

Favourite Words About Prayer

Liz Burge

from 'A Conversation with God' by Christopher Herbert

But what about the right technique? O Lord, teach me to pray.

“Do you suppose, my precious child, that I am interested in techniques? Techniques can get in the way. You spend so much time and energy wondering whether your posture is right, or whether you are breathing correctly that you forget what prayer is for. I am not interested in whether or not you master techniques. Prayer is greater than that.”

Do not worry about concentration. Why do you suppose I made you a dreamer? Human beings have some strange ideas. They seem to think that dreaming is some subtle subterfuge – designed (they never ask ‘by whom’) to lead them astray. Then they concentrate like mad with furrowed brows. I love them for their ‘work’: but I am not found in that way ... at least, not by many. Honestly, praying is not a fitness exercise; a way of developing your spiritual muscles.”

“As for your knees and your indigestion: ‘tempus fugit’. I know it is painful and a nuisance and if the pain keeps breaking through, accept it. That too can be a form of prayer.”

“The thing is this: I want you to pray. I will repeat that: I want you to pray. Not techniques, not beautifully constructed cadences – you can enjoy those later; I just want you to pray. And prayer is very simple: talk to me. That’s all. Just talk to me; like you would to a father or a mother. For that is who I am. I shall listen to you. Really listen. I shall hear the words, the spaces between the words, and those sorrows and joys that are beyond words. The sighs from your soul. I shall hear those ...”

Weekly Prayer Themes

26 th Sep – 1 st Oct	People with no religious faith
3 rd – 8 th October	People oppressed by unjust regimes
10 th – 15 th October	People affected by climate change
17 th – 22 nd October	Peace across the whole of our world
24 th – 29 th October	An end to unfair trade restrictions
31 st Oct – 5 th Nov	Those who work to relieve poverty

The Beacon Benefice

Prayer Diary

October 2016

October arrives at last – and with it, our teaching weekend on prayer! We look forward to welcoming John Pritchard, the recently retired Bishop of Oxford.

John will cover three topics on Saturday 22nd, A quick trip back to the start, Prayer for the young and young at heart and Prayer less travelled. Each session will be followed by questions and a chance to talk in small groups. There will also be prayer stations in Church for you just to drop in and share at any point in the day.

You can come all day or just for part if you wish. Please sign up on one of the lists in our Churches. And do join us for our Benefice Service on the Sunday when John will be preaching for us.

Rev Mike

Beacon Prayer

Please join me, if you can, as we pray our way around the Churches of our benefice.

7th Oct Cranham
14th Oct Sheepscombe
21st Oct Painswick
28th Oct Pitchcombe

4th Nov Edge
11th Nov *Remembrance so
no Beacon Prayer*
18th Nov Cranham
25th Nov Sheepscombe

Reminder

Teaching Weekend on Prayer
22nd and 23rd October
Saturday in the Church
Rooms, Painswick from 10am
Church open all day

Sunday – Benefice Service
St Mary’s, Painswick, 10am

Please sign up in Church

Date	Reading	Church	Community	People who live in ...
1	Acts 28.17–end	Harvest Festival services	County Councillors	George Court PA
3	Philippians 1.1–11	Diocesan Synod reps	Cranham Primary School	Gilberts Lane BR
4	Philippians 1.12–end	Eucharistic ministers	Cranham Village	Gloucester Road PA
5	Philippians 2.1–13	Fiona Gill	Cranham Village Hall	Gloucester Street PA
6	Philippians 2.14–end	Flower arrangers	Croft Primary School	Golf Course Road PA
7	Philippians 3.1–4.1	Homegroups	District Councillors	Greenhouse Lane SH/PA
8	Philippians 4.2–end	Christian Aid Week on Climate Change	Edge Village	Grunters Lane ED/HA
10	1 Timothy 1.1–17	Hospital visitors	Edge Village Hall	Gyde Road PA
11	1 Timothy 1.18–2.end	Intercessors	Harescombe Village	Hale Lane PA
12	1 Timothy 3	Lesson readers	Harescombe Village Hall	Halfway Pitch PI
13	1 Timothy 4	Messy Church starting up again	Local bus services	Hambutts Drive PA
14	1 Timothy 5.1–16	OnFire! starting up again	Local clubs and societies	Hambutts Mead PA
15	1 Timothy 5.17–end	Lydia Savage	All who work in healthcare	Harescombe Village
17	1 Timothy 6.1–10	The Week of Prayer for World Peace	Local fairs/events	Haresfield Lane HA
18	Luke 1.1-4	Marah	Local farms/smallholdings	Hill Mead BR
19	2 Timothy 1.1–14	Mike Campbell	Local garages/workshops	Holcombe Road ED/PA
20	2 Timothy 1.15–2.13	Mike Holloway	Local Hotels and B&Bs	Hollyhock Lane PA
21	2 Timothy 2.14–end	Our Weekend of Prayer	Local offices	Horsepools Hill ED
22	2 Timothy 3	Mission team members	Local playgroups/preschools	Hyett Close PA
24	2 Timothy 4.1–8	Office volunteers	Local pubs	Hyett Orchard PA
25	2 Timothy 4.9–end	Open the Book	Local restaurants and cafes	Jacks Green SH
26	Titus 1	Organists	Local secondary schools	Jenkins Lane ED
27	Titus 2	Painswick Church Rooms	Local shops	Kemps Lane PA
28	Titus 3	Painswick Roman Catholic Church	Local sports facilities	Kings Mill Lane PA
29	Philemon	Painswick Society of Friends	Neil Carmichael MP	Kingsmead PA
31	Daniel 1	Pastoral visitors/Links	Painswick Centre	Knapp Lane PA