



# Thy Kingdom Come 2026

14<sup>th</sup> May - 24<sup>th</sup> May

Thy Kingdom Come is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus to pray between Ascension Day (14<sup>th</sup> May) and Pentecost (24<sup>th</sup> May) - but let's not stop there...

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Charity No. 1128699

**Thy Kingdom Come is all about praying for people to come to know the amazing, life-transforming love of Jesus. We encourage everyone to choose FIVE people you know and pray for them throughout the 11 days and beyond!**

**Set aside some time each day to pray for:**

- ❖ FIVE family and friends.
- ❖ Our local community.
- ❖ Our nation.
- ❖ The themes suggested by the Lord's Prayer.

**Use the space opposite as a prayer journal to sketch or scribble your thoughts, prayers and any answers to your prayers as together we pray 'Thy Kingdom Come'.**

**You can pray anywhere you like, but you could try:**

- **At home:** You may have a preferred time and location to pray at home.
- **At church:** The church is open most days.
- **In the local area:** Ask two or three others who live close to you to pray together for your local community.
- **Walking around the local area:** consider walking around your area, lifting to God the places, people and things that you see, as you walk.

## **Thy Kingdom Come events**

- ❖ **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May 10.30am & 6.30pm services:** Our services will include a particular focus praying for God's Kingdom to come and to bless Woodbridge.
- ❖ **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> 1pm - 3pm and Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 10.00am - 12noon: Prayer on the Thoroughfare.** If interested in praying on the street please contact Julie Wilman or Karen Lawson.
- ❖ **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 10.30am:** At our midweek Holy Communion.
- ❖ **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30am: Pentecost Celebration**  
Come Holy Spirit: One body, many flames

# Prayer Journal

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, occupying most of the page below the title. It is intended for the user to write their prayer journal entries.

# Pledge to pray for FIVE friends

**Praying for others to know Jesus is one of the most powerful things we can do. Persistent prayer for others brings transformation to their lives.**

Pick up a Prayer Card from the church. Choose five people you would regularly like to pray for and write their names down onto your card. If you are not sure who to pray for, ask God to guide you as you choose.

Commit to praying for them regularly, perhaps every morning, midday or evening, by praying the following:

**Loving Father, in the face of Jesus Christ your light and glory have blazed forth. Send your Holy Spirit that I may share with my friends [here, name your friends] the life of your Son and your love for all. Strengthen me as a witness to that love as I pledge to pray for them, for your name's sake. Amen.**

**Here are a few easy ways to pray for five people regularly. Choose what suits you best.**

## ❖ PRAYER ALERTS

Add your list of five people to the alerts section of your phone and set reminders to pray for them. You could choose one name per day, or pray for all five across your day. Remember to set alerts for a suitable time where you can stop to pray for your list.

## ❖ POST-IT NOTES

Use five post-it notes and write one name onto each. Stick them onto your mirror, above your bed or somewhere that you'll see them regularly and will be reminded to pray for them

## ❖ Using the BLESS acrostic can help us to focus on all the felt needs of those we are praying for:

- ❖ Body - health, protection, energy
- ❖ Labour - employment, unemployment, retirement, adequate income
- ❖ Emotional - inner peace, joy, wisdom, insight, patience
- ❖ Social - healthy relationships between spouses, parents, children, friends, reconciliation; love
- ❖ Spiritual - repentance, salvation, obedience, faith

## ❖ Pray for yourself for opportunities to serve and share the Good News of Jesus Christ with them personally or by inviting them to a service or event.

# Pray for WOODBRIDGE and our local area

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal his heart for the people in your area to you; to give you his compassion; and to bring to mind anything specific for you to pray about.

## *Some ideas to help you pray for our local area*

- ❖ Those who live in and come into your home, for those who aren't Christians to come to know God and for those who are (including yourself) to be salt and light in the community (Matthew 5:13).
- ❖ Your neighbours and immediate surroundings.
- ❖ St John's and all the churches in Woodbridge and our local area.
- ❖ Our local neighbourhood, including schools, libraries, doctors' surgeries, shops, sports facilities, and recreation.
- ❖ Any particular areas of need, disadvantage, or opposition to the gospel. Also for the Food Bank and CAP Debt ministries.
- ❖ Christians in particularly caring, roles in our community (health professionals, and clergy).
- ❖ Local businesses to thrive, and the people who work for them - particularly Christian ones.
- ❖ All who work in positions of influence - in government, our recently elected local councillors, the Council, MP or standing up for people's rights.
- ❖ Elderly people.
- ❖ Young people (both now and in the future).
- ❖ For the many who live in the area who do not, or have never, had a Christian faith or been to church.
- ❖ Young families.
- ❖ Single people who feel isolated.
- ❖ Those who are particularly in need of knowing God's love and saving grace because of depression, desperate circumstances financially or relationally, addiction, loneliness or rejection.
- ❖ Reflect on how Woodbridge and society are changing (think about people, jobs, buildings, social media, etc.) and how our local area is going to change over the next 5-10 years. Pray about how St John's should be responding to these changes and taking Jesus out into the community.
- ❖ Use a map of the area to pray over specific sites and areas
- ❖ Use a local paper or website to pray for key issues that matter to local people, or that deal with issues of justice, or faith.

