

You can explore the LyCiG prayer and Luke's exciting account of life in the early church that is recorded for us in Acts 2.38-47 in Andrew Roberts' book 'Holy Habits'

IN SEPTEMBER OUR MORNING SERVICES ARE AT 10.30AM

September 23rd HC+ Growing in service...
Acts 2.38-47 & Luke 10.25-37

September 30th MP Growing in Spirit...
Acts 2.38-47 & Matthew 25.14-30

FROM OCTOBER OUR MORNING SERVICES WILL BE MOVING TO 10.00AM

October 14th HC Growing in Numbers...
Acts 2.38-47 & Mark 4.1-20

October 28th HC+ From a Vision... to a Plan...
Acts 2.38-47 & Matthew 13.31-33

November 4th AP Wisdom in action...
Acts 2.38-47 & Luke 6.46-49

November 25th HC+ God of Mission.
Acts 2.38-47 & Luke 15.1-7

**December 2nd AP Advent Sunday
Powerful witness...**
Acts 2.38-47 & Luke 8.16-18

AP - All Age Parade
HC - Holy Communion
MP - Morning Praise

Refreshing your prayer: some resources to help. You might find some ideas amongst these online resources:

contemplativefire.org
pray-as-you-go.org
prayingincolor.com
christianaid.org.uk/churches/prayer

On the Church Bookshelf you will find three small books that you might like to read and use: *Pocket Prayers for Troubled Times* compiled by John Pritchard is available to borrow and there are several copies. The other two are free to take away:

***Try Praying (can be read online if you prefer at trypraying.co.uk) AND Why Pray* by J. John**

Read and reflect on Luke 11:1-13 – if possible use a version of the bible that you don't usually use. Find it at: www.biblegateway.com/passage/

If you are part of a home group or meet with church members in other situations, have a conversation about the ways of prayer that you find most helpful. See what you can learn from the ways in which other people pray.

Find a book of prayers from around the world and let the prayers of different cultures and countries inform and enrich your prayer life

If you would like to share your suggestions for how together we can grow in spirit through prayer at Holy Redeemer, please let us know.

Tony Hand, Rachel Hand, Marion Hoyland and Becky Philpott our LyCiG ambassadors.

Study prepared by Marion Hoyland using material from the Holy Habits study guide. All quotations taken from Holy Habits unless otherwise stated. September 2018

Leading our Church into Growth Autumn 2018 September - November



**Week 2
Growing in spirit**

God of Mission

*Who alone brings growth
to your Church,*

Send your Holy Spirit to give

Vision to our planning,

Wisdom to our actions,

And power to our witness.

*Help our church to
grow in numbers,*

In spiritual commitment to you,

And in service to

our local community,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



**Church of the
Holy Redeemer**

'A Place to Connect'

Finding, exploring, sharing and celebrating together God's love as seen in Jesus Christ.

Acts 2.38-47 (NRSV) ³⁸ Peter said..., “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” ³⁹

For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” ⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. ⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

POINTS TO PONDER: ‘Prayer is being present to the presence of God.’ *John Pritchard, formerly Bishop of Oxford* **‘Prayer is nothing else than being on terms of friendship with God.’** *Saint Teresa of Avila* **‘Prayer in all its fullness and richness re-orientates and establishes us in right relationships with God, those we love and the world God cares for. It is a holy and transformative habit and way of being. It is also an antidote to the selfishness that is sin.’** Andrew Roberts, *Holy Habits* p.154

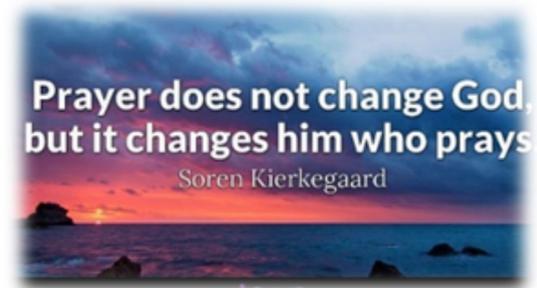
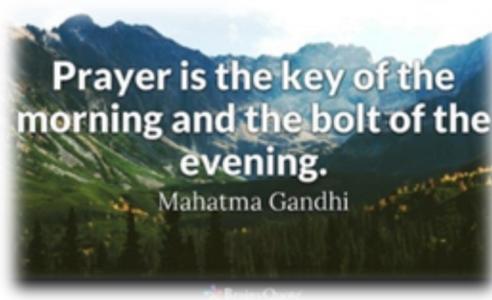


Who we are is how we pray. ‘Diversity is a good thing. God has coloured it into creation and blessed humanity with a range of personality types.’ p. 154

‘Prayer is the spiritual air we breathe. We breathe in the grace, blessings, peace, courage, holiness of God and breathe out our adoration, praise, thanksgiving, confession and intercession.’ p.152

‘Prayer, like discipleship, is an adventure. Sometimes, as we pray, the Spirit surprises us.’ p. 157

‘Prayer is one of the major themes of both Luke’s Gospel and Acts.... one of the hallmarks of the first Christian communities. In the immediate aftermath of the Pentecost events the focus is on spontaneous, unstructured prayer..... passionate, energetic and noisy..... Sometimes, often, usually, it is much more routine. By the time we get to Acts 2:42 Luke slips in the little phrase *the prayers*. (This phrase) implies the use of certain specific, regularly used prayers.’ p. 152/3



Which of the Points to Ponder means most to you and why?

There may be some that you find difficult or disagree with: perhaps you can share with others your thoughts and feelings about them.

‘Prayer..... is an adventure. Sometimes as we pray the Spirit surprises us’ In what ways might prayer be an adventure? How adventurous are you in life generally and does that have an effect on your prayer?

Can you think of times when the Spirit has surprised you as you’ve prayed?

What opportunities for prayer are there in the life of Holy Redeemer? Are there others you would like to see? If you still have your copy of Connect magazine from June this might help!

‘Of all the holy habits, prayer is the one most at risk of becoming dry and difficult.’ p.158 What experience have you had of the truth of this?

What aids to refreshing your prayer have you found?

How can we, at Holy Redeemer, encourage one another in persevering in prayer?