



St Mary the Virgin, Rickmansworth  
The Church of England and The Methodist Church in Partnership



## Some guidance for those leading Intercessions

### Some general points

- Leading Intercessions is a particular Calling
  - *don't think you can do it falling off a log - be diligent in preparation*
- You are interceding on behalf of everyone
  - *this is not the place to grind personal axes or have a dig at the Vicar/UCC etc.*
- God already knows what is going on
  - *you do not need to tell him every details just in case he doesn't!*
- Intercessions are not sermons
  - *Intercessions longer than 5 minutes are too long*
- Less is often more
  - *allow space, allow silence, allow people to pray their own prayers too*
- Make use of resources that are available
  - *you don't have to re-invent the wheel, and you may be inspired by others*
- Speak slowly and clearly
  - *even more slowly and clearly than you think you need to is bound to be good!*
- Test out the microphone before the service
  - *yes, really!*
- Check the Rota and write your date in your diary or on your calendar!
  - *even if you think you have checked, check again!*
- If you need a break - speak to Deborah
  - *we all need a break sometimes to enable us to return refreshed*

## Some specifics

- If you are using a different response from the ones given in the Service Booklet, then you need to introduce it in the following manner:  
*To the bidding: ..... Please respond: .....*  
*Then repeat the bidding and the response as they will be led in the prayers*
- If you are planning to use your own framework and shape, be clear and be concise
- Consider using a theme from the readings for the day
- Consider phoning the preacher to see if there is a theme that may follow on naturally from the Sermon



## What should be included?

Intercessions each week should normally include the following themes:  
The Church, The World, The Local Community, the sick, the departed.

Within each section the following should be included - things in bold should be included every week:

### The Church

Leaders: Anglican: **Diocesan Bishop** (The Rt. Rev'd Alan Smith)  
**Suffragan Bishop(s)** (The Rt. Rev'd Chris Foster)  
Archdeacon (The Venerable Jonathan Smith)  
Rural Dean (The Reverend Gavin Collins)  
Methodist: **President of Conference** (The Rev'd David Gamble)  
**District Chair** (The Rev'd Anne Brown)  
Circuit Superintendent (The Rev'd Margaret Millar)

Local Church leaders: **Priest in Charge:** The Reverend Deborah Snowball  
**Methodist Deacon:** Deacon Phil Osborne  
**Reader:** Mr Michael Baker

International : **Anglican Diocese:** Check the Prayer Sheet in the folder  
**Methodist Connexion:** Check *Each Returning Day* book

**Deanery:** Check pew leaflet  
**Circuit:** Check pew leaflet

Churchwardens and Methodist Stewards  
Deanery Synod Representatives  
Members of United Church Council

### The World

National or International situations (personal manifestoes should be avoided)  
The Queen and members of the Royal Family  
Members of Parliament  
Members of local Council  
Natural or manmade disaster  
Events in the news (be brief, not everything has to be included every time)

### The Local Community

**People in our Church:** See pew leaflet  
**Our School:** See pew leaflet for the week's focus  
**Charity for the week:** See pew leaflet for which one  
**Roads in our town:** See pew leaflet  
Particular local events: e.g. Ricky Week

### The Sick

**Named people:** See pew leaflet  
Check with Deborah for any late additions  
**Particular needs:** Situations that may be in the news

### The Departed

**Named people:** See pew sheet  
Check with Deborah for any late additions



### **Other Resources**

- For Intercessions relating to the Collect and Readings for the Liturgical Year, various books are available in the Intercessions folder
- For prayers relating to major events: [www.cofe.anglican.org](http://www.cofe.anglican.org)  
[www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)