

THE “HOW TO....” SEMINARS

Our premise: “to grow the community of faith in confidence and trust.”

1. Where are the intercessions located?

The intercessions are part of the liturgy of the word, they come at the end of this ‘listening to God’ section of the Eucharist and bridge the gap leading to the peace of God and the eucharistic prayer.

2. What is the purpose of the intercessions?

To act as a meditative period of corporate responsiveness to God, naming our shared hopes, fears, thanksgivings and petitions. To lead the congregation in prayer for other people and for situations in the community and in the world; to pray for God’s Kingdom to come.

3. Do intercessions have a structure?

Yes, most notably this type of order:

THE CHURCH (the people of God) – including the deanery, archdeaconry and diocese of Oxford, the Anglican Communion and the different denominations which make up the Body of Christ on earth.

THE WORLD - the emphasis is that we pray for *everyone*, everywhere. We do not pray for nations, but for leaders of the nations, and the people of those nations.

THE LOCAL COMMUNITY - we have a particular responsibility for our city and parish.

INDIVIDUALS – both the sick (in body, mind and spirit – see the list for the sick with updated names) and the community of saints (both the recently departed and those whose anniversary of death occurs at this time).

4. Planning prayers

Common Worship framework can be very helpful). Forms can be found in Common Worship: (page 281-289) *or* on the common worship website

<http://www.cofe.anglican.org/worship/liturgy/commonworship/texts/hc/intercessions.html>

<http://www.cofe.anglican.org/worship/liturgy/commonworship/texts/daily/prayers/prayers.html>

<http://www.cofe.anglican.org/worship/liturgy/commonworship/texts/newpatterns/texts/sectionf.html>

5. The ‘mechanics’

- You will receive the rota every quarter. Please be sympathetic to any changes that might need to be made. If you are not available, arrange a swap and tell your team leader.
- Prepare the intercessions. Pray them yourself before the service. ☑ Time yourself in advance, reading at ‘prayer speed’. Intercessions should not be longer than 4 minutes. ☑
- Arrive in church at least 10 minutes before service begins. Make sure the warden on duty knows you are there.
- Ask for feedback from your friends ... and your enemies!

Note: Please feel free to talk to Gavin if you have any thoughts, concerns, about prayer in church whether it is about personal or corporate prayer. Prayer is the rain which keeps our mission fertile and fruitful.