# Prayer for OUR NATION

All you need: *a national newspaper, a map or drawing of our nation*

## ***WHAT IS OUR NATION LIKE? (15 mins)***

In every country there are things to thank God for and things to ask for His help with. Look through a recent newspaper or the BBC News website and thank God for the good things you read. Ask for His help with the bad.



## ***PRAYING THROUGH THE NEWSPAPER (10 mins)***

Now look through the articles in the newspaper or website you've been using. Choose two things happening in or affecting our nation today. Ask Jesus to move and for His Kingdom to come and His will to be done.

## ***PRAYING FOR OUR NATION (15 mins)***

Think about the role that government plays in our lives today. Lay the map of our nation on the floor and point out the place where our government meets. Pray that Jesus' Kingdom would be the foundation of law and leadership in our nation. Pray for God's leading on our nation over the coming years.

Look around you at the different parts of our country. Ask the Holy Spirit to move in our nation and speak out His fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Ask God to give national leaders wisdom.

## ***PRAY FOR A FRIEND OR ENEMY (10 mins)***

Every nation has allies and enemies. Jesus teaches us to love our neighbour (Matthew 22:38) and to love our enemies (Matthew 5:44). This can be difficult when war or oppression is at the root of dislike.

Choose a nation that is closely allied to our own, and then choose a nation that is historically or currently an adversary. Pray for God's kingdom and blessing to come in both.

## ***THE LORD'S PRAYER: (10 mins)***

Before you leave pray the Lord's Prayer over our nation. Take some time on each line, thinking particularly about our nation and its needs. Finish by praising God.

# Praying the LORD'S PRAYER

*All you need is: a Bible, some paper, a pen, a bin or paper shredder.*  
Ask God to help you pray and read the Lord's Prayer in Matt. 6:9-15.

## **APPROACH** (15 mins)

**Matthew 6:9:** *Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.*

- ❖ Think of all the names for God you've heard. For inspiration read: Genesis 21:33, Exodus 3:14, Judges 6:24, Deuteronomy 7:9, Deuteronomy 10:17, Isaiah 5:16, Psalm 136:26, Isaiah 7:14 & John 8:58. Which name do you most use when speaking to God?
- ❖ 'What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us' (A.W. Tozer). How often do you use the name 'Father'?

**Matthew 7:9-11:** *Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!*

- ❖ How does your identity as God's child affect the way you approach Him now?

## **ASK** (15 mins)

**Matthew 6:10-11:** *Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.*

- ❖ Write your name in the centre of a sheet of paper.
- ❖ Surround it with the people, situations and places that you want God to move in. Include anything that has been worrying you.
- ❖ Ask God to teach you to pray in His will for His kingdom in each of these situations.
- ❖ Make a paper aeroplane out of what you've written and as you throw it across the room thank God that He has your whole life and all your requests in His hands.

## **REFLECT (15 mins)**

**Matthew 6:12:** *Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

- ❖ Think back through your last 24 hours, the things you've done, the people you've met...
- ❖ Ask the Holy Spirit to highlight things you've done wrong. Next ask the Holy Spirit to show you times you should have acted and did not. Write everything that has come to mind on a piece of paper.
- ❖ As you say sorry, tear up the sheet of paper and throw it into the bin or feed it through the shredder. Thank God for forgiving you.
- ❖ Is there someone you need to forgive today? Ask God to show you who.

## **PRAISE (15 mins)**

**Revelation 1:5-6:** *To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

- ❖ Stand and speak the names of God aloud adding after each one why this is true in your life (i.e. I know you're my Provider because you provided for the debts I needed to pay).
- ❖ Write a song or poem that expresses your love to the Father. If you need to, find inspiration from the book of Psalms and modern day worship songs.

### **END BY PRAYING ST PATRICK'S PRAYER:**

*I arise today through the strength of heaven...*

*Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ when I arise. Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me. Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me. Christ in every eye that sees me. Christ in every ear that hears me.*