



# St Mildred's Prayer Week for the Building Project



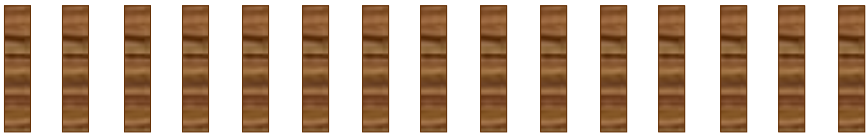
From 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024

## Contents

Introduction	Page 3
Ways to be involved	Pages 4-5
Bible readings for use during the week	Page 5
Prayers for use during the week	Pages 6-7
Homegroup materials	Pages 8-9
Materials for use during a 24 hour fast	Pages 9-12

This is a critical moment in our building project. We need our God to act miraculously on our behalf to move the project forward quickly.

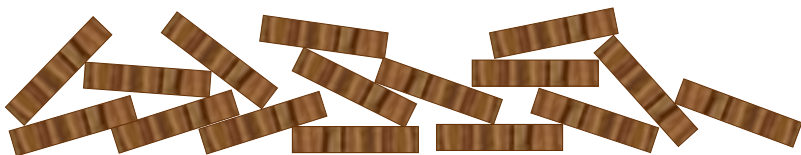
Currently there is a gap of approximately £1.6 million between what we have (or are projected to have) and what we need. This gap can be thought of as 16 blocks of £100,000.



We need God to act to knock these blocks down either by reducing the cost of the project or by increasing our funds.

For every £100,000 reduction in the cost, 1 block is knocked down. Alternatively, for every additional £100,000 raised, 1 block is knocked down.

We must pray specifically that God will knock these blocks down to move this project forward this year. God did miraculous things amongst us in the past, we need him to repeat them again.



We must pray specifically about this because we cannot expect God to act if we do not ask (James 4:2). Also, we want to give him the glory and to thank him when he does act. It is when we receive answers to our prayers that we are able to thank God for his provision (2 Corinthians 1:11, Colossians 4:2).

## Ways you can be involved

### ***Service on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April 10am***

As part of the service we will be considering and praying about this.

### ***Individually***

Feel free to get involved at your own time and in your own way. The key thing is to be praying that God will move the project forward. See the resources later in this booklet for Bible readings and prayers you could use if you like.

### ***Homegroups***

Homegroups are meeting during the week, and we have reserved these times to consider this and to pray about it. See the resources later in this booklet for passages to read together and prayers you could use.

### ***24-hour Fast***

As we did in January, you are invited to join a 24 hour fast if you would like and are able. *Please see the separate guidance about fasting if you are considering this.*

If there is a particular 24 hour period during the week that works best for you, please go ahead and choose that time. If any time would work for you, you could do this from 6pm Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> to 6pm Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>. However, it is up to you to decide what works best

for you. Later in this booklet there are some resources to use during the fast.

### ***In Friendship Groups***

If you have prayer triplets or friendship groups of church members why not arrange to meet during the week to pray about this.

### ***Corporately***

We have our regular ½ hour prayer meetings during the week on Zoom at 9:30am on Monday and 8:30am on Friday. We will pray about this as part of those meetings. Additionally, there will be two opportunities to join a ½ hour Zoom service of prayer during the week: at 8:30pm on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> and 8:30pm Friday 26<sup>th</sup> (Zoom links are on the website)

## **Resources**

### **Bible Readings**

2 Samuel 5:17-25; Colossians 1:9-14; Philippians 4:19-20;  
Ephesians 3:20-21; 2 Corinthians 9:10-15

Why not meditate upon one of the readings for a while. Ask the Spirit to help you pray in faith using the words of Scripture or in your own words as you respond to what you have read.

## **Prayers for use based on the Bible readings**

### *Based 2 Samuel 5*

God of David who guided him when he enquired of you in a time of great need, we earnestly ask you to guide us as we seek you. Grant that, as David was given a sure sign of your help through the sound of marching in the balsam trees, we too may know that you have gone before us to fulfil your purposes for us. Give us grace and strength to follow as we discern your leading, and tender heartedness to thank you when you act, through Jesus Christ, your son, our Lord. Amen.

### *Based on Colossians 1*

Heavenly Father we have so much to be thankful for in the Lord Jesus: Redemption; forgiveness; rescue; light instead of darkness; an inheritance in place of loss; love replacing hatred. All these are ours in your beloved Son. Help us to live rightly as we celebrate the blessing of being your people. May our desire be to please you and to walk worthily as people who have tasted your goodness. Through the Holy Spirit of wisdom and understanding grant us to know your will and give us grace to fulfil it. We ask in Jesus' name, Amen.

