

Thy Kingdom Come

In last month's magazine, I wrote about an initiative from the Archbishops of York and Canterbury, inviting all in the Church of England to pray in the week before Pentecost. This is how they describe what they are asking us all to do: "At the heart of our prayers will be the words that Jesus Christ himself taught us - 'Thy kingdom come, thy will be done.' It is impossible to overstate the life-transforming power of the Lord's Prayer. It is a prayer that is reassuring enough to be on the lips of the dying and yet dangerous enough to be banned in cinemas.



It is famous enough to be spoken each day by billions in hundreds of languages and yet intimate enough to draw us ever closer into friendship with Jesus Christ. It is simple enough to be memorised by small children and yet profound enough to sustain a whole lifetime of prayer. When we pray it with sincerity and with joy, there is no imagining the new ways in which God can use us to his glory." Jesus Christ calls every person to follow him and as Christians it's our duty and joy to share that invitation. That's why the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have issued their invitation and why we at St Martin's Church will be taking up their invitation in a variety of ways.

The Bible encourages us to pray and yet many Christians find this difficult. There are many reasons why this is so such as being too busy or not knowing really what to do. Prayer is really quite simple – it's how we communicate with God, sometimes using words, sometimes just being aware that we are in God's presence and offering our thoughts and feelings to him. There's no set time or place needed to pray – we can pray anywhere and at any time. Some people will spend longer than others praying, some will kneel or sit or stand or walk about. It really doesn't matter! Just as we all relate differently to those people we love, so we will relate differently to God whom we love.

I would encourage you during May to get involved and take up the Archbishops' invitation yourself. Our Family Service on the 1st May will focus on the theme of the Lord's Prayer and we will give each person a gift that will help them to pray in the lead up to Pentecost. These will be available in church for those who aren't able to be in church on the 1st May. We will be inviting you to pray the Lord's Prayer as well as focussing your prayers on asking for God's kingdom to come in Droylsden and in our church. Finally we are asking each person to pray for five people that they would like to discover the love of God. Our children won't be left out and there will be special packs for them too. Our services on 8th and 15th May will also focus on the theme of the Lord's Prayer.

We are holding an event on Wednesday 11th May which will start with a Communion Service at 10.00am and then will have some reflections on the Lord's Prayer and space for people to pray, sit in the peace of the church, read, knit, whatever helps them to relax in the presence of God. Lunch will be provided and we will end at 2.30pm. The cost will be £5 and we would ask that you contact Jo or sign up in church if you would like to come.

I pray that this appeal from our Archbishops will capture your imaginations and encourage to start praying or to pray more regularly or to help you focus your prayers as we approach the Festival of Pentecost and the outpouring of God's Spirit. The Holy Spirit empowered the first disciples and they saw the church grow and the message of God's love spread. Wouldn't it be wonderful if through our faithful prayers, St Martin's Church was renewed and refreshed and we could see God's kingdom come in our parish?

Revd Jo Farnworth

**Come, Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your faithful people
and kindle in them the fire of your love.**

