



## Sunday 15th October 6pm: Introducing Missional Prayer

To all at St. John the Evangelist,  
I Hope you're well.

After much thinking, conversation and prayer, we are going to try something different with our 3rd Sundays at 6pm. Our intention is to invite the whole church to gather for mission-minded prayer. Let me explain. Some of you will have seen my recent video (you can find it on our Youtube Channel [www.youtube.com/watch?v=X5JZinQEWCU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X5JZinQEWCU)) which describes the journey into more focused prayer specifically for reaching out. We have been seeing that God deeply changes our hearts and attitudes when we pray like this, and God has also begun to lead us to some open people to share the good news with.

In Colossians 4:2-4, Paul says, **“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.”** Scripture plainly teaches that Christians intentionally pray for missional opportunities and for a clear sharing of the good news. In the light of texts like this and other repeated encouragements from God, I have concluded that this invitation into missional prayer is for us all and not just a few. Consequently we will start in October (15th) at 6pm with a gentle beginning. With singing at the beginning and end, we will include the previously planned talk from Phil Swards - looking at the Lordship of Christ. This theme can then lead us into a time of praying in different ways.

My hope is that all of you will come along and join in, once a month to pray like this. We all are learning together so we will need everyone to help us explore how to pray with mission in mind. We will pray no doubt in a variety of ways: If you are nervous of praying out loud, there will be other forms to use. Perhaps as an aid to yourself, perhaps you could bring some written topics or prayers of your own. We may pray in twos, or in small groups. We may include times of silence - being open to God's leading for our prayers. We may also have pens and paper for written prayer, or other creative approaches to help us express ourselves well. The prayer time will be roughly 25-30 minutes long.

It is an exciting development, in step with our vision, to have one out of four 6pm services which is more clearly focused on God's mission to those who don't know him yet. We shall try this approach for a few months (not including December because of Christmas) and then review what we are learning.

So do come along. Let us follow Paul's encouragement and pray with us for God to do something new in our town.

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