



# Prayer Options

## Introduction

The committed prayer of individuals, the planning group, the PCC and the congregation is the spiritual heartbeat of the church as it prepares for Giving in Grace. The appointment of a prayer co-ordinator who is willing to invest time and commitment into developing resources is invaluable. In addition the clergy have a special responsibility as chaplains to the planning group to support the prayer co-ordinator and to model committed prayer to the planning group and to the congregation.

As in any physical body there should be in the body of the church a number of pulse points, where the beat of the heart is felt clearly. The prayer co-ordinator should look for and develop the pulse points in the prayer life of the church. The following suggestions should be considered.

1. **A special Giving in Grace prayer** can be included in weekly intercessions. The text can be found in [Prayers for the Programme](#). This prayer could be printed as a “bookmark” prayer. Christ Church Netherley in south Liverpool produced them as prayer cards which could be used as fridge magnets.
2. **Prayer groups** may already exist in the church or could be formed especially for the purpose of preparation for Giving in Grace. It is important to resource such groups so use the liturgical resources, some biblical input and some personal testimony by members of the planning group along with specific requests for prayer.
3. **Prayer triplets** are an extremely effective way of developing sustainable, focused and flexible prayer. Planning group and PCC members in particular might form the nucleus of a prayer triplet, inviting a couple of friends personally to join them. The prayer triplets can be resourced by developing a prayer card (see below).
4. **Prayer Cards**. These might be simple A5 cards or A4 tri-fold cards which contain items for specific prayer, a collect, a sentence and perhaps an update on progress. St Ambrose in Widnes prepared their own [prayer card](#) to good effect in their programme in autumn 2005. Keep prayer cards fresh by preparing two or three such cards in the preparation preaching phases of Giving in Grace. For an example of how this has been done effectively in one church see [Prayer: A Case Study](#) There is a wealth of resources for creating such prayer cards which can be accessed from the Liturgical Resources page of Giving in Grace web site.
5. A day of **prayer and fasting** could be held prior to the launch of Giving in Grace. The church could be left open for private prayer through the day with a simple liturgy as a focus for corporate prayer at the traditional Hours of Prayer. Ormskirk Parish Church in Lancashire organised a prayer event on the Saturday before the launch of their Giving in Grace initiative.
6. Meeting for prayer half an hour **before Sunday services** is a convenient way of structuring small prayer groups



7. **PCC prayers** are an important place to start. Try to allocate more time than a simple opening collect or extempore prayer. Perhaps devise a simple liturgy or build some reflection around Biblical passages used in the planning group.
8. The **daily office** and mid-week Eucharist offer opportunities for creative and focused prayer.
9. **Children's prayer involvement** e.g. perhaps using candles or working on a collage which could be displayed and inspire prayer. In particular there are some suggestions in the Preach Exodus Week One resources on the theme of creation.
10. **House or cell group** meetings can build prayer for Giving in Grace into their current patterns of prayer. As with prayer groups it is important to provide some resources to structure this prayer - a prayer card, a simple liturgy or ideas for Biblical reflection.
11. **An evening prayer vigil** – members taking half an hour each on a prayer rota. Again the prayer event from Ormskirk Parish Church can provide resources for such a prayer vigil.
12. **An evening agape meal** or a **prayer breakfast** can provide a helpful focus for shared praying.
13. Choosing a **prayerful hymn** or chorus for the duration of the planning and/or the programme
14. A more **general appeal** asking church members to be careful of their regular patterns and worship during the process

It is often helpful in small group settings to use some simple Biblical reflection as a faith building exercise which can help people to think about finance from the perspective of discipleship rather than fundraising. Consider using the preaching resources for Matthew, 2 Corinthians, Luke and Exodus to find stories or teaching around giving.

