlarge the last page of this document (with the “JESUS” word) onto A3 or A2 thick white card.

### Words in the leaflet for this station:

#### Goal 4: Developing Lay Leaders

Together to increase the number of leaders of all ages, who are called, trained and deployed in the church and wider community.

*“So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:11-13)*

When Jesus calls us to follow Him, He equips us with different gifts so that:

- we can serve Him
- the body of Christ is built up
- He is glorified.

Leadership is one of the gifts that the Lord gives to His people.

### Prayer activities:

1. As you look at the beautiful stones, give thanks for different people in your church and the wider church, who are using their gifts to build up the body of Christ thereby bringing glory to the Lord.
2. Jesus said: *“Ask and it will be given to you...”* (Matthew 7:7)
  - Ask Jesus to raise up leaders who will enable his work to be done in the church, in the wider community and in workplaces.
3. Thank the Lord for the gifts that He has given to you.
  - Ask Him to show you where to use those gifts.
  - If you are willing to offer your gifts into the Lord’s service, pick up one of the small “jewels” and stick it onto the word “Jesus” as your act of surrender to Him.

## Goal 5: Recruiting More Clergy



### Items Needed:

- A table that is covered with knitted cotton jade green fabric<sup>29</sup>
- A few shoeboxes are placed underneath the fabric at one side of the table to create a hill.
- On top of the hill are three wooden sheep<sup>30</sup>
- At the foot of the hill is a pile of A6 cards. At the top of the card are the words "Thank you"
- Black biro pens by the side of the A6 cards
- Terracotta bowl.<sup>31</sup> Draping over the side of the bowl is a brown hand-towel<sup>32</sup> and by the side of the bowl is a clerical collar<sup>33</sup>
- Standing upright is an A4 acrylic holder<sup>34</sup> displaying the words of the goal (see page 12 in blue ink) and the 1Peter 5:2-3 Bible verses (see page 12 in green ink.)
- Either pinned on the front of the table or laid on the table is an A4 laminated sheet displaying the words from the leaflet (see page 12 in maroon ink) and the prayer activities (see page 12 in blue ink)

<sup>29</sup> You can purchase knitted cotton jade green fabric from ebay. I used 1m of 180cm wide fabric. [www.ebay.co.uk](http://www.ebay.co.uk)

<sup>30</sup> You can purchase wooden sheep from ebay by putting "Fair trade hand carved wooden farm sheep" into the search bar.

<sup>31</sup> You can purchase a terracotta bowl from ebay

<sup>32</sup> You can purchase a brown hand towel from ebay

<sup>33</sup> You can purchase a clerical collar from North East church supplies at <http://www.nchurchsupplies.com>

<sup>34</sup> You can purchase A4 acrylic holders from [www.ukpos.com](http://www.ukpos.com) Put A4 Acrylic free standing poster holder into the search bar.

### Tips for Station 5 Set-up:

- Place the shoeboxes on one side of the table to create a hill before covering the table with the green fabric.
- Photocopy the “Thank you” cards (from the back of this document) onto white card.

### Words in the leaflet for this station:

#### Goal 5: Recruiting More Clergy

Together to grow the number of ordinands by 50% from 2020 and beyond, including the provision of 3 new stipendiary curacies each year.

*“Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.” (1Peter 5:2-3)*

The Lord calls some people to serve Him as shepherds in His church today. He is looking for people with servant hearts who are willing to lead and feed His flock.

### Prayer activities:

1. Thank the Lord for the person or people the Lord has appointed in your church to be the shepherd(s).
  - Pray for them and ask the Lord to strengthen them and give them the grace that they need.
2. Take a “Thank you” card and write a short note of thanks to one of your church leaders for the ways in which they have fed, lead and nurtured you spiritually.
  - Take the card home with you and remember to post it to them!
3. Ask the Lord to raise up new leaders for the church today.....those shepherds who are willing to serve the flock as Jesus himself did.

## Goal 6: Cultivating Community Partnerships



### Items Needed:

- A table covered with a grey blanket<sup>35</sup>
- Round silver tray<sup>36</sup>
- A large pile of salt<sup>37</sup> on top of the silver tray.
- Attached to the sides of the silver tray are different coloured ribbons<sup>38</sup> that stretch across the table.
- 20cm wicker basket<sup>39</sup> containing individual salt sachets.<sup>40</sup>
- Standing upright is an A4 acrylic holder<sup>41</sup> displaying the words of the goal (see page 14 in blue ink) and the Matthew 5:13 & Luke 10:27 Bible verses (see page 14 in green ink)
- Either pinned on the front of the table or laid on the table is an A4 laminated sheet displaying the words from the leaflet (see page 14 in maroon ink) and the prayer activities (see page 14 in blue ink)
- By the side of the table is a plastic bin<sup>42</sup> with a label stuck inside it that says: "Please put your spare salt in here."

<sup>35</sup> You can purchase a grey blanket from ebay. I used a 2m x 150cm wide "Furniture Moving Van Removal Packing Transit Fabric Blanket." ([www.ebay.co.uk](http://www.ebay.co.uk))

<sup>36</sup> You can purchase a round silver tray from ebay by putting "31cm Aluminium Foil Tray Disposable Round" into the search bar.

<sup>37</sup> You can purchase salt at any supermarket.

