



## Diocesan Day of Prayer and Pilgrimage

### Shared Hour of Prayer - Suggestions for Prayer Stations

Our Day of Prayer and Pilgrimage is an opportunity for us to pause and listen to what God might be saying to our communities about renewing ourselves for mission.

In addition to the resources suggesting ways of engaging in pilgrimage, these suggestions are to give you some ideas for focusing prayer and purpose in your local church and community. You might like to have the prayer stations created for the week before and after our Day of Prayer.

All these documents are in Word format for you to adapt as appropriate for your community.

**[1] – Love your neighbour as yourself....** Mark 12:30-31, Who is my neighbour? Luke 10:25-37

Materials needed and suggestions for engagement:

- Local Map
- Table or notice board on which to display the map
- Post-it notes or photocopied flags – see below
- Pins or blutac
- Text for a leaflet or make some large notices inviting people to pray - see below

Please feel free to use the handout as it is or adapt this material for your community

- Children may like to do make a pilgrimage around their town by walking their fingers along the streets and stopping to pray on the way.... Who do they want to pray for in their community today?
- Photocopying maps is not usually permitted by copyright regulations – do you have a member of your community who could sketch a local map for you so that you could give copies to the housebound, to a prison chaplain or to those who will be away from home – so that they can join in praying for your community?



Have a look at your neighbourhood on a map...What can you see? Look for:

- \* places of worship
- \* schools
- \* hospitals
- \* shops
- \* farms
- \* businesses
- \* care homes
- \* where the homeless seek shelter
- \* the ongoing network of utilities and services such as water, gas, transport, post, electricity, refuse collection etc...
- \* emergency services
- \* green spaces
- \* areas needing support
- \* charity centres
- \* all the streets
- \* areas for sport

What else is there? Entertainment venues?

So many people live and work in your community. People of different ages, backgrounds, beliefs and abilities. Each person is your neighbour.

Jesus has a conversation about neighbours with a lawyer in Luke's Gospel 10 : 25 - 37  
*Prayerfully read this conversation now...*

As well as through action we can love our neighbours through prayer. **Today, you are invited to pray for one group of neighbours in your community... who will you pray for today?**

Consider all the people who belong to the community group you have chosen today...

- \* their different roles
- \* their different skills
- \* their different needs
- \* all those who encourage or support them
- \* do you know any of them by name?

*Quietly pray for your neighbours.*

You might like to

- \* think of any ways you could support this group of neighbours - on your own or with others...
- \* commit to regularly praying for this group of neighbours

*After a few moments you might like to pray this prayer...*

**Loving God,  
You show us how to listen  
and empower us to love.  
May we take risks, finding your grace  
in unexpected places,  
as we follow in the ways of your Son.  
Amen**

*Collect a flag card or post-it note....*

write the name of the group you prayed for and today's date. Is there anything else you would like to write on the back of the card?

