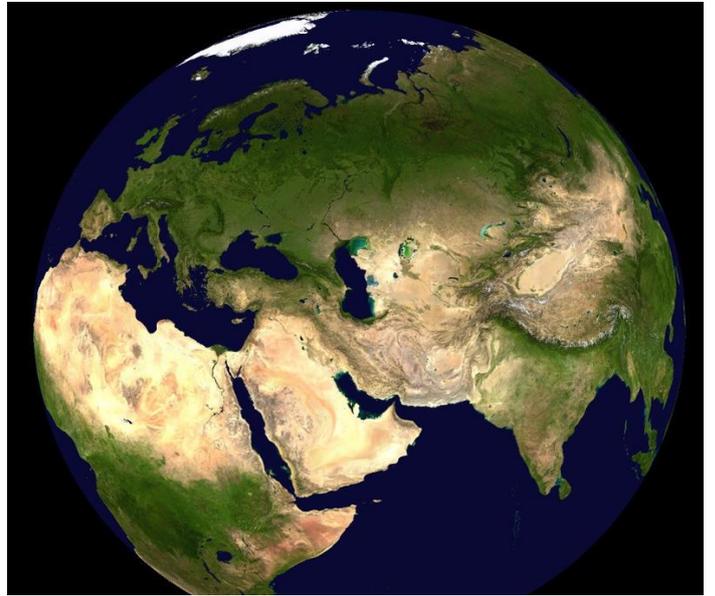


+ Leading Intercessory Prayers



Jesus said, "I will do anything you ask in my name so that the Father may be glorified in the Son."

John 14.13



All Saints' Church
Preston on Tees

This Church Exists To Worship GOD.
To Make Disciples. To Share The Good News.
And To Care For Those In Need

+ Leading Intercessory Prayers

The purpose of the intercession slot in our services is to pray for the world and the church.

The following “ten commandments” are designed to help you lead these prayers in a way that will honour God and inspire his people.

1. **Seek God.** When preparing your intercessions, ask God to place on your heart the things that are on his.
2. **Prepare well.** Take the time to find out what the theme of the service is and what the chosen readings are. By all means contact the service leader and preacher in the week prior to the service. Try to see if there are any ways the intercessions might amplify the theme of the day and make for a “joined up” service.
3. **Be real.** Just be yourself when you pray. God honours sincerity of heart so it doesn't need to be a great performance with elaborate vocabulary and highbrow theology.
4. **Declare truth.** Do encourage faith in God's people by clearly affirming God's greatness, his moral goodness, his promises, his mighty power and his awesome deeds.
5. **Look outwards.** Try not to focus exclusively on All Saints', and our own needs and projects. Think too about other forms of Christian witness and mission to the local area and the nation - and remember, there's a vast and needy world to pray for.
6. **Keep time.** There is a big world to pray for but on the other hand the intercessions cannot cover *everything*; as a rule of thumb, try to keep to about 5 minutes or so. If you're not used to speaking in public, practice at home and time yourself.
7. **Present requests.** You don't need to spend a long time glorifying and praising God or reading out long passages of Scripture. These are good and right things to do, but there are other times in the service specifically set apart for that. Your main job, as leader of the intercessory prayers, is to present requests to God for our needs and those of the world, and to facilitate the people's prayers.

+ Leading Intercessory Prayers

8. **Stay neutral.** Be careful not to show any political bias in your prayers. This is especially important when praying in the run up to election campaigns and when praying about sensitive subjects, like wars and international disputes. That's not to say we should avoid praying for these things, but do bear in mind that different members of the congregation may hold a different view to you. The goal is to pray as one body, not to highlight division.



9. **Don't preach.** Beware of turning the prayers into a second sermon. This can happen when there are a lot of descriptive clauses in the prayers. Some prayers can reveal more about the intercessor's theological interests than the actual needs to be prayed for.

10. **Ask first.** If you are going to pray for someone from church in any kind of need (e.g. pregnancy, illness, grief, accident, redundancy etc.) please make sure you ask their permission first. Some people prefer a discreet approach, sharing their needs to a small circle of friends, and do not want their need to be generally known.

Revised and updated by John Lambert, April 2015



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