

PRAYER RESOURCES

For those seeking to recruit a children and families or youth worker

THEN HE SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES,
“THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL BUT
THE WORKERS ARE FEW. ASK THE
LORD OF THE HARVEST,
THEREFORE, TO SEND OUT
WORKERS INTO HIS HARVEST
FIELD.”

MATTHEW 9:37-38

JESUS SAID, “LET THE LITTLE
CHILDREN COME TO ME, AND DO
NOT HINDER THEM, FOR THE
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
BELONGS TO SUCH AS THESE.”

MATTHEW 19:13-15

NOW TO HIM WHO IS ABLE TO DO
IMMEASURABLY MORE THAN ALL
WE ASK OR IMAGINE, ACCORDING
TO HIS POWER THAT IS AT WORK
WITHIN US, TO HIM BE GLORY IN
THE CHURCH AND IN CHRIST
JESUS THROUGHOUT ALL
GENERATIONS, FOR EVER AND
EVER! AMEN.

EPHESIANS 3:19-21

Prayer for recruitment of a children and families or youth worker

You can use this liturgy in your regular Sunday services, daily offices or as part of a dedicated prayer meeting.

Preparation

O God, make speed to save us.

All O Lord, make haste to help us.

Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens

All and your faithfulness to the clouds.

Psalm 36.5

The Word of God

Psalmody

Choose one of the following:

Psalm 8

Psalm 78

Psalm 103

Psalm 131

Psalm 148

Each psalm may end with

All **Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Short readings

Choose one of the following:

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

2 Chronicles 20:13-15

Matthew 18:10-14

Acts 2:38-39

Romans 8:14-17

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Response

Silence, study, song, or words from Scripture, such as

The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off

All for all whom the Lord our God will call.

cf Acts 2:39

Prayers

See the next section for some 'Topics for Prayer'

Collect

God of compassion,

whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,

shared the life of a home in Nazareth,

and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself:

strengthen us in our daily living

that in joy and in sorrow

we may know the power of your presence

to bind together and to heal;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer is said.

The Conclusion

May Christ dwell in our hearts by faith.

All Amen.

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Topics for Prayer

You can use these in services or daily offices or share via your newsletter or social media.

Day/week 1: Pray for discernment

- ❖ *Acknowledge afresh that Jesus is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.*
- ❖ *Ask God to give your church wisdom and a vision for the future.*

Day/week 2: Pray for the children and families in your parish

- ❖ *Thank God for the children, young people and families in your church and parish and the contact you have with them.*
- ❖ *Pray by name for five children or young people that you know personally.*
- ❖ *Ask God to give you an opportunity today to share your faith with one of these five.*

Day/week 3: Pray for relationships

- ❖ *Ask God to add new believers of all ages to your church.*
- ❖ *Pray for relationships between people of different generations to flourish.*
- ❖ *Pray for the opportunities to develop deeper and stronger relationships with children, young people and families in the wider community.*

Day/week 4: Pray for those involved in the recruitment process

- ❖ *Ask for wisdom and discernment for those involved in the recruitment process.*
- ❖ *Ask God to fill them anew with the Holy Spirit.*

Day/week 5: Pray for resourcing

- ❖ *Ask God to raise up the right person to fill this role.*
- ❖ *Ask God to help the church prepare to welcome, support and adapt.*
- ❖ *Ask God what you can offer, both now and in the future.*

Day/week 6: Pray for the future

- ❖ *Pray for God's will to be done.*
- ❖ *Pray for unity in your church.*
- ❖ *Thank and praise God for His grace shown in your life and your church.*

Prayers for children, young people and families

Loving God,

We bring to you the children, young people and families of our nation.

We pray for those who already know they are your children.

Please protect them, bless them and keep them firm in their faith.

We pray for those who would like to find out more about you.

Please provide ways for them to do that and help us all to play our part.

We pray for those who know little or nothing about Christian faith.

Please stir up curiosity in them to find out more

and in your mercy give them encounters with you that transform their lives.

We pray that the goal of doubling the number of children and active young disciples

across the Church of England by 2030 will be reached with joy.

Please give us courage, faith and hope as we continue to pray.

In the name of Jesus Christ,

Amen.

Loving God,

your Son told his disciples

to become like little children.

Lead us to work for the welfare

and protection of all young people.

May we respect their dignity

that they may flourish in life,

following the example of the same

Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Ideas for Prayer Stations

Prayer stations are an ideal way to encourage people of all ages to pray.

You could set these up in your church for people to access in their own time or use them as part of a service or organise a dedicated prayer evening, day or weekend.

Praying for the children, young people and families in your community

Print out or draw a large map of your local area, ensuring that all the places that children, young people and families gather are marked on e.g. schools, nurseries, community centres, parks, sports clubs, health clinics etc.

Provide coloured pens or stickers.

Encourage people to pray for these places and add a coloured dot or circle once they have prayed.

Filling the gap

Take a very large sheet of paper and cut out the shape of a person from the centre.