<sup>38</sup> You can purchase different coloured ribbons from ebay. I used 10mm wide ribbon in 15 different colours.

<sup>39</sup> You can purchase 20cm wicker baskets from ebay by putting "Bamboo baskets round hamper wicker" into the search bar.

<sup>40</sup> You can purchase individual salt sachets from Amazon at [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk).

<sup>41</sup> You can purchase A4 acrylic holders from [www.ukpos.com](http://www.ukpos.com) Put A4 Acrylic free standing poster holder into the search bar.

<sup>42</sup> You can purchase plastic bins cheaply from IKEA



## Tips for Station 6 Set-up:

- Attach the ribbons to the silver tray before you place the tray onto the table

## Words in the leaflet for this station:

### Goal 6: Cultivating Community Partnerships

Together to increase the range, professionalism and spiritual fruitfulness of our partnerships with the local community, to help create a safer, stronger, fairer and more sustainable society.

*“You are the salt of the earth.” (Matthew 5:13),*

*Jesus said: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” (Luke 10:27)*

Jesus not only transforms our lives but He calls us to go into our communities and transform other people's lives; often by demonstrating His love in practical ways. As one of the uses of salt is to enhance the flavour of food, so Christians living under the guidance of the Holy Spirit enhance the lives of others in their communities.

## Prayer activities:

1. Take a salt sachet and open it and sprinkle some of the salt into the palm of your hand.
  - As you ponder how a few grains can make a big difference to the taste of food, receive the truth that with *“Christ in you”* (Colossians 1:27) you can make a big difference to other people's lives.
  - Ask The Lord to keep filling you with His love and His Holy Spirit so that you stay “salty!”
2. Now put a few grains of salt into your mouth and as you taste the salt, ask Jesus to show you a practical way that you / your church could demonstrate love to people in your community. (Please put the spare salt and salt wrapper into the bin provided.)
3. Pray for an existing social action project in your community that your church or other churches are involved with – that people would be blessed by it and come to know God's love through it.



## Goal 7: Reaching Beyond Borders



### Items Needed:

- A table covered with crimson red crushed velvet<sup>43</sup> fabric
- A large brown globe<sup>44</sup>
- On top of the globe is a marker pointing roughly where Guildford Diocese is located and four adhesive vinyl arrows<sup>45</sup> pointing away from the Diocese to the rest of the world
- 20cm wicker basket<sup>46</sup> containing strips of green paper<sup>47</sup> (21cm x 2.5cm)
- Black biro pens and sellotape
- The beginnings of a green paper chain starting at the globe
- Standing upright is an A4 acrylic holder<sup>48</sup> displaying the words of the goal (see page 18 in blue ink) and the Philippians 1:4-5 Bible verses (see page 18 in green ink.)
- Either pinned on the front of the table or laid on the table is an A4 laminated sheet displaying the words from the leaflet (see page 18 in maroon ink) and the prayer activities (see page 18 in blue ink)

<sup>43</sup> You can purchase crimson red crushed velvet fabric from ebay. I used 2 metres of 150cm wide fabric. ([www.ebay.co.uk](http://www.ebay.co.uk))

<sup>44</sup> You can purchase a large brown globe from ebay. I purchased one that was 13" inches high and with a circumference of approximately 25.5" inches

<sup>45</sup> You can purchase vinyl arrows from ebay by putting "Vinyl arrows" into the search bar

<sup>46</sup> You can purchase 20cm wicker baskets from ebay by putting "Bamboo baskets round hamper wicker" into the search bar.

<sup>47</sup> You can purchase A4 green photocopying paper from Amazon or Ebay

<sup>48</sup> You can purchase A4 acrylic holders from [www.ukpos.com](http://www.ukpos.com) Put A4 Acrylic free standing poster holder into the search bar.

### Tips for Station 7 Set-up:

- Create about five links of the green paper chain with prayers on to give people the idea of what to do.

### Words in the leaflet for this station:

#### Goal 7: Reaching Beyond Borders

Together to grow the number and depth of our partnerships with communities beyond our diocesan borders, in the holistic mission to which Jesus calls us.

*“In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.” (Philippians 1:4-5)*

As followers of Jesus we are part of a global family and movement. We are called to reach beyond our borders and connect with other parts of the country and the wider world; both sharing resources and learning from each other.

#### Prayer activities:

1. St Paul says: *“so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.”* (Romans 12:5)
  - Praise and thank Jesus that because of the blood He shed on the cross, we can be part of one big family with brothers and sisters in all corners of the globe.
2. How is your church reaching beyond its borders and connecting with the wider world / other parts of this country?
  - Pray for one of the mission projects / missionaries / other churches that your church is connected with, asking the Lord to deepen this partnership making it even more fruitful.
  - You might like to write your prayer on a piece of green paper then add it to the prayer paper chain.
3. Pray that the Lord would give your church the humility to learn from the partnerships that it is involved with.

