

St. Nicholas Codsall with St. Peters Codsall Wood Thy Kingdom Come Praying for Others



After Jesus ascended into heaven his disciples and followers spent 10 days in prayer waiting for the Holy Spirit to come on the day of Pentecost. In May 2016 the Archbishops of Canterbury and York urged all the Anglican churches to make this a special time of prayer for God's Kingdom. The idea caught on and now churches of many different denominations all round the world participate every year.

Normally we would have had special services and events during this time but of course that is not possible. Instead I am urging to you pray for God's Kingdom using some or all of the activities in this leaflet. Remember this is as much about helping Christians (including you) grow as disciples as it is about helping others come to faith.

Pray the ACORN

A is for Ask: Each day simply and prayerfully ask God 'is there somebody I'm being nudged to connect with – to reach out to – today?'

C is for Call: This is God's response to our question. His 'call' is for us to respond to the name that may come immediately or later by way of a sense that this is his nudge to us.

O is for Obey: Our response may be through a phone call or any of the now well-recognised ways from Skype to Facetime to WhatsApp to SMS and more. The first step need be as simple as asking 'How are you doing?' and really listening to the answer.



And all the while remembering this conversation is as the result of what God has prompted to happen and being open to offering prayer either with them or for them.

R is for Report: Share with a Christian friend what God has done in this situation – even if it seems to be a very small step. Share what happened – much like the disciples reported back to Jesus when sent on mission.

N is for Notice God: Reflect on what God has done in and through us. In the past we may have been too busy to listen to God's voice and respond. But now, with God having our full attention, we may notice that God has used us and helped us grow in obedience and faith.

There are two notable things about acorns. First, they need fertile soil to grow – and we now have this in our communities.

Second, though an acorn is small and seemingly insignificant, it can grow into something big and beautiful – with patience and care.

Pray for 5 people

Choose five people you would regularly like to pray for and write their names down onto a list. If you're not sure who to pray for, ask God to guide you as you choose. Once you have settled on 5 names, commit to praying for them regularly by using one or more the following:

Prayer alerts

Add your list of five people to the alerts section of your phone and set reminders to pray for them. You could choose one name per day, or pray for all five across your day. Remember to set alerts for a suitable time where you can stop to pray for your list.



A prayer band

Take a piece of leather or string and tie five knots in it to represent each of the five people you have committed to pray for. You could carry the knotted band in your pocket, tie it round your wrist or place it somewhere that you'll see it regularly. Use the knots to remind you to pray for each person on your list of five.



Business prayer card or bookmark

Grab a piece of card that will easily fit inside your wallet, purse or book. Write your list of five names onto the card before putting it in your wallet or book. Use this card as a daily reminder to pray for them.

Small stones

Find five small stones (light coloured ones are best) and write each of the people on your list onto each of the stones. Place them on your desk, bedside table or fireplace as a reminder to pray. Alternatively, you could place each stone in a different room of your home and pray for each person as you enter or leave the room.



Post-it notes

Use five post-it notes and write one name onto each. Stick them onto your mirror, above your bed or somewhere that you'll see them regularly and will be reminded to pray.



Using the BLESS acrostic can help us to focus on all of the felt needs of those we are praying for:

- Body – health, protection, energy
- Labour – employment/unemployment, retirement, adequate income
- Emotional – inner peace, joy, wisdom, insight, patience
- Social – healthy relationships between spouses, parents, children, friends, reconciliation; love
- Spiritual – repentance, salvation, obedience, faith

PRAYERS THAT MAY HELP

*Loving Father,
in the face of Jesus Christ
your light and glory have blazed forth.
Send your Holy Spirit that I may share with my friends [here,
name your friends]
the life of your Son and your love for all.
Strengthen me as a witness to that love
as I pledge to pray for them,
for your name's sake. Amen.*

*Loving Lord,
Please work in me so I can share your love, life and message
with...
Reveal your love to them, that they might know, follow and
witness to you, for Your glory. Amen.*

*Loving Father,
Send your Holy Spirit so I can share your love, life and message
with...
Reveal Jesus to them, that they might know, follow and love him,
for Your glory. Amen.*

*You build your church through the power of your Spirit.
By the same Spirit enable me to witness to... your love, beauty
and grace, that they may come to the fellowship of the faithful
for Your glory. Amen.*

*Lord, I pray that you will lead... to you.
Thank you that you love them. I pray that you would break into
their life and show them your love, grace and peace,
for Your glory. Amen.*