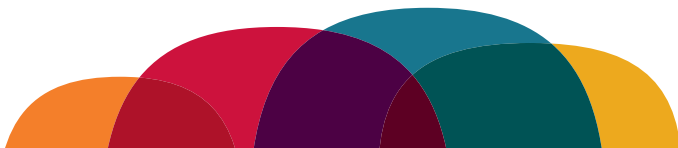




Fruitful churches & flourishing communities



A Pocket Prayer Companion
from the Church Urban Fund



A prayer for Presence

Give thanks for the abiding presence of the Church at the heart of the communities we serve, its people and its buildings which provide a safe space for all people.

“When people see and experience the good work of the church in the community, this also opens up opportunities for engaging with people’s questions and needs.”

Pray for the continued growth of church mission, that it may become more outward-looking and inclusive.

Ever-present God, strengthen your church to serve You. Give us the grace to meet human need through loving service, and to help build communities of hope and resilience.

Amen.

A prayer for Perseverance

In the face of so many short-term responses to human need, give thanks for churches who are in it for the long-term.

Pray for church leaders and congregations in areas where the pandemic has hit hardest, as they face daily challenges to support those in need.

"We are really struggling to cover the cost of the day-to-day running costs of keeping our buildings viable. We would like more freedom to respond to the needs within the wider community, enabling us to show Christ's love to all and encourage those who have questions around faith and what it means to be a follower of Jesus."

Oh God who never lets us go, renew all those who are working tirelessly to support your children.

Amen.

A prayer for Hospitality

Give thanks for the role of the church in welcoming all members of the community and helping them to feel cared for and loved.

Pray for the re-opening of Places of Welcome, coffee mornings and other activities that help reach out to people on the fringes.

"To combat the rising issue of loneliness and isolation, clergy are keen to set up or re-open Places of Welcome and coffee mornings as soon as possible, with a focus on older people and people who live alone."

Open-armed God, you host us at your table and bid us welcome others in turn. Open our hands, our eyes and our hearts to the strangers in our midst.

Amen.

A prayer for **Adaptability**

Give thanks for the creative and imaginative ways churches are contributing to the wellbeing of their communities.

Pray for clergy, laity and volunteers as they continue to facilitate fun, joy and celebration through Covid-safe worship and community events.

"A gardening project... has enabled the isolated and those struggling in lockdown to garden in the church yard."

Lord of the Dance, thank you for your gifts of creativity and imagination; renew your Church as it improvises with your Spirit day by day to serve the world.

Amen.

A prayer for Participation

Gives thanks for the church volunteers who started new projects during lockdown, including Pop-up Pantries and Community Fridges.

"We began serving hot meals every day, about 50 a day, delivered hot to local people and to the maternity ward staff at the local hospital."

Pray that God provides all volunteers with the strength to do the work that He has called them to do. Also that they feel valued in their work and a sense of accomplishment from using their unique skills to make a difference.

Missionary God, always inviting us to join in with what You are doing, open the doors of your Church that the contribution of all may be welcomed and valued.

Amen.

A prayer for **Generosity**

Lord, we bring before you all that we have been through during the pandemic. Seeing loved ones fall ill, lose their jobs, become isolated and worried about the future.

Help us to remember that we are one community. Help us to share what you have given us, so that all people in need remember they are loved.

Oh God of grace and gift, open our hearts to those in need and make us generous with whatever we can give to others.

Amen.



“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16

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The quotes throughout this companion were provided by Church leaders, as published in the Church In Action Report 2020/21.