## Goal 8: Nurturing Education



### Items Needed:

- A table covered with royal blue satin<sup>49</sup> fabric. On top of the blue satin is a piece of “back 2 school” fabric<sup>50</sup>
- A pile of school books, unused exercise books<sup>51</sup> and an open Children’s Bible<sup>52</sup>
- One small white bowl<sup>53</sup> containing set honey<sup>54</sup> and another containing cocktail sticks<sup>55</sup>
- Round silver tray<sup>56</sup>, on top of which is edible rice paper<sup>57</sup> cut up into 3cm square pieces
- By the side of the silver tray are a few edible writing pens<sup>58</sup> and a small white plate<sup>59</sup>
- Standing upright is an A4 acrylic holder<sup>60</sup> displaying the words of the goal (see page 16 in blue ink) and the Psalm 25:5 Bible verse (see page 16 in green ink.)
- Either pinned on the front of the table or laid on the table is an A4 laminated sheet displaying the words from the leaflet (see page 16 in maroon ink) and the prayer activities (see page 16 in blue ink)
- By the side of the table is a plastic bin<sup>61</sup> with a label stuck inside it that says: “Please put your cocktail sticks in here.”

<sup>49</sup> You can purchase royal blue satin fabric from ebay. I used 2 metres of 150cm wide fabric. ([www.ebay.co.uk](http://www.ebay.co.uk))

<sup>50</sup> You can purchase “back 2 school” fabric from ebay. I used three fat quarters ie 44” x 27”

<sup>51</sup> You can purchase school exercise books from ebay

<sup>52</sup> You can purchase a Children’s Bible from Eden at [www.eden.co.uk](http://www.eden.co.uk)

<sup>53</sup> You can purchase small white bowls from IKEA

<sup>54</sup> You can purchase set honey from any supermarket

<sup>55</sup> You can purchase cocktail sticks from any supermarket

<sup>56</sup> You can purchase a round silver tray from ebay by putting “31cm Aluminium Foil Tray Disposable Round” into the search bar.

<sup>57</sup> You can purchase edible rice paper from Amazon at [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)

<sup>58</sup> You can purchase edible writing pens from Amazon by putting “edible ink food pens” into the search bar.

<sup>59</sup> You can purchase a small white plate from IKEA

<sup>60</sup> You can purchase A4 acrylic holders from [www.ukpos.com](http://www.ukpos.com) Put A4 Acrylic free standing poster holder into the search bar.

<sup>61</sup> You can purchase plastic bins cheaply from IKEA

## Tips for Station 8 Set-up:

- The white plate is for people to use for leaning on when writing on their rice paper.

## Words in the leaflet for this station:

### Goal 8: Nurturing Education

Together to improve the standards and develop the Christian distinctiveness of our church schools, wholeheartedly embracing our contribution to education across the diocese.

*“Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long.”*  
(Psalm 25:5)

A school built on the foundation of God’s Word gives every child the opportunity to have a life changing encounter with Jesus and discover their place in the world that God has created.

## Prayer activities:

1. Thank the Lord for the church and community schools you know.
  - Ask the Lord to continue to equip the head-teacher and the rest of the staff team with wisdom, strength, patience and all that they need.
  - Pray that the Diocesan Education Team would be effective in supporting schools.
2. The Psalmist says: *“How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!”* (Psalm 119:103)  
Dip a cocktail stick into the honey and then taste it.
  - As you taste the sweetness of the honey, pray that the school(s) would help children discover the sweet truth of God’s Word.
  - Pray too that the children would have life changing encounters with Jesus as they discover who He is and what He has done for them.
3. Spend a few moments praying Psalm 25:5 for yourself: *“Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long.”*
  - As you recognise your own ongoing need for the truth of God’s Word, write “Teach me Lord” on a piece of rice paper.
  - As you eat the rice paper, commit to regularly reading your Bible and receiving the Lord’s truth.

## Goal 9: Encouraging Generous Giving



### Items Needed:

- A table covered with antique gold satin<sup>62</sup> fabric
- A piece of purple metallic gift wrap<sup>63</sup> paper laid on the table, on top of which is placed a crown of thorns<sup>64</sup> and to one side three large nails<sup>65</sup>.
- Another piece of purple metallic gift wrap paper laid on the table, on top of which is a pile of fake gold coins.<sup>66</sup>
- A ceramic oil burner<sup>67</sup> with t-light underneath and fragrant oil<sup>68</sup> added to water in the top of the burner.
- Standing upright is an A4 acrylic holder<sup>69</sup> displaying the words of the goal (see page 20 in blue ink) and the John 12:3 Bible verse (see page 20 in green ink.)
- Either pinned on the front of the table or laid on the table is an A4 laminated sheet displaying the words from the leaflet (see page 20 in maroon ink ) and the prayer activities (see page 20 in blue ink)

<sup>62</sup> You can purchase antique gold satin fabric from ebay. I used 2 metres of 150cm wide fabric. ([www.ebay.co.uk](http://www.ebay.co.uk))

<sup>63</sup> You can purchase purple metallic gift wrap on ebay by putting, "purple metallic gift wrap" into the search bar.

<sup>64</sup> You can purchase a crown of thorns from Amazon at [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk) by putting "crown of thorns" into the search bar.

<sup>65</sup> You can purchase large nails from any DIY store

<sup>66</sup> You can purchase fake gold coins from ebay. I bought casino gold coins by putting "casino gold coins" into the search bar.

<sup>67</sup> You can purchase a ceramic oil burner with t-lights from ebay by putting "ceramic oil burner" into the search bar.

<sup>68</sup> You can purchase fragrant oil for the oil burner from ebay. I used hyacinth essential oil

<sup>69</sup> You can purchase A4 acrylic holders from [www.ukpos.com](http://www.ukpos.com) Put A4 Acrylic free standing poster holder into the search bar.



