



VINTAGE ADVENTURE

@ HOME

PRAYER

Dear Friends,

Greetings once again dear Vintage Adventure @ Home friends. In this September issue we start a fresh series of themes on Prayer (September), Provision (October), Protection (November) and Peace (December).

In the UK it has been estimated that 27 million people pray, including many who claim not to be religious. We don't need to have a problem to pray! And even with a full life, we can sometimes feel empty as if something is missing. Do you wonder if there is more to life than what you have experienced so far?

Jesus prayed – a lot! Although He did many miracles, and taught about life, He prioritised praying. He valued being able to spend time with GOD, Whom He called 'Abba' or 'Daddy.' And He encourages each of us to nurture a similar relationship with our Heavenly Father.

Prayer is not like sending off an email into space and wondering if anyone is there to receive it. If we are getting to know Jesus as our Friend, then we can be sure that our prayers are heard. It is less about getting something and more about getting to know Someone. As Chris reminds us in the booklet later, we can't pray in a 'wrong' way – genuinely reaching out to Jesus with our hearts is all that is needed, not fancy words.

This month you will find a personal story of a couple's real life experiences of prayer. David has written a thought provoking prayer in the form of a poem, and Ann has sketched some reminders of how and when and why we might pray. We enclose a prayer wheel to guide your praying and a bookmark with a short prayer you might like to say for yourself. Prayer is simply conversation with GOD. We don't need to use special phrases or put on a 'holy' voice. We can even write our prayer thoughts down, if that helps us keep track of what we are wanting to say. GOD knows what we are thinking and is aware of all we do. We can talk to Him about absolutely anything!

Blessings and love Cynthia and your Caraway family

WORSHIP



Opening prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for inviting us to talk to You about anything and everything on our minds. Please help us to quieten ourselves now and spend the next few minutes with You. In Jesus' Name, Amen

Opening Scripture

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances,
for this is the will of GOD in Christ Jesus for you.*

1 Thessalonians 5 16-18

Reflection

Prayer is the way we communicate with GOD. The Bible tells us we can draw near to GOD through talking to Him, bringing our requests, asking for help, praying for ourselves and others, and thanking Him. GOD loves us far more perfectly than even the very best earthly parents love their children. We can rely on His promises to respond to us in our time of need.

At the same time, GOD is quite different from even the most loving parents, because He is holy, special, set apart. So there has never ever been anyone else like GOD. This is good news if you happen to have been brought up by parents, who sadly have not been as loving and caring as GOD intended parents to be. The Bible assures us that our Heavenly Father is a GOD of love, like a loving father and mother all in one.



Isn't it amazing that the Creator of the world is personally interested in each one of us, in the tiny details of our lives, however insignificant they appear in the bigger scheme of things? Jesus came to give us abundant life and He doesn't want us to be burdened with worry and anxiety about the past, the present or the future. Here is another helpful verse from Philippians 4:8

Do not be anxious about anything but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to GOD.



Hymn

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to **carry everything to God in prayer!**

O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not **carry everything to God in prayer!**

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged; **take it to the Lord in prayer!**

Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our every weakness; **take it to the Lord in prayer!**

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?

Precious Saviour, still our refuge - **take it to the Lord in prayer!**

Do your friends despise, forsake you? **Take it to the Lord in prayer!**

In His arms He'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

Joseph Medlicott Scriven

Bible verses

'When you pray', Jesus told them, 'Go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, Who is unseen. Then your Father, Who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.'

Matthew 6: 6

Jesus practised what He preached. Though for much of His life, He did not have a home of His own, and often had to make do with shared spaces, He found places where He could be private with GOD.

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed.

Mark 1: 35



A Prayer of Confession

Dear Lord, thank You for the gift of prayer. I confess that I often forget to talk to You unless there is a crisis in my life. Please forgive me and prompt me to spend time with You each day.

Thank You for Who You are, Your power and majesty which I cannot begin to imagine. Thank You for Your loving, compassionate heart and Your willingness to keep on forgiving, time and time again, when I let You down.

Amen

Jesus knew that sometimes we get stuck and don't know how to pray and what to say. So He gave His friends some helpful instructions. We call the prayer He modelled, the LORD's Prayer, because it is one that Jesus taught. You might like to say it now.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in Heaven,
Hallowed be Your Name.
Your Kingdom come,
Your will be done
On earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us today our daily bread
And forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil.
For Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory
For ever and ever
Amen.

