**Praying for a Thriving Diocese**

**A resource for meetings**

Many of us spend a lot of time in meetings and most of these begin with prayer in some form or another. These resources are offered to you as a way of using prayer to focus our minds on our **Live Pray Serve** strategy and in particular on the work the diocese is currently doing to ensure we grow in **depth, impact** and **number** in order to become more and more a thriving diocese.

Please feel free to pick and mix from the following as you find helpful. All in the meeting will need sight of the responses if you use any sections of the first pattern – via screenshare perhaps.

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

Let us commit this meeting to God

All **and seek God’s will.**

Let us listen for God’s voice

All **and listen to one another.**

Lord God, as we live, pray and serve

All **may our lives, our churches and our communities**

 **be filled with your love.**

As we seek to grow in depth

All **may we grow closer to you, Lord.**

As we seek to grow in impact

All **may our actions help to build your kingdom**

 **and change the world for good.**

As we seek to grow in number

All **may more people come to know the saving love of Christ.**

Lord God, as the saints before us discerned your purposes

All **help us to discern your purposes for us now.**

You call us to preach the gospel afresh in each generation

All **and to seek your will for this time.**

When we hear your call,

All **give us the courage to respond.**

You may like to read one of the following Bible passages:

Psalm 25.4-5; Psalm 37.4-5; Proverbs 2.1-5; Proverbs 3.5-6; Ecclesiastes 3.1-8; Isaiah 43.18-19; Matthew 7.24-27; Luke 11.28; Acts 27 & 28; 1 Corinthians 2.9; James 1.22-25.

A time of silence together may be kept.

Some questions which may be used to aid reflection:

* What from this passage stands out to you?
* What do you hear God saying through these words?
* How might these words inform the business of tonight’s meeting?

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

One or more of these prayers could be said in unison, if all can see the words.

Loving God,

you call us to respond to your love with transformed lives.

May our values reflect your values;

may we be courageous, collaborative, generous, resourceful & pioneering

so that your kingdom may come.

May we see in the world around us signs of your love in action

and may we know for ourselves your loving grace.

(This we ask, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**)

**Lord our God,**

**in Christ you make all things new:inspire our lives with your Spirit;renew our prayer with your grace;transform our service with your love.In the renewal of our life may your kingdom flourishand your Church thrive,so that all may come to know and love youin your Son Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

***Or this pattern could be used, on occasion:***

 Let us ask God’s grace and guidance

 as we seek to follow Jesus, our merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother.

Lord Jesus, you came to bring life in all its fulness: help us to live.

 Help us to live the abundant life you offer

 as your children and as your Church in this diocese.

 Help us to share your life with all around us

 and draw all who live in our parish(es,) (schools) and community

 to the knowledge of your love.

Hear us. *or* Lord, in your mercy,

*All* **Hear us, good Lord. hear our prayer.**

 Lord Jesus, you taught your disciples to pray,

 and you pray for us at the right hand of the Father: help us to pray.

 Help us to be aware of the needs of the world,

 the pain of those who suffer

 and the sighs of all who long for justice and freedom.

 Make us faithful in prayer, so that in us and through us

 your grace may turn sorrow into joy, and despair into hope.

Hear us. *or* Lord, in your mercy,

*All* **Hear us, good Lord. hear our prayer.**

 Lord Jesus, you came not to be served but to serve: help us to serve.

 Help us to know what you want us to do

 and courage to go where you want us to go.

 Give us grace to say, like you did, ‘Not my will but yours, Father’.

 As we serve you, and those you have given us to care for,

 give us the power of your Spirit

 that we may we build up our congregations

 in worship, welcome and witness,

 and our communities in working together for the good of all.

Hear us. *or* Lord, in your mercy,

*All* **Hear us, good Lord. hear our prayer.**

Lord of life,

*All***hear our prayer, and make us one in heart and mind**

 **to serve you with joy for ever. Amen.**