### Tips for Station 9 Set-up:

- Fill the top of the ceramic oil burner with water then add a few drops of the essential oil. Then light the t-light underneath it.
- Cut the purple metallic gift wrap so that the piece is just larger than the crown of thorns and the pile of fake gold coins.

### Words in the leaflet for this station:

#### Goal 9: Encouraging Generous Giving

For every parish to encourage an increasing number of worshipping Christians to commit to regular, proportional and sacrificial giving.

*“Mary came in with a jar of very expensive aromatic oils, anointed and massaged Jesus' feet, and then wiped them with her hair.” (John 12:3)*

Mary gave Jesus a very costly gift because she loved him.

#### Prayer activities:

1. Smell the oil for a few moments and as you savour the fragrance, remember that love is costly.
  - Spend a few moments praising and thanking Jesus for the great love that He has shown you, remembering how much it cost Him.
2. Now ask yourself the question: “How costly is the love that I offer to Jesus?”
  - How much of your time and money is really available for His kingdom purposes?
3. Ask Jesus to increase your faith and love for Him so that, like Mary, you are free to give of your resources generously and sacrificially.



## Goal 10: Sharing Expertise



### Items Needed:

- A table covered with turquoise crushed velvet<sup>70</sup> fabric
- A large clock<sup>71</sup> laid in the centre of the table and surrounded by some large stones<sup>72</sup>.
- A couple of loud ticking alarm clocks<sup>73</sup> either side of the large clock.
- A pile of stones for people to pick up.
- 20cm wicker basket<sup>74</sup> containing Werther's Original butter candies<sup>75</sup>
- Standing upright is an A4 acrylic holder<sup>76</sup> displaying the words of the goal (see page 22 in blue ink) and the Matthew 6:33 Bible verse (see page 22 in green ink.)
- Either pinned on the front of the table or laid on the table is an A4 laminated sheet displaying the words from the leaflet (see page 22 in maroon ink) and the prayer activities (see page 22 in blue ink)
- By the side of the table is a plastic bin<sup>77</sup> with a label stuck inside it that says: "Please put your stone in here."

<sup>70</sup> You can purchase turquoise crushed velvet fabric from ebay. I used 2 metres of 150cm wide fabric. ([www.ebay.co.uk](http://www.ebay.co.uk))

<sup>71</sup> You can purchase a large clock from most DIY stores.

<sup>72</sup> You can purchase large stones from a DIY store or pick them up from a beach.

<sup>73</sup> You can purchase a couple of loud ticking alarm clocks from most DIY stores.

<sup>74</sup> You can purchase 20cm wicker baskets from ebay by putting "Bamboo baskets round hamper wicker" into the search bar.

<sup>75</sup> You can purchase Werther's Original butter candies from most supermarkets

<sup>76</sup> You can purchase A4 acrylic holders from [www.ukpos.com](http://www.ukpos.com) Put A4 Acrylic free standing poster holder into the search bar.

<sup>77</sup> You can purchase plastic bins cheaply from IKEA

## Tips for Station 10 Set-up:

- Check the batteries in the alarm clock before you begin

## Words in the leaflet for this station:

### Goal 10: Sharing Expertise

Together to share expertise and streamline our processes, so as to release fresh energy for mission

*“Jesus said: “seek first his kingdom and his righteousness.....” (Matthew 6:33)*

Sharing expertise with others can save a lot of time-wasting. Our priority is to “seek first the kingdom of God.”

## Prayer activities:

1. Spend a few moments listening to the ticking clocks and thank the Lord for the gift of time. (You may want to hold an alarm clock close to your ear)
  - Ask Him to enable you to use your time wisely and to learn to give time to the most important things.
2. Administration, though vital, can often take up considerable energy and focus in the life of a church, weighing down leaders especially.
  - Give thanks for those who exercise the ministry of administration.
  - Pick up one of the large stones and as you feel the weight of it in your hands, ask the Lord to give skill to those involved in streamlining processes so that energy can be released for mission.
  - Ask the Lord to lift any unnecessary burdens from your leaders as you place the stone back down.
3. Peter says: *“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.”* (1Peter 4:10)
  - Pray for the sharing of expertise across the different churches within the Diocese.
  - Pick up a sweet and as you savour its sweetness ask the Lord to show you if there is someone whose life you can “make sweeter” by sharing your expertise.

## Goal 11: Communicating Effectively



### Items Needed:

- A table covered with black satin<sup>78</sup> fabric
- A 31cm indoor flickering candle lantern<sup>79</sup> (LED light) sitting on and surrounded by a piece of yellow organza fabric.<sup>80</sup>
- A large gravel tray<sup>81</sup> covered in silver foil and filled with sand containing t-lights<sup>82</sup>
- A couple of gas-lighters<sup>83</sup>
- Standing upright is an A4 acrylic holder<sup>84</sup> displaying the words of the goal (see page 24 in blue ink) and the Matthew 5:14-16 Bible verses (see page 24 in green ink.)
- Either pinned on the front of the table or laid on the table is an A4 laminated sheet displaying the words from the leaflet (see page 24 in maroon ink) and the prayer activities (see page 24 in blue ink)

<sup>78</sup> You can purchase black satin fabric from ebay. I used 2 metres of 150cm wide fabric. ([www.ebay.co.uk](http://www.ebay.co.uk))

<sup>79</sup> You can purchase a 31cm indoor flickering candle lantern from ebay by putting, "31cm indoor flickering candle lantern" into the search bar. I used a white lantern.

