

Norwich Stewardship Prayers



Diocese of
NORWICH

A collection of prayers produced in 1989 by John Doggett, who was the Diocesan Stewardship Adviser at the time

1. Almighty God, creator of all things,
we thank you for the gift of life,
for the gift of your Church,
and for the gifts you have given to each of us.
Help us to be faithful stewards of our time, our talents and our treasure,
and to consecrate them gladly in loving service to you,
to your Church and to all mankind:
through Jesus Christ our Lord who gave himself for us.

2. Dearest Father,
all we have and are comes from you.
Our time, our talents and all the wonderful
possibilities that you have opened for us.
Inspire us to use them fully in your service.
So may your Church of the future be better
equipped by all that we seek to do today.
We ask this for the sake of our Lord and Saviour
Jesus Christ.

3. O God, our Heavenly Father,
we praise and thank you for giving us all that we have;
help us to give more of ourselves back to you as our response of love,
that your Name may be honoured and your kingdom extended,
for Jesus' sake.

4. O God our Father,
your love is for every creature whom your hands have made.
Your love is my strength and gentleness
to use wisely the time you have given me.
Lord, help me to accept like a child the love I have not earned;
help me to use this gift of life to your glory.
Let your Spirit guide my hands,
that they may be faithful in work and eager in service.
Open my mind and my heart to accept
the precious things you are waiting to give;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

5. O Lord God, when you give to your servants
to endeavour any great matter,
grant us also to know that it is not the beginning,
but the continuing of the same,
until it be thoroughly finished,
which yieldeth the true glory
through him who for the finishing of your work laid down his life for us,
our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

6. Christ has no hands but our hands, to do His work today.
He has no feet but our feet, to lead men in His way.
He has no tongue but our tongue, to tell men how He died.
He has no help but our help, to bring men to His side.
O Lord, help us, we pray.
7. Father, we thank you for all your gifts to us, some yet hidden;
we ask that through the Spirit of Jesus Christ
you will enlighten and guide us in their use,
so that in all things you may be glorified and your rule extended.
8. O God our heavenly Father,
grant that in the life of the church in this parish
we may respond to your love by
thinking your thoughts, speaking your words, and doing your deeds
that in all we think and say and do and are we may
be your children, glorify your Name, and extend your kingdom.
For Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.
9. Enable us, O Lord,
to give you the proper place and due honour in our lives:
to see your goodness with us day by day
that our hearts may be filled with gratitude.
May your Holy Spirit inspire us and set our hearts on fire,
as we seek to bear witness to your love.
10. O God our Father, you have given us so much,
help us to come to a proper understanding of all you have given:
show us our responsibilities as good stewards of your bounty
and give us grace and strength to fulfil them,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
11. God our Father,
make us to think more of what we can give to life
and less of what we can get out of it.
May we be mindful that we hold our gifts,
our talents, our possessions, our life itself,
in trust for you and the service of mankind.
Save us from thinking only of our own needs and desires;
and help us to remember that it is more blessed to give than to receive,
according to the teaching of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
12. Heavenly Father,
accept our thanks for all the good things
that you have given us so richly to enjoy.
Teach us day by day to number our blessings
and know that they are from you.
Grant us your grace that our hearts
may be filled with gratitude and our lips with praise,
so that our lives may be lived in joyful service.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

13. Teach us, good Lord,
To serve you as you deserve,
To give and not to count the cost,
To fight and not to heed the wounds,
To toil and not to seek for rest,
To labour and not to seek for any reward,
Save that of knowing that we do your will.

14. Make us ever eager, Lord,
to share the good things that you give us.
Grant us such a measure of your Spirit
that we may find more joy in giving than in getting.
Make us ready to give cheerfully without grudging,
secretly without praise,
and in sincerity without looking for gratitude.
For Jesus Christ's sake.

15. Lord God, Master Builder,
you have established your Church
on the foundation of the saints through all the ages:
build up the church in this parish
that we may be bonded together as living stones
in that holy temple whose corner-stone is Christ our Lord.

16. Almighty God,
you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless
till they find their rest in you.
Teach us to offer ourselves to your service,
that there we may have your peace,
and in the world to come may see you face to face;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

17. Almighty God, our Heavenly Father,
from whom all good gifts do come,
we thank you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life.
Accept our glad offering, of our talents, our treasure and our time,
in gratitude for your inexpressible gift of your dear Son,
to be our Saviour, even Jesus Christ our Lord.

18. Lord Jesus,
grant that as through your saving grace we have become rich,
so may we share our riches of every sort,
with those who are poor in any way.
In that sharing, may we find your joy,
so that with a heart of love,
we may give with generous hands, for your sake.

19. Stir up, O Lord,
the wills of your faithful people;
that richly bearing the fruit of good works,
they may by you be richly rewarded;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

20. Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made man in your own image.
Teach us to discern your hand in all your works,
and to serve you with reverence and thanksgiving;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit
reigns supreme over all things now and forever.

21. BLESSING

The power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service,
The joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;
And the blessing of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be amongst you and remain with you always. Amen.

The sources of all these prayers are acknowledged as under.

1. *The Revd. Cedric Bradbury, Wroxham & Hoveton.*
2. *Hemsby.*
3. *Earlham, St. Mary.*
4. *Holt.*
5. *Prayer of Sir Francis Drake, Acle.*
6. *St. Teresa of Avila.*
7. *Hellesdon.*
8. *Canon Paul Allton, St. Margaret, Lowestoft.*
- 9 & 10. *St. Edmundsbury & Ipswich Diocese.*
11. *Canon Frank Colquhoun, 'Contemporary Parish Prayers', Hodder & Stoughton.*
12. *Chelmsford Diocese, St. Andrew Hornchurch.*
13. *Ignatius of Loyola.*
14. *Revd. Dr. John Hunter, 'Devotional Services'.*
15. *St. Alban's, Lakenham, Norwich.*
16. *St. Augustine.*
17. *Deanery Events 1983,*
 and 18. The Rt. Revd. Maurice Wood.
19. *Collect for Sunday next before Advent.*
20. *Collect for the 5th Sunday before Advent.*

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