Here Jesus is encouraging us to ask GOD to give us the things we truly **need**: food, clothing, health, friends, support. Not necessarily what we want! Asking for these ordinary things puts us in a right relationship with GOD, as it reminds us that without Him we can do nothing, we are totally dependent on Him, everything we have is actually a gift from our Heavenly Father.

Closing Blessing

May Christ bring us wholeness of body, mind and spirit.
May He deliver us from every evil, and give us His peace.
Amen



How to pray... Some thoughts



This is not an article about how 'to get prayer right'. I don't think there is a way to get prayer wrong. **Prayer is simply CONNECTING WITH GOD.**

We are all different (because God made us that way) and so we will find different things helpful as we seek a connection with GOD.

Many people find it helpful to be quiet, but in a busy life or shared accommodation, that is not always possible. Some like a sacred space - that might be an armchair, a church or somewhere out of doors - whatever works for you. Perhaps you pray in bed, as you go to sleep, as you wake up or in the middle of the night.

Most of us have people or situations that we are concerned about. It is right that we share these concerns with GOD. Do you remember the story in the gospel of the man who had friends who were so concerned about him, that they took him to Jesus? When they couldn't get into the house they ripped the roof off! Sometimes our concern is a bit like ripping the roof off, I think, but Jesus is pleased to hear our prayers and doesn't get bored with them.

Some people have said that our prayers can be a bit like taking a shopping list to GOD - but when I go shopping I don't stick to a list and when I pray often other things pop into my head to chat to GOD about.

There is a story of a mother with her little girl on holiday in the country. They saw a church and the little girl wanted to go in. So her mother waited outside, while the girl went in. Eventually she came out. "Well," said the mother, "What were you doing all that time?" "Talking to God." "What did you say?" "I said, 'Dear Jesus.' and He said, 'Dear Barbara.' Then we just loved."

May your prayer be like that.

Prayer changes things!

What is prayer? Praying is simply talking to the Lord and listening, whilst He talks to us. Alfred, Lord Tennyson wrote.

'More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of.'

Sometimes prayer can feel hard, can't it? But it is simply having a special 'one-to-one' with our Heavenly Father. He loves us and just wants to hear our voice. Actually, the Bible tells us that He already knows what we need (Matthew 6:8: *Your Father knows what things you have need of before you ask Him*) and what we are going to say to Him anyway! (Psalm 139:2-4: *You know when I sit and when I rise; You perceive my thoughts from afar; You discern my going out and my lying down; You are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue You, LORD, know it completely.*)

**So let's find peace in His presence
and spend time with our Special Friend today.**

Wherever we are - just talking to God, out loud or silently - is prayer. On the bus or alone in our homes, He likes to hear from us. If we listen, we can hear Him speak in a verse or hymn, even a phrase in a Vintage Adventure @ Home pack, through our family, friends, strangers or circumstances. Praying on our knees or sitting in our favourite cosy chair – we can chat to Him as though we are chatting to a friend.

We can be confident in praying: *If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.* 1 John 5 v 14

Don't forget to say "thank you" for the answer!

There are no right or wrong ways to pray, we all have our own style. Someone once said, 'Pray as you can, not as you can't.' So speak to the Lord today, He longs to hear from you!

Different types of prayer mentioned in the Bible

Prayer of WORSHIP

Focusing on Who GOD is, we recognise His power and majesty. We worship through praise songs or our words, because He is worthy. *Through Jesus therefore let us continually offer to GOD a sacrifice of praise* Hebrews 13:5

Prayer of THANKSGIVING

Here we give GOD thanks for what He has done for us. In the morning we can thank Him for the breath in our lungs and the gift of a new day. We thank Him for taking care of us and for answered prayer. *Enter His gates with thanksgiving...* Psalm 100:4



Prayer of REQUEST (supplication)

This is taking our requests and needs to GOD. *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.* Philippians 4:6



Prayer of FAITH

This is us reaffirming that we have faith in GOD's will which is the Bible. If it is promised in GOD's Word, we can approach the Lord in faith. We can pray the promises of God and remind Him of His word. *Is anyone among you in trouble, let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise.* James 5:13

Praying the PROMISES OF GOD

This is when we search the Bible to find GOD's promises, thank Him for each one as we meditate on it and mull it over. We personalize GOD's promises and make them our own, adding our name in.



Prayer of INTERCESSION

This is praying on behalf of another person or group of people. It is like standing in the gap between GOD and that person.