<sup>80</sup> You can purchase yellow organza fabric from ebay. I used 1m of 150cm wide fabric.

<sup>81</sup> You can purchase large gravel trays (without holes) from ebay by putting "heavy duty gravel trays" into the search bar.

<sup>82</sup> You can purchase t-lights from ebay or very cheaply from IKEA

<sup>83</sup> You can purchase gas-lighters from ebay by putting "gas cooker lighter" into the search bar.

<sup>84</sup> You can purchase A4 acrylic holders from [www.ukpos.com](http://www.ukpos.com) Put A4 Acrylic free standing poster holder into the search bar.

## Tips for Station 11 Set-up:

- Check the batteries in the lantern before you begin.
- Depending on how many people you expect to visit the prayer stations, you may need a number of seed boxes with t-lights.

## Words in the leaflet for this station:

### Goal 11: Communicating Effectively

For every parish and chaplaincy to develop effective communications, promoting a church that is visible, attractive and accessible

*“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14-16)*

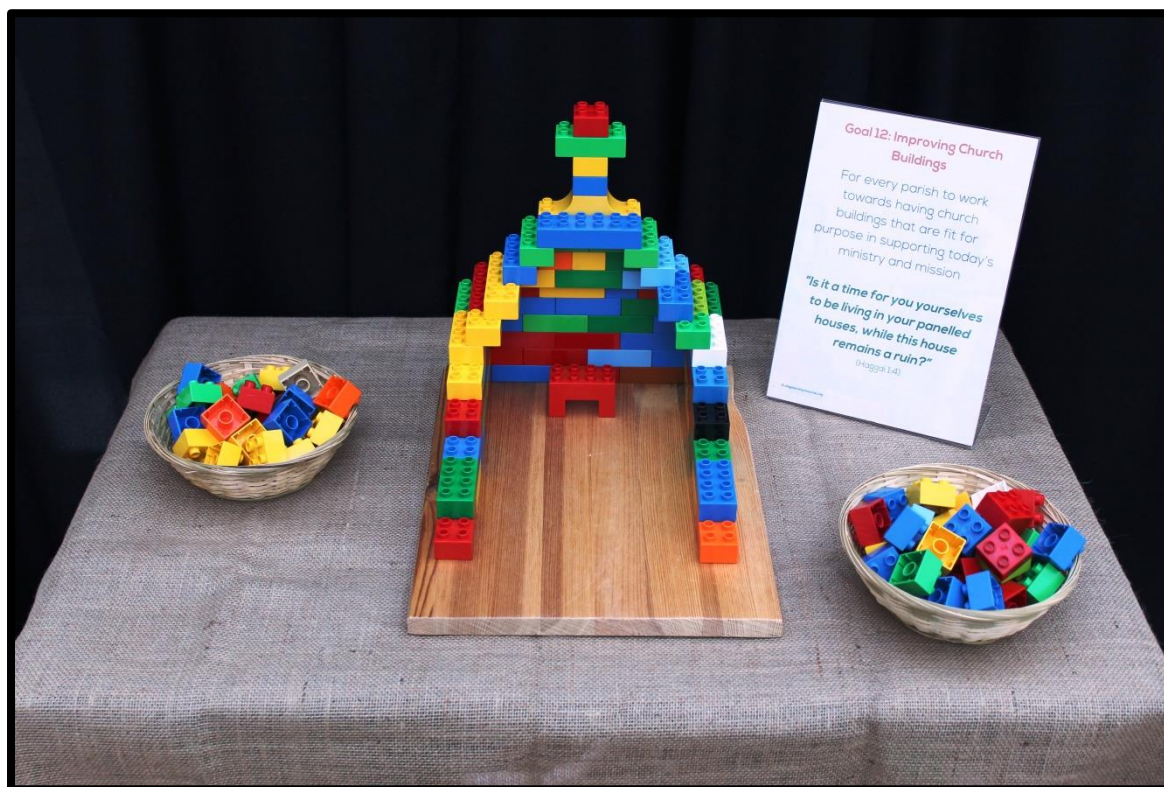
Jesus wants our “lights to shine” so that His Father is glorified. Good communication is vital in enabling our “lights to shine” in the wider community.

## Prayer activities:

1. As you look at the lamp shining out, pray that the Lord will be glorified through your life.....that as people look at you, your life will communicate Jesus.
2. Pray for your church that through its communications, it may become even more visible, attractive and accessible to the local community.
  - As you pray you might like to light a t-light.
3. Sin can prevent the light of Jesus from shining out from our lives and the life of the church. It also brings the good news into bad repute.
  - Ask the Holy Spirit to “shine his light” into your heart and show you any sins that you need to confess. You may like to pray the following words from Psalm 139:23-24. *“Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”*
  - Confess the sins that He reveals to you silently. The following prayer may be helpful.  
*“Lord Jesus I confess that I have sinned by.....(name the sin)  
 I now turn away from that sin and ask you to forgive me.  
 Fill me afresh with your spirit that my life may communicate your goodness and your love to others. Amen.*
  - Receive his forgiveness and a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit.



