Leading Prayers/Intercessions
at Sunday Morning Celebrations

ST JOHN'S
CHATHAM

As far as possible we aim to have a time of corporate prayer and intercession at each of our Sunday Morning Celebrations. We are grateful to those in the church family who are willing to lead us in these times of prayer.

There is no particular format or formula but the basic task is to lead the congregation in praying for **the world (local and global)**, for **the church (again locally but also worldwide)** and for **ourselves**. We want to be responsive to current issues and events so it is important to make sure that we are up to date with current affairs as we prepare to lead prayers.

The task is to help the whole congregation engage in prayer so it can be helpful to leave moments of quiet where people are encouraged to pray silently or to include a response between sections of prayer (ie. Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer**). Try to use 'we' rather than 'I' as while you are praying you are representing not just yourself but the wider congregation.

We aim for 3 to 4 minutes of prayer concluding with the Lord's Prayer (unless at a Communion Service where The Lord's Prayer will be used as part of the Communion liturgy). When introducing The Lord's Prayer we try encourage people to pray in 'whatever language they feel most comfortable' (although a Contemporary English version will appear on the screen) - this is a simple way of honouring the diversity of heart languages within our community.

There is no need to write out prayers in advance but it may be helpful to have bullet-point prompts. You may want to include prayers that have been written by others or to make use of the screens to include images (if so please do email them across in advance).

Please remember to be yourself and to be open to the prompting and leading of the Holy Spirit as you serve the Lord and the community in this way.