

Prayer Team Report to Joint Council – June 2026

Membership: Ali, Ian, Louise, Rev Philippa & Lynda (Gareth has stepped down from the team)

Last team meeting: Thursday 19th March

Next team meeting: Wednesday 10th June

1. Post-gatherings prayer ministry

The team are even more stretched now that there are only five of us but we feel that this is such an important ministry that we are still reluctant to give up during this vacancy time. Even if just one or two people come for prayer, for those people, being prayed for in whatever circumstances they find themselves or their loved ones can be such blessing.

2. Weekly Pewsheets Prayers & Monthly Magazine Prayer

The writing of these prayers continues to be shared around the team on a monthly basis. We were pleased and grateful to have another writer for the pewsheets prayers from outside the main team during May and would welcome anyone else who feels called to write them to get involved too.

3. Monthly 24 Hours of Prayer

With encouragement, we now have about 25 people involved every month, which is a wonderful thing considering the average numbers at our worship gatherings. We hope it indicates to any potential applicant the importance that we place on prayer as a benefice.

Our themes for the last couple of months were:

April Fri 17th – Sat 18th: Recognising Jesus in our daily lives

May Fri 15th – Sat 16th: Pentecost and the work of the Holy Spirit

June's theme is Spiritual Growth in Ordinary Time

Prayer resources continue to be produced, and emailed and uploaded to our website every month.

4. Leigh Prayer Room Prayer Stations

Since the Lent prayer stations were removed, we've taken a break from setting up new prayer stations. The Prayer Room remains as a place for personal quiet contemplation and prayer for those attending worship and visitors alike. It's also a wonderful space for prayer ministry.

5. Benefice Prayer Tree

The Benefice Prayer Tree was in Down Hatherley church for March and Sandhurst church for April. At the Palm Sunday gathering at DH on Sunday 29th March, Rev Philippa referred to it in her talk and the intercessions (with Louise). Engagement was good and several prayers were written and attached to the tree. It's now situated in Staverton church – the last place on its tour before it returns to Norton church.

6. Monthly Prayer Gathering

Although we feel some despondency that we don't seem able to get a small group together from the benefice just to pray together, even once a month, two or three still have a heart for this. We also hoped that it could provide a place for people to gather to pray during this vacancy time. Perhaps it was just "for a season". We plan to meet as usual in June and then review it again.

Praise point: continued commitment to the monthly 24 hours of prayer.

Prayer point: wisdom in how to maintain and grow benefice prayer life during the vacancy.

Lynda