

TO ALL WHO PRAY IN OUR SERVICES AT ST BEDE'S

One of the distinguishing marks of God's people is our confidence in approaching him in prayer. Communal prayer in our public meetings should be one of the high points of the service. Whether we are praying for the Lord's blessing on the meeting, the persecuted church, the reception of his Word or broader matters, such prayer speaks of a people made fit for his presence by the sacrifice of Christ; a people who know there is nothing too large or small for his sovereign concern.

We want to encourage you in this ministry of public prayer and we trust that both you and the church will be blessed by it. The following points are intended to provide a helpful framework for you as you prepare.

PREPARATION

1. Develop a consistent daily pattern of personal prayer and reading of God's Word. It should be evident on Sunday that we are being led by someone who has been walking closely with the Lord during the week.
2. Pray early in the week that God will show you what we need to give thanks for and pray for this Sunday.
3. Keep an eye on local and broader issues and events that may need prayer.

WHAT SHOULD WE PRAY FOR?

In terms of subject matter, please try to strike a balance between larger issues and the immediate needs of our church. It is good to pray for our ministries, but we should also be praying beyond the bounds of our community. The Scriptures call us to bring all things confidently before the Lord.

[Here is a helpful structure.](#)

The service leader will normally precede your prayers with a public Confession and declaration that our sins are forgiven.

(When he or she is leading the Confession, please come and stand or sit at the front so that you can lead straight in afterwards)

1. **Open with thanksgiving.** Praise God for his character and actions (It can help to read part of a psalm or other appropriate passage as part of this)
2. **Move on to petition.** Pray for
 - A. A global or national matter
 - B. National and/or local leaders (or others in responsibility, like police, teachers, ambulance and hospital staff etc)
 - C. Our church
 - D. The sick & suffering & those who care for them
 - E. A particular ministry or mission
3. Close with the **Lord's Prayer**

A & B – We must pray boldly for major matters at either a global or national level. Remember that the Lord is always greater than any disaster, conflict or issue that has arisen. Don't restrict all global matters to war etc. There are things to be thankful for as well. Remember also that the scriptures call us to pray for our leaders (1 Tim 2:1, 2). Please avoid overly politicised prayers that favour one party over another. Focus on those things that God desires of a nation and its rulers (such as freedom for the gospel to be preached, justice, care for the poor and weak, political integrity and so on)

C – In addition to immediate issues and praise points regarding the church, it would be worth considering how the apostles prayed for the various churches. **Phil 1:9-11, Col 1:3-14, Eph 3:14-21** are great examples of profound prayers for God's people.

D - The Bede Read has a number of elderly and 'sick, needy & recovering' people named in it's prayer section. It is also good to invite us to silent prayer for those we know, giving us 30 seconds or so of silence to pray for them

E There are a number of missionaries and ministries to pray for. So that we cover all of them, a schedule will be generated with a particular ministry or missionary couple for each Sunday

I hope this is helpful. If you would like to ask further about matters for prayer or ways of praying, please call or email me.

Yours in Christ
James Macbeth