## Goal 12: Improving Church Buildings



### Items Needed:

- A table covered with hessian<sup>85</sup> fabric
- A square piece of chipboard<sup>86</sup>
- On the chipboard is a partly constructed “church” building built from Duplo bricks<sup>87</sup>
- Two 20cm wicker baskets<sup>88</sup> containing wooden Duplo building bricks, one either side of the “church” building.
- Standing upright is an A4 acrylic holder<sup>89</sup> displaying the words of the goal (see page 26 in blue ink) and the Haggai 1:4 Bible verse (see page 26 in green ink.)
- Either pinned on the front of the table or laid on the table is an A4 laminated sheet displaying the words from the leaflet (see page 26 in maroon ink) and the prayer activities (see page 26 in blue ink)

<sup>85</sup> You can purchase hessian fabric from ebay. I used 2 metres of 150cm wide fabric. ([www.ebay.co.uk](http://www.ebay.co.uk))

<sup>86</sup> You can purchase a piece of chipboard from most DIY stores.

<sup>87</sup> You can purchase second hand Duplo bricks from ebay.

<sup>88</sup> You can purchase 20cm wicker baskets from ebay by putting “Bamboo baskets round hamper wicker” into the search bar.

<sup>89</sup> You can purchase A4 acrylic holders from [www.ukpos.com](http://www.ukpos.com) Put A4 Acrylic free standing poster holder into the search bar.

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### Tips for Station 12 Set-up:

- Having partly constructed the “church” building, you may choose to glue the bricks in place so that they can’t be removed.

### Words in the leaflet for this station:

#### Goal 12: Improving Church Buildings

For every parish to work towards having church buildings that are fit for purpose in supporting today’s ministry and mission

*“Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your panelled houses, while this house remains a ruin?”  
(Haggai 1:4)*

The condition of our church buildings speaks of whether we honour our Lord or not.

### Prayer activities:

1. Thank the Lord for the building(s) that your church is able to use for its services and other activities.
  - Thank the Lord for the people who have diligently cared for the building(s) over the years and who have had the vision to keep them fit for purpose.
2. Reflect on how much time, effort and money you devote to the upkeep of your own house.
  - Now reflect on how much time, effort and money you devote to the upkeep of the Lord’s house.....and allow the Lord to speak to you.
3. Ask the Lord to show you one small way that you can help keep your church buildings fit for purpose.
  - Now pick up a brick and as you add it to the building, ask the Lord to help you do what He has shown you.



# Transforming Church, Transforming Lives

## Guide to Using the Prayer Stations



Please feel free to wander around the prayer stations at your own pace, engaging with what you find helpful.

## Goal 1: Making Disciples

For every parish and chaplaincy to put in place an appropriate strategy for making prayerful confident disciples in daily life

*“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.” (Ephesians 1:3)*

When we come to Jesus, putting our faith in His death and resurrection, so our lives are transformed through the power of the Holy Spirit. As we daily walk with Jesus, allowing Him to satisfy our deepest needs and obeying His commands, so we become confident and fruitful disciples.

### Prayer activities:

4. Spend some time looking at the “gifts” you can see at the foot of the cross representing some of the amazing blessings that your Heavenly Father has made available to you through faith in Jesus.
  - Praise Him and thank Him for His love.
  - Which blessing do you need to receive afresh by faith today?  
Ask the Lord for it.
5. Read through the Ephesians 1:13a verse inserting your name in the space, as you remind yourself that you belong to the Lord.
 

*“And you.....(name) also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you.....(name) were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit...” (Ephesians 1:13)*

- Ask the Lord to deepen your relationship with Him so that you can become confident in your knowledge of His love and His presence with you.

6. Following Jesus in daily life can be very costly. Jesus says:

*“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”* (Matthew 16:24)

- Dip your finger into the water then make a sign of the cross on your forehead as, remembering your baptism; you recommit yourself to following Jesus and being part of His purposes wherever you are each day.

## Goal 2: Increasing Believers

Together to increase the number of new Christians of all ages through persistent prayer, confident faith-sharing, life-giving worship and the development of a hundred new worshipping communities by 2027

*“God our Saviour wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”* (1Timothy 2:4)

Our Heavenly Father’s heart longs for his “lost” children to come home to Him. He gave His very precious Son to make this possible. Our part is to pray persistently for those who don’t yet know the Lord and to be willing to share our faith as opportunities arise.

## Prayer activities:

### 1. As you touch the softness of the rug:

- Ask the Father to give you and the members of your church his compassionate and kind heart for those who don't yet know him.
- Ask Him to give you confidence in sharing what Jesus has done in your life.

### 2. Pick up a peg and as you hold it think of someone you know who hasn't yet met Jesus.

- Pray that their eyes will be opened to how much Jesus loves them and what He has done for them.
- Pray that they will be reconciled to their Heavenly Father and as you do that clip your peg onto the edge of the heart mat.

### 3. Pray that the Holy Spirit will bring to birth new types of worshipping communities in your area that will enable people from different backgrounds to encounter Jesus.

- You may like to end by spending a few moments worshipping the Lord, thanking Him for His kindness to you.

### Goal 3: Growing Youth and Children's Ministry

For every parish to develop a safe, attractive and spiritually-enriching children's and youth ministry, encouraging sharing of resources where appropriate.