Prayer of CONSECRRATION

This is saying, 'LORD I set myself apart and give myself to You.' *Offer yourselves to GOD.* Romans 6:13

Praying in the HOLY SPIRIT

This is when we don't know how to pray! *In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.* Romans 8:26-27

Some Christians are baptised with the Holy Spirit, and able to pray in tongues as the believers did on the day of Pentecost. In this way the Holy Spirit prays through them God's will for a particular person or situation.

Prayer in The NAME of JESUS

This is powerful. When we pray in Jesus' Name, we pray with His authority. GOD promises to answer whatever we ask in His name if it is accordance with His will. *And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.* John 14:13-14

Search Me

Search me, Lord, expose my heart I pray,
for I grow weak and darkness lies ahead;
I would not, at my age, your trust betray.

Teach me stillness, how to pause and stay
warmed by the love and joy and peace you shed.
Search me, Lord, expose my heart I pray.

Help me to number and use well each day
that those who follow may not be misled;
I would not, at my age, your trust betray.

Despite or through my failings on the way
let some find hope through what I've done or said;
search me Lord, expose my heart I pray..

Most high and holy Sovereign Lord, how may
I grow in godly fear that casts out dread?
I would not, at my age, your trust betray.

Help me to grasp the depth of love displayed
on Golgotha, to save me from the dead.
Search me, Lord, expose my heart I pray,
I would not, at my age, your trust betray.

David Corfe

An answer to prayer led to an unexpected romance

From two of our Vintage Adventure community



Our Story – as told by John

At 7.20 p.m. on Boxing Day 1977 my wife, Pauline, at the age of 35, left this world and was taken to glory after a five and a half year battle against breast cancer. She had spent the last two months of her life at the home of her parents. At her bedside that evening, immediately after her passing, her parents and I felt very strongly the presence of the Holy Spirit and for twenty minutes we were lost in worship until we felt the Spirit gently lifting.

The following months were not easy but our church in London was very supportive. When a church holiday in mid-August at Newquay was announced, Pauline's mother suggested it would do me and the boys good to go. She would come to give me a break from looking after them. All was going well until it came to my ears that match-making was going on, linking me with a young schoolteacher by the name of Margaret Armstrong.

- Firstly, there was no way that I was ready for marrying again.
- Secondly, there was no way I was going to get involved with a 'prim and proper school ma'am' eight years younger than me. Yes, she was a lovely Christian girl who seemed to be a big sister to some of the younger ladies in the church BUT, definitely NOT my type.

On the Monday evening I had a chat with one of our much loved and highly respected elders. I explained my dilemma over the rumours and asked for advice. He told me that on the Wednesday we would be going to Mevagissey and the afternoon would be free. "Look", he said. "Margaret is over there. Go and ask if you could get together after lunch and get this sorted out." To my great surprise she agreed to park her car away from the coach and I would meet her in the big car park. I spoke to my mother-in-law, who said that she would look after the boys.

Margaret drove to Gorranhaven and I told her that any rumours were definitely not of my doing and it would be a long time before I would even consider marrying again, if ever. I still loved Pauline too much.

That night I thanked the Lord for the successful conclusion to my problem. My prayer contained this statement: "Lord, I don't love her but, if this is Your will, YOU will have to put love for her in my heart!" I then sank into a relieved sleep. When I woke, I suddenly realised that I was not only in love with Margaret, but madly in love! My next reaction was, "Lord, that was not what I meant last night. What are You doing to me?" I said nothing. I thought that if I kept silent I would soon get back to normal. However, that love continued to grow. On the Thursday I asked Margaret if we could meet before we returned to London.

On the Friday morning we seemed to be bumping into others who all had grins. After coffee in a shop I wanted to visit as it held memories of holidays with Pauline, we headed in Margaret's car to a little creek. Margaret did most of the talking but we also prayed and talked (and prayed and talked). We felt it right that our relationship should grow first before we took the move to formal engagement (in February 1979).

Later my mother-in-law stunned me by saying that, ten days before her death, Pauline had told her that, knowing the end of her earthly life was near, she had been praying for six months that God would send me a new wife. God had told her that He had chosen Margaret Armstrong to take her place. Was I gob smacked? That's a major understatement!! Mum-in-law had never given me even the tiniest clue about this. I felt overwhelmed by Pauline's love for me and the boys that, even in her great pain, her prayers were for our future well-being.

Margaret and I have now been married 44 years and she has always been a rock of encouragement to me. Margaret has a story to tell from her side about the way God was leading her towards our coming together. But that story is for her to tell!