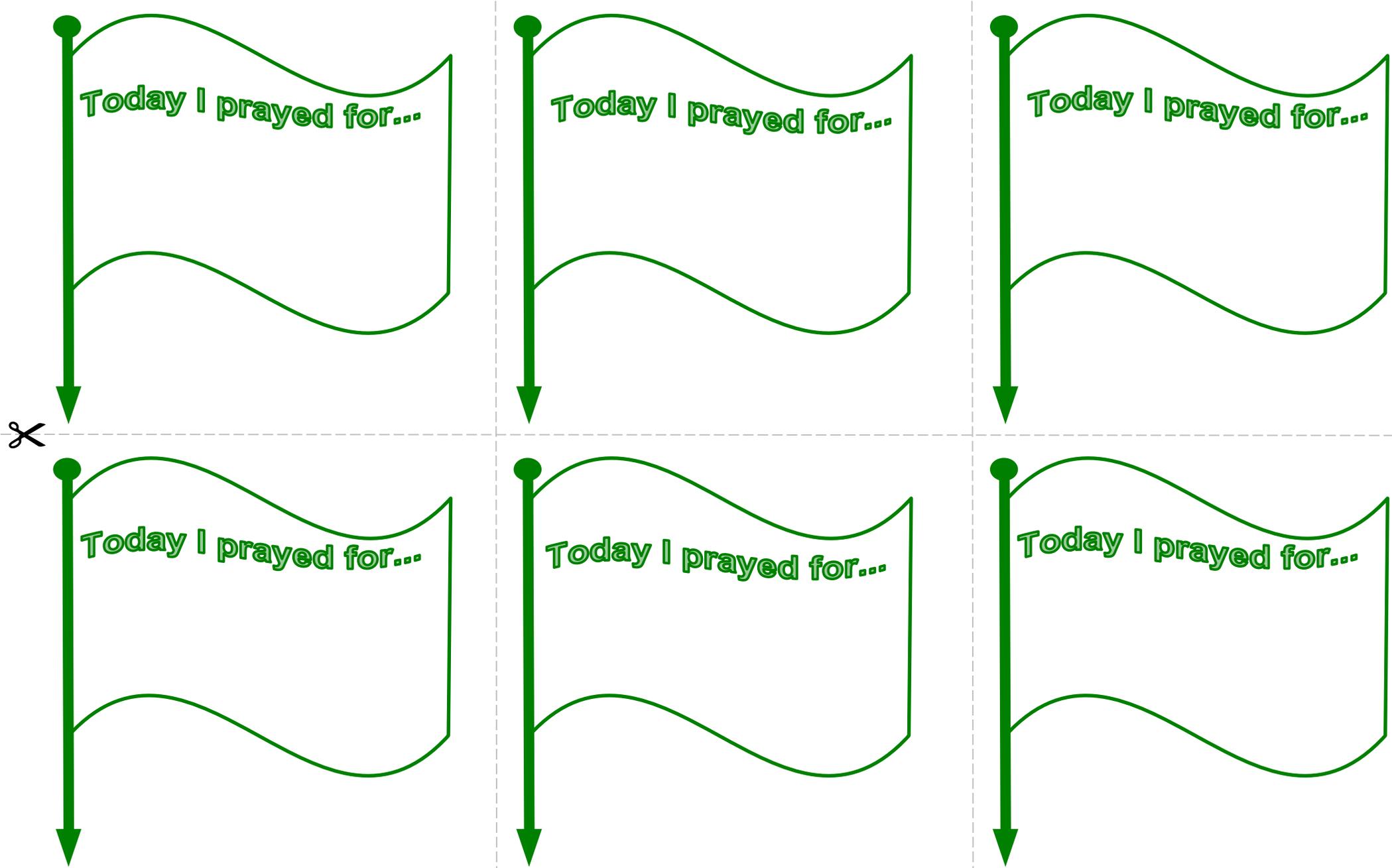
Place your flag card around the outside of the map

*Which group of neighbours will you pray for next time?*

Give praise and glory to God for this time spent in prayer...

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit as it was in  
the beginning is now and shall be  
forever. Amen**





Today I prayed for...

## [2] To love and serve the Lord... Luke 4:18

Which local, national or international mission projects or partnerships is your church committed to?

Create a prayer station displaying and highlighting the needs and work of the project(s) or organisation(s)

Encourage people to spend some time in prayer

- inviting the Holy Spirit to refresh and sustain your initiatives
- connecting to the needs of those you serve,
- praying with and for those who support them and
- listening for God's direction for the future



**[3] In everything to give thanks...** Colossians 1.11,12

What is the inheritance your church has been blessed by?

Create a prayer station that gives people an opportunity to reflect not just on the accomplishments of those who built the church or were benefactors, but those who were faithful over many years. We may only know bits of history or anecdote. Can we imagine our predecessors past concerns and how they were called by God and were faithful to his call? How was this faithfulness expressed?

What kind of collage can your community create?

Who is the saint associated with the church and what marks of holiness or passion inspire you?

Who are the local people whose generosity or kindness has blessed the church or local community?

What objects of beauty have nourished and sustained you or others and why?

**Activity-** Find some image of history or the current church and place it at the station.

Provide an A6 piece of card with the outline of the church or a card with an image or text about your local saint and the question 'Let us give thanks for...',

or a card with the words 'When I give thanks for this church community, I thank God for...'