*"We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done." (Psalm 78:4b),*

Jesus once talked of the good news of the kingdom of God as the "pearl of great price." We have the responsibility to pass on this beautiful and precious pearl to the next generation. It is vital therefore, that our churches are safe, attractive and spiritually enriching places for children and young people.

#### Prayer activities:

1. As you look at the beauty of the large pearl, thank Jesus for the people in your life who shared the good news with you.
2. Jesus said: *"And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me."* (Matthew 18:5)
  - Think of a child or young person who belongs to your church (or your family or another child you know.) Pick up the wooden letter that is their first initial. As you hold the letter, thank Jesus for this child/young person and that He knows them by name.
  - Ask Jesus to show you ways that you can make them feel more welcome and valued in the church community.
  - Pray for your church community that it might be full of the presence of Jesus and feel like a safe and attractive place to this child/young person.

3. Now pick up a small pearl. As you hold it in your hand you might like to pray something like: *“Lord please help me and the church to which I belong, do all we can, whatever the cost, to pass on the gospel to the children and young people we know or have the privilege to have contact with. Amen.*

- As a sign of your commitment to passing on the “pearl of great price,” add your pearl to the string of pearls on the table then lay the letter on the table.

### Goal 4: Developing Lay Leaders

**Together to increase the number of leaders of all ages, who are called, trained and deployed in the church and wider community.**

*“So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:11-13)*

When Jesus calls us to follow Him, He equips us with different gifts so that:

- we can serve Him
- the body of Christ is built up
- He is glorified.

Leadership is one of the gifts that the Lord gives to His people.



## Prayer activities:

1. As you look at the beautiful stones, give thanks for different people in your church and the wider church, who are using their gifts to build up the body of Christ thereby bringing glory to the Lord.
2. Jesus said: *“Ask and it will be given to you...”* (Matthew 7:7)
  - Ask Jesus to raise up leaders who will enable his work to be done in the church, in the wider community and in workplaces.
3. Thank the Lord for the gifts that He has given to you.
  - Ask Him to show you where to use those gifts.
  - If you are willing to offer your gifts into the Lord’s service, pick up one of the small “jewels” and stick it onto the word “Jesus” as your act of surrender to Him.

## Goal 5: Recruiting More Clergy

**Together to grow the number of ordinands by 50% from 2020 and beyond, including the provision of 3 new stipendiary curacies each year.**

*“Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.”*  
(1Peter 5:2-3)

The Lord calls some people to serve Him as shepherds in His church today. He is looking for people with servant hearts who are willing to lead and feed His flock.

## Prayer activities:

1. Thank the Lord for the person or people the Lord has appointed in your church to be the shepherd(s).
  - Pray for them and ask the Lord to strengthen them and give them the grace that they need.
  
2. Take a “Thank you” card and write a short note of thanks to one of your church leaders for the ways in which they have fed, lead and nurtured you spiritually.
  - Take the card home with you and remember to post it to them!
  
3. Ask the Lord to raise up new leaders for the church today.....those shepherds who are willing to serve the flock as Jesus himself did.

## Goal 6: Cultivating Community Partnerships

**Together to increase the range, professionalism and spiritual fruitfulness of our partnerships with the local community, to help create a safer, stronger, fairer and more sustainable society.**

*“You are the salt of the earth.” (Matthew 5:13) ,  
Jesus said: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” (Luke 10:27)*

Jesus not only transforms our lives but He calls us to go into our communities and transform other people’s lives; often by demonstrating His love in practical ways. As one of the uses of salt is to enhance the flavour of food, so Christians living under the guidance of the Holy Spirit enhance the lives of others in their communities.

## Prayer activities:

1. Take a salt sachet and open it and sprinkle some of the salt into the palm of your hand.
  - As you ponder how a few grains can make a big difference to the taste of food, receive the truth that with “*Christ in you*” (Colossians 1:27) you can make a big difference to other people’s lives.
  - Ask The Lord to keep filling you with His love and His Holy Spirit so that you stay “salty!”
2. Now put a few grains of salt into your mouth and as you taste the salt, ask Jesus to show you a practical way that you / your church could demonstrate love to people in your community. (Please put the spare salt and salt wrapper into the bin provided.)
3. Pray for an existing social action project in your community that your church or other churches are involved with – that people would be blessed by it and come to know God’s love through it.

## Goal 7: Reaching Beyond Borders

**Together to grow the number and depth of our partnerships with communities beyond our diocesan borders, in the holistic mission to which Jesus calls us.**

*“In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.” (Philippians 1:4-5)*

As followers of Jesus we are part of a global family and movement. We are called to reach beyond our borders and connect with other parts of the country and the wider world; both sharing resources and learning from each other.

### **Prayer activities:**

1. St Paul says: *“so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.”* (Romans 12:5)
  - Praise and thank Jesus that because of the blood He shed on the cross, we can be part of one big family with brothers and sisters in all corners of the globe.
2. How is your church reaching beyond its borders and connecting with the wider world / other parts of this country?
  - Pray for one of the mission projects / missionaries / other churches that your church is connected with, asking the Lord to deepen this partnership making it even more fruitful.
  - You might like to write your prayer on a piece of green paper then add it to the prayer paper chain.
3. Pray that the Lord would give your church the humility to learn from the partnerships that it is involved with.