Our Story – as told by Margaret

In the late 1970s, I was in my early thirties, and I wanted to get married. For several years I was praying and could see no candidate on the horizon. At Pauline's funeral in January 1978, I saw the family sitting at the front of the church and John, her husband. Frivolously, with tongue in cheek, I looked at his back and thought, "Ah well, there's another possibility I suppose!"

A few months later, at Sunday services, I started looking around to see if John was there. Around the same time a widowed elder was planning his second wedding. He told me that he was praying for me along a particular line, but didn't tell me what. I was getting more and more interested in John, but said nothing.



One evening at our Bible Study, the pastor said that if you have a major decision to make in your life, ask the Lord to confirm it in three ways through Scripture. I did just that. "Lord," I prayed, "if John is the one for me, please show me three ways through Your Word." The church was going on holiday in August to Newquay and I wanted the answer before the end of the holiday!

The first confirmation came towards the end of June. Pauline and I were friendly with the same lady, Jenny, and her husband. After Pauline died, Jenny invited John and his boys for a meal. John commented that he was lonely - chatting with teenage sons is not the same as having a conversation with a wife, however much you love them. John and Pauline were well known in the church, we all had been praying for her healing, but God had other plans. One evening Jenny relayed this conversation. My ears pricked. A few days later, powerfully, the scripture Genesis 2:18 came to



me: *"It is not good that man should be alone"*. I thought I was making it up, but over a month or so, I realised this was the first confirmation.

The second confirmation grew very gradually during July. At first I disregarded it, but the Holy Spirit was impressing it on my heart until it became a part of me. 1 Corinthians 7:39 says *"The wife is part of her husband as long as he lives; if her husband dies then she may marry again, but only if she marries a Christian."* This Scripture is true in reverse — the husband may marry again if the wife dies. Wow, this was my second confirmation — things were getting exciting! Still John had said nothing to me — he had no idea what was happening in my heart.

The third came like a bombshell as I was getting dressed one morning in August, whilst I was staying in Southampton with family. It was from Luke 1:63 *"His name is John"*. It seemed far too obvious, and I tried to disregard it, but it wouldn't go. It is a good job his name wasn't Fred or Charlie! My prayer had been answered in the way I asked, but still John had not said anything to me. What next??

Our pastor mentioned asking people to pray for you for particular situations. So I shared confidentially with three people and asked them to pray for me. These were people I could trust, who wouldn't gossip or do any match-making.

On our church holiday, John came over to me and asked me to meet him the Wednesday afternoon. As time drew near for our special meeting, my stomach was turning somersaults!

John's story carries on from here and was the start of a very special time together. Until now, August 2023, we have had 44 years of a precious marriage, where we want to put God at the centre of everything we do.



Gratitude Jar

*Count your blessings name them one by one
and it will surprise you what the Lord has done*

Johnson Oatman 1897

Find an old jar or box and make it into something you can add a 'Thank You' to the Lord in. Some suggestions are below but I'm sure you'll have your own things to add each day that you are grateful for.

I thank you Lord for my food		Thank you Lord for peace in my country	
I thank you Lord for different varieties of fruit		Thank you Lord for Doctors & Nurses & the NHS	
I thank you Lord for my friends		Thank you Lord for	
I thank you Lord for my family		Thank you Lord for	
I thank you Lord for my bed		Thank you Lord for	
Thank you Lord I can walk		Thank you Lord for	
Thank you Lord for running water		Thank you Lord for	

THE SIX HONEST SERVING MEN OF PRAYER

Rudyard Kipling wrote "I keep six honest serving men

They taught me all I knew. Their names are

WHAT and WHY and WHEN and HOW and WHERE and WHO

Apply these basic questions to PRAYER

WHAT
and
WHY



PRAISE



WORLD AFFAIRS
MISSIONS



WARS

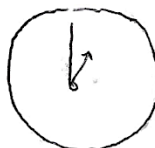


FAMILY



RAINY DAYS

WHEN



DAY
AND
NIGHT

HOW



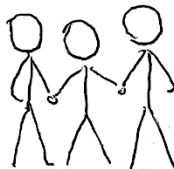
WALKING



KNEELING



STANDING +
SINGING



WITH OTHERS
(TRIPLET)



SITTING
AT HOME

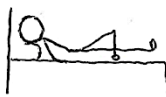
WHERE



PARK or COMMON



AT CHURCH



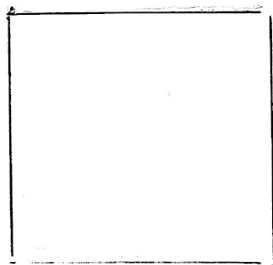
IN BED



AT TABLE
(GRACE)

