



St Mary the Virgin, Rickmansworth
The Church of England and The Methodist Church in Partnership



Some guidance for those leading Intercessions

Some general points

- Leading Intercessions is a particular Calling
 - *don't think you can do it falling off a log - be diligent in preparation*
- You are interceding on behalf of everyone
 - *this is not the place to grind personal axes or have a dig at the Vicar/UCC etc.*
- God already knows what is going on
 - *you do not need to tell him every details just in case he doesn't!*
- Intercessions are not sermons
 - *Intercessions longer than 5 minutes are too long*
- Less is often more
 - *allow space, allow silence, allow people to pray their own prayers too*
- Make use of resources that are available
 - *you don't have to re-invent the wheel, and you may be inspired by others*
- Speak slowly and clearly
 - *even more slowly and clearly than you think you need to is bound to be good!*
- Test out the microphone before the service
 - *yes, really!*
- Check the Rota and write your date in your diary or on your calendar!
 - *even if you think you have checked, check again!*
- If you need a break - speak to Deborah
 - *we all need a break sometimes to enable us to return refreshed*

Some specifics

- If you are using a different response from the ones given in the Service Booklet, then you need to introduce it in the following manner:
To the bidding: Please respond:
Then repeat the bidding and the response as they will be led in the prayers
- If you are planning to use your own framework and shape, be clear and be concise
- Consider using a theme from the readings for the day
- Consider phoning the preacher to see if there is a theme that may follow on naturally from the Sermon



What should be included?

Intercessions each week should normally include the following themes:
The Church, The World, The Local Community, the sick, the departed.

Within each section the following should be included - things in bold should be included every week:

The Church

Leaders: Anglican: **Diocesan Bishop** (The Rt. Rev'd Alan Smith)
Suffragan Bishop(s) (The Rt. Rev'd Chris Foster)
Archdeacon (The Venerable Jonathan Smith)
Rural Dean (The Reverend Gavin Collins)
Methodist: **President of Conference** (The Rev'd David Gamble)
District Chair (The Rev'd Anne Brown)
Circuit Superintendent (The Rev'd Margaret Millar)

Local Church leaders: **Priest in Charge:** The Reverend Deborah Snowball
Methodist Deacon: Deacon Phil Osborne
Reader: Mr Michael Baker

International : **Anglican Diocese:** Check the Prayer Sheet in the folder
Methodist Connexion: Check *Each Returning Day* book

Deanery: Check pew leaflet
Circuit: Check pew leaflet

Churchwardens and Methodist Stewards
Deanery Synod Representatives
Members of United Church Council

The World

National or International situations (personal manifestoes should be avoided)
The Queen and members of the Royal Family
Members of Parliament
Members of local Council
Natural or manmade disaster
Events in the news (be brief, not everything has to be included every time)

The Local Community

People in our Church: See pew leaflet
Our School: See pew leaflet for the week's focus
Charity for the week: See pew leaflet for which one
Roads in our town: See pew leaflet
Particular local events: e.g. Ricky Week

The Sick

Named people: See pew leaflet
Check with Deborah for any late additions
Particular needs: Situations that may be in the news

The Departed

Named people: See pew sheet
Check with Deborah for any late additions



Other Resources

- For Intercessions relating to the Collect and Readings for the Liturgical Year, various books are available in the Intercessions folder
- For prayers relating to major events: www.cofe.anglican.org
www.methodist.org.uk