### **Goal 8: Nurturing Education**

**Together to improve the standards and develop the Christian distinctiveness of our church schools, wholeheartedly embracing our contribution to education across the diocese.**

*“Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long.”* (Psalm 25:5)

A school built on the foundation of God's Word gives every child the opportunity to have a life changing encounter with Jesus and discover their place in the world that God has created.

### **Prayer activities:**

1. Thank the Lord for the church and community schools you know.
  - Ask the Lord to continue to equip the head-teacher and the rest of the staff team with wisdom, strength, patience and all that they need.
  - Pray that the Diocesan Education Team would be effective in supporting schools.
  
2. The Psalmist says: *"How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!"* (Psalm 119:103)  
 Dip a cocktail stick into the honey and then taste it.
  - As you taste the sweetness of the honey, pray that the school(s) would help children discover the sweet truth of God's Word.
  - Pray too that the children would have life changing encounters with Jesus as they discover who He is and what He has done for them.
  
3. Spend a few moments praying Psalm 25:5 for yourself: *"Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long."*
  - As you recognise your own ongoing need for the truth of God's Word, write "Teach me Lord" on a piece of rice paper.
  - As you eat the rice paper, commit to regularly reading your Bible and receiving the Lord's truth.



## Goal 9: Encouraging Generous Giving

For every parish to encourage an increasing number of worshipping Christians to commit to regular, proportional and sacrificial giving.

*“Mary came in with a jar of very expensive aromatic oils, anointed and massaged Jesus' feet, and then wiped them with her hair.” (John 12:3)*

Mary gave Jesus a very costly gift because she loved him.

### Prayer activities:

1. Smell the oil for a few moments and as you savour the fragrance, remember that love is costly.
  - Spend a few moments praising and thanking Jesus for the great love that He has shown you, remembering how much it cost Him.
2. Now ask yourself the question: “How costly is the love that I offer to Jesus?”
  - How much of your time and money is really available for His kingdom purposes?
3. Ask Jesus to increase your faith and love for Him so that, like Mary, you are free to give of your resources generously and sacrificially.

## Goal 10: Sharing Expertise

Together to share expertise and streamline our processes, so as to release fresh energy for mission

*“Jesus said: “seek first his kingdom and his righteousness.....” (Matthew 6:33)*

Sharing expertise with others can save a lot of time-wasting. Our priority is to “seek first the kingdom of God.”

### Prayer activities:

1. Spend a few moments listening to the ticking clocks and thank the Lord for the gift of time. (You may want to hold an alarm clock close to your ear)
  - Ask Him to enable you to use your time wisely and to learn to give time to the most important things.
2. Administration, though vital, can often take up considerable energy and focus in the life of a church, weighing down leaders especially.
  - Give thanks for those who exercise the ministry of administration.
  - Pick up one of the large stones and as you feel the weight of it in your hands, ask the Lord to give skill to those involved in streamlining processes so that energy can be released for mission.
  - Ask the Lord to lift any unnecessary burdens from your leaders as you place the stone back down.

3. Peter says: *“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.”* (1Peter 4:10)

- Pray for the sharing of expertise across the different churches within the Diocese.
- Pick up a sweet and as you savour its sweetness ask the Lord to show you if there is someone whose life you can “make sweeter” by sharing your expertise.

## **Goal 11: Communicating Effectively**

**For every parish and chaplaincy to develop effective communications, promoting a church that is visible, attractive and accessible**

*“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”* (Matthew 5:14-16)

Jesus wants our “lights to shine” so that His Father is glorified. Good communication is vital in enabling our “lights to shine” in the wider community.

## Prayer activities:

1. As you look at the lamp shining out, pray that the Lord will be glorified through your life.....that as people look at you, your life will communicate Jesus.
2. Pray for your church that through its communications, it may become even more visible, attractive and accessible to the local community.
  - As you pray you might like to light a t-light.
3. Sin can prevent the light of Jesus from shining out from our lives and the life of the church. It also brings the good news into bad repute.
  - Ask the Holy Spirit to “shine his light” into your heart and show you any sins that you need to confess. You may like to pray the following words from Psalm 139:23-24. *“Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”*
  - Confess the sins that He reveals to you silently. The following prayer may be helpful.  
*“Lord Jesus I confess that I have sinned by....(name the sin)  
 I now turn away from that sin and ask you to forgive me  
 Fill me afresh with your spirit that my life may communicate your goodness and your love to others. Amen.*
  - Receive his forgiveness and a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit.

## Goal 12: Improving Church Buildings

**For every parish to work towards having church buildings that are fit for purpose in supporting today's ministry and mission**

*"Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your panelled houses, while this house remains a ruin?" (Haggai 1:4)*

The condition of our church buildings speaks of whether we honour our Lord or not.

### **Prayer activities:**

1. Thank the Lord for the building(s) that your church is able to use for its services and other activities.
  - Thank the Lord for the people who have diligently cared for the building(s) over the years and who have had the vision to keep them fit for purpose.
2. Reflect on how much time, effort and money you devote to the upkeep of your own house.
  - Now reflect on how much time, effort and money you devote to the upkeep of the Lord's house.....and allow the Lord to speak to you.
3. Ask the Lord to show you one small way that you can help keep your church buildings fit for purpose.
  - Now pick up a brick and as you add it to the building, ask the Lord to help you do what He has shown you.

*“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”*  
(1Corinthians 12:27)

Jesus





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