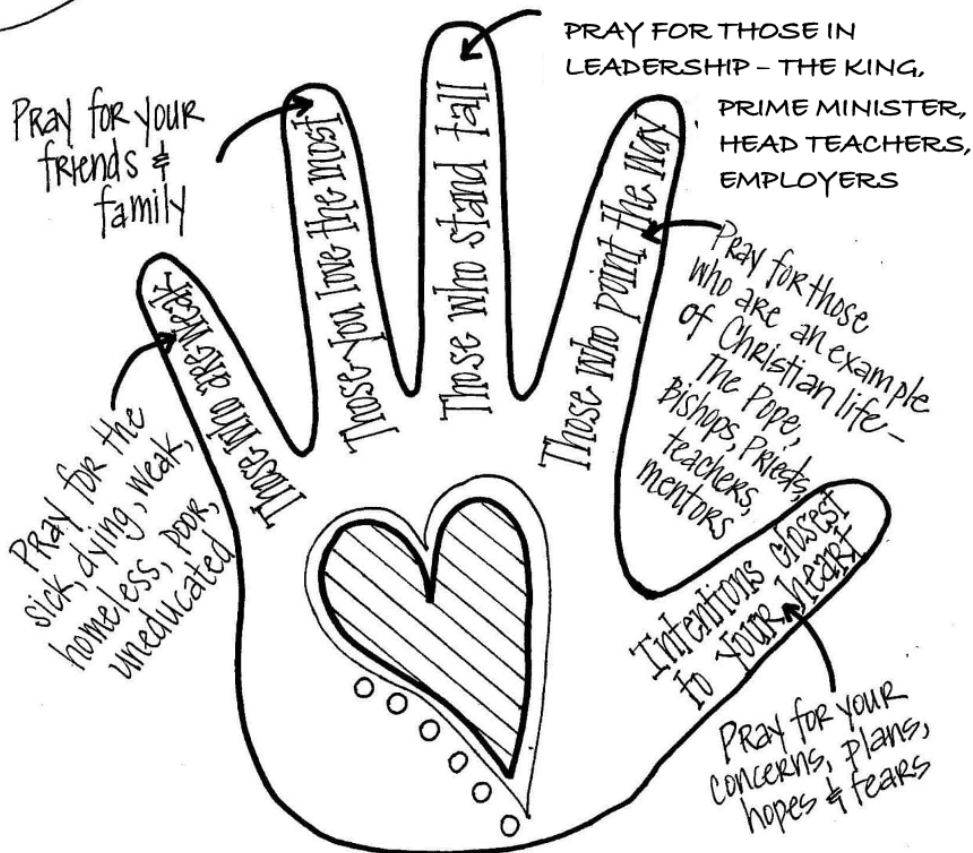
WHO

DRAW YOURSELF
IN THIS BOX



THANK GOD
YOU CAN PRAY
HOW, WHEN and WHERE
YOU ARE, AND
HE WILL HEAR YOU

A colouring for you to keep and use as a 'handy' guide



WORDSEARCH

The Lord's Prayer *Matthew 6:9-13*

J	W	C	H	A	L	L	O	W	E	D	F	K	S	B
O	L	M	A	F	X	I	P	Z	E	T	Y	R	Q	T
A	D	E	J	B	A	H	G	W	V	U	L	G	O	E
O	E	H	A	U	P	T	S	K	I	N	G	D	O	M
F	F	T	C	D	M	L	H	E	S	I	R	A	W	P
F	O	R	G	I	V	E	N	E	T	Y	O	I	Q	T
F	W	A	V	L	M	F	S	Q	R	O	K	L	N	A
P	U	E	X	M	N	S	S	L	H	D	O	Y	J	T
Y	I	R	W	S	A	O	H	B	R	E	A	D	L	I
O	L	U	W	P	M	I	Y	N	A	S	J	E	G	O
U	Q	U	S	K	E	U	R	M	H	E	A	V	E	N
R	L	E	F	J	H	T	W	M	C	K	S	I	A	E
B	R	W	M	G	C	E	O	U	Y	Z	P	L	V	W
T	O	D	A	Y	U	A	E	N	Y	W	I	L	L	X
A	T	H	R	E	V	I	L	E	D	J	P	O	R	T

BREAD
DAILY
DELIVER
EARTH
EVIL
FATHER
FORGIVE

FROM
HALLOWED
HEAVEN
KINGDOM
LEAD
NAME
NOT

TEMPTATION
TODAY
TRESPASSES
US
WILL
YOUR

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