



BISHOP DEBBIE SELLIN – 2025 YEAR OF PRAYER

Bishop Debbie, our Diocesan Bishop, has designated 2025 as a year of prayer across the diocese. She is encouraging us all, those in diocesan teams, those in churches and those in Church schools, to set aside time to pray through this year. Prayer is a powerful tool. It enables us to communicate with God. What did Jesus say about prayer? Not surprisingly, quite a lot! Perhaps Jesus most famous teaching on prayer comes in the Sermon on the Mount when he gives his disciples a model for prayer in what we now call The Lord's Prayer. He also taught in the Sermon on the Mount about how people should pray – he talked about sincerity in praying, about persistence in prayer and about listening to what God might be saying. I once heard someone say that prayer is like a life-line! It connects human beings to their creator and their sustainer and enables them to ask of God and receive from God.

There have been many great prayers written over the years by famous Christians that we still use in Christian worship today and sometimes perhaps you use them in your school. Through this year where we are having a focus on prayer, you might like to re-visit some of those and reflect on how you might use them in your school worship life. Shortly into the term I will be producing a new Collective Worship Newsletter which will focus specifically on prayer in our schools and how we might develop that, especially through this year.

Each week, on a Monday, there will be an email from me that will not be as long as this one! It will simply have the heading as on this email and then a prayer in PDF format will be attached from one school in the diocese. ***The first prayer comes from All Saints CE Primary School, Peterborough.*** Please, each week, share the prayer for that week with your school community whenever is appropriate in collective worship. It will be great for schools to think that all schools across the diocese are praying for them that week. (Due to technical issues on my part, this email is being sent by our administrator, but in subsequent weeks please look out for the email from jane.lewis@peterborough-diocese.org.uk)

If you haven't had opportunity yet to send me your school prayer then please do. I'm so looking forward to using your school prayers in my own devotional time.

I hope that you enjoy the opportunity to join in prayers with other schools in the diocese during this year.

Best Wishes

Jane

Jane Lewis
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