Use the left over paper with the person shaped hole, putting it on a table or on a wall (you can use the person shape for another activity).

Provide post-it notes and pens.

Encourage people to write prayers for the person you are seeking to employ onto the post-its and stick them in the gap.

Celebrating God's goodness as seen in the young

You will need one or more sets of letter tiles e.g. from a scrabble set.

Encourage people to use the tiles to form words that describe attributes of God that we see in children and young people e.g. joy

Thank God for the gift of children amongst us and all they teach us about God.

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People who've helped us

You will need a supply of pipe-cleaners.

Encourage people to make a pipe-cleaner person to represent someone who has helped them on their journey of faith.

Thank God for these people and pray that we might all be people who help others on their faith journeys.

Link the pipe-cleaner people together to symbolise the part each of us play in helping others on their faith journeys.

Building God's Kingdom

You will need some Lego, Duplo, Jenga bricks or similar.

Provide stickers or tiny post-it notes and pens or pencils.

Alternatively provide dry wipe marker pens or washable felt pens, which can be cleaned off plastic bricks.

Encourage people to put their name on one of the bricks.

Encourage them think about the part they have to play in the ministry of the church to children, young people and their families.

After they have thought and prayed they can add their block to the building.

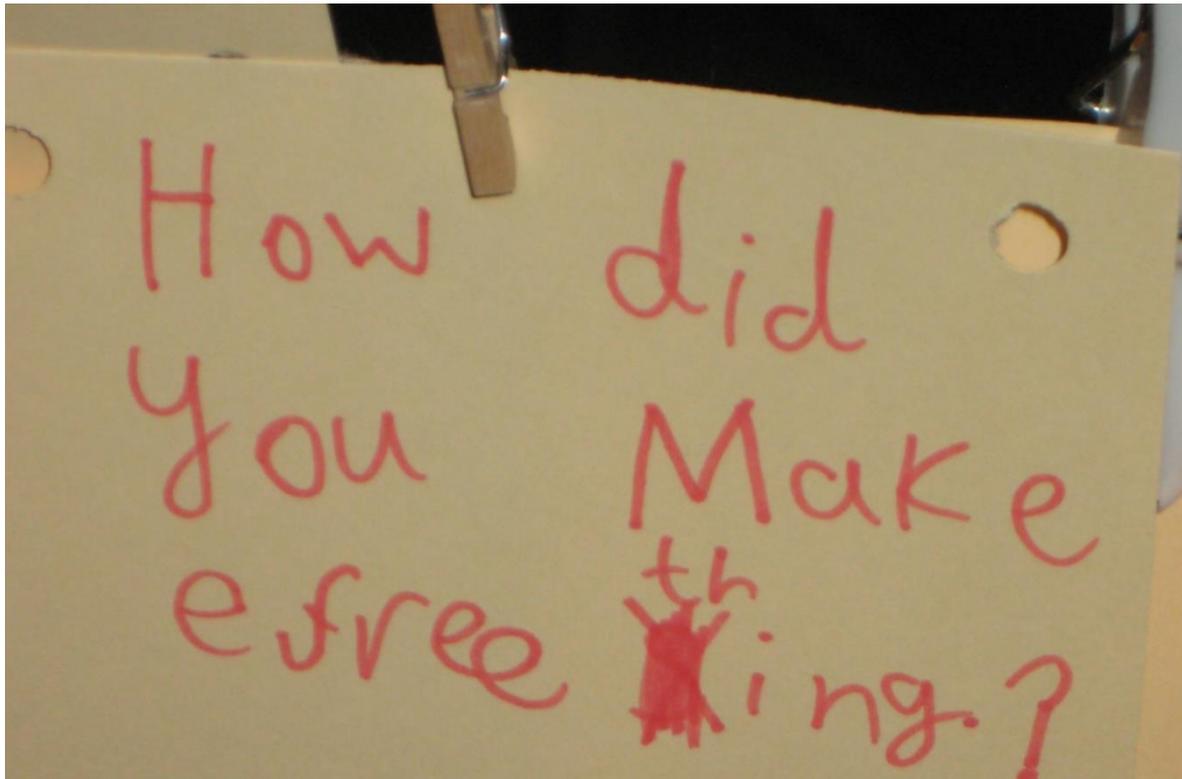
Links in the chain

Prepare a number of strips of, ideally, coloured paper.

Provide coloured pens and a stapler (with spare staples).

Encourage people to think about all the steps involved in recruiting someone for your role and to choose one stage to pray for (this could be advertising, interviewing, preparing for a new person, welcoming and induction etc.) and write their prayer on a strip of paper.

Join each prayer into a paper-chain.



For those seeking to recruit a children and families or youth worker, involving the whole church in prayer can be a key part of that process.

These adaptable resources have been designed to help you know what and how to pray as you go through each stage of the safer recruitment process.

You will find:

- Liturgy ideas
- Readings
- Prayers
- Suggested prayer topics
- Ideas for prayer stations

We hope that you find them useful and look forward to hearing how God answers your prayers.

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