



# Why Pray?

## Why Pray?

- because God wants to hear from us
- because we need God's power to live the life of the Spirit
- to develop a relationship with God
- to draw close to God, to share your joys and tears, thoughts, hopes
- to give thanks for his love and guidance
- to be still and to be aware of his presence
- in silence to worship God
- God calls us to pray
- Jesus prayed
- prayer is a partnership with God – he doesn't need us but likes us to work in cooperation with him
- prayer opens us to seeking for, responding to and knowing God's will
- because we have Jesus' own example of a prayer relationship with God his Father

## Does Prayer Work?

- God does hear you
- God does answer but not always in the way we expect or perhaps even want
- we are not making God bend to our will but letting ourselves be bent to his
- prayer is not a Christmas list of 'I want', once this is accepted true prayers will be prayed
- God's time-scale is different from ours: prayers may take a long time to be answered, there are other times when God answers a prayer before it has hardly been asked
- the Bible says, 'I have plans for you for good and not for evil'
- the Bible says, 'the prayer of a righteous person is effective'
- God loves us and provides what we need
- in response to prayer people are healed, problems overcome, miracles do happen

## How Does Prayer Work?

through faith and trust in God

### God answers prayer *for us*

- by giving help, Spirit to spirit  
(perhaps a still small voice)
- by sending people to help us
- by bringing good out of evil
- by giving wisdom
- by giving clarity and direction
- by giving comfort, strength and  
peace

### God answers prayer *through us*

- by giving a feeling of being  
prompted to go to someone

A sense of unexpectedness seems to be a hallmark of God's activity.

Generosity ('more than we can ask or think') often shows God's activity.

Lots of people pray, in different ways, at different times.

Prayer is something people do on their own and together with other people.

Perhaps you are a beginner or perhaps you are further on in discovering prayer and meeting God through prayer.

We hope you find help and encouragement in these thoughts and discoveries of people who belong to a praying community.

We hope and pray that you will find prayer to be a daily life-line.

## The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father in heaven*

*Hallowed be your name*

*Your kingdom come*

*Your will be done*

*On earth as in heaven*

*Give us this day our daily bread*

*Forgive us our sins*

*as we forgive those*

*who sin against us.*

*Lead us not into temptation*

*But deliver us from evil*

*For the kingdom, the power and  
the glory are yours, now and for ever .*

*Amen.*