### *Based on Philippians 4:19-20*

O Lord, how great is the amount we need to take this project forward. The task seems unattainable. Help us to measure the possibility of achieving this, not by what we possess, but by your glorious riches in Christ Jesus. We ask you to meet all our needs according to these riches and your great promises. And may you be

glorified in us, and in all your wonderful works for your people,  
through Jesus Christ, Amen.

*Based on Ephesians 3:20-21*

Lord God, we thank you that the things you call us to do and to undertake are dependent on your power at work in us and not our power controlling you. Your power is unparalleled; ours is passing away and rises and falls as quickly as the waves. You are able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine; so often we cannot do even the things we need to. Thank you that our responsibility is to imagine and to ask, and that it is your power that overflows in us to achieve and to do what we ask of you. And thank you that your power is always immeasurably more than we need. May you so work in us and for us to carry this project forward that we are amazed and can do nothing but give you the glory. Lord God we need you, our eyes are fixed upon you, for if you do not act we are powerless to achieve. Hear us, we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Based on 2 Corinthians 9:10-15*

O Lord, we thank you for the many ways in which you have blessed us that enable us to bless others. Thank you for the amazing acts of generosity that give us cause to thank you. We are amazed that you have given us so much for this project and we thank and praise you for your indescribable gift to us. Lord, we continue to pray for your surpassing grace to be given us. May this lead to the blessing of many people through this project and through the building that we make for our church and community. We pray that this will result in abundant thankfulness to you and in many acts of service for the gospel of Christ. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Homegroup Material

Don't spend too much of the time studying the passages. Obviously, it is important to do that, and questions are provided below to enable this. But, on this occasion, it would be great to have time to respond to the passages in prayer, to be led by the Spirit and to seek God to provide for us. Please leave time for this. For example, don't do the second study if too much time has been used in the first. The second passage could simply be read as you turn to prayer.

*Read 2 Samuel 5:17-25*

Dale Ralph Davis says about this passage, *“At the very start of both episodes David asks direction from Yahweh...and he discovers an interesting twist in Yahweh’s direction. For, although David faces two almost identical situations (vv. 18, 22), Yahweh varies his guidance in the second episode.”*

1. Look at the promise given David in 2 Samuel 3:18. Why might he have assumed he could go into battle without seeking guidance? Can we be tempted to do the same? What does this say about prayer?
2. The second time the Philistines came up and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim, David might have reasoned that he had guidance the first time, so did not need it now. How wrong he would have been! What does this say about guidance and prayer? Ponder the implications of this for our own lives.
3. The second story implies that God goes before us into battle and we simply follow. Is this an encouraging or a daunting idea?



4. In what ways have we seen God do amazing things for us in the past in our building project? What lessons can we draw from David's experience here for our own situation as a church?

*Read Colossians 1:9-14*

1. What blessings belonging to us in Christ does Paul list in this passage that should inspire our thankfulness?
2. How do you feel about the challenge to live a life that is pleasing to God and worthy of his calling?
3. Paul gives examples of what pleasing God and being worthy of his calling looks like. How much emphasis do we place on these things as a church.
4. To walk worthily of God's calling and to be pleasing to him, we need to know his will through spiritual wisdom and understanding. Do you find it easy to pray that God would show us his will so that we might live according to it?

*Please spend some time in prayer responding to what you have read and seeking God for his miraculous provision for us. Feel free to use the prayers printed in this booklet if you like.*

**Materials for use during a 24 hour Fast**

Two options for using these resources during a 6pm to 6pm fast:

*Option 1:* Reflection 1 at bedtime; reflection 2 first thing in the morning; reflection 3 at midday; pray Psalm 90 at the end of the fast

*Option 2:* Reflection 1 first thing in the morning; reflection 2 at midday; reflection 3 just before the end of the fast.

The reflections are based on Moses' Psalm: Psalm 90.

### ***Reflection 1***

Read Psalm 90:1-6

Lots of sayings mention the brevity of time: "time is precious", "time waits for no one", "time flies when you're having fun."

A famous scene in the film *Dead Poets Society* has Robin Williams using the Latin phrase "carpe diem" (which means 'seize the day') to exhort young students not to waste their short lives.

Moses agrees: our lives are like the grass; here today, gone tomorrow. A day of fasting might feel longer than other days, but it still passes so quickly. And it gives us a chance to reflect on the significance of a day.

Moses watched a whole generation die without fulfilment and must have reflected often on the passing of time. He begins his prayer by focussing on the One who is absolutely full of time. Even a thousand years, for him, goes by like a day. The events of the Norman Conquest, like yesterday; a thousand years from now, like tomorrow. We are transient; he is eternal.

We are short of time, but we know Him who is so full of it: the God who is from everlasting to everlasting; from generation to generation. Let's praise our God who is our enduring presence in this fleeting world.

*Heavenly Father, time for us is so short and so brief. We praise you the eternal God, our refuge, that you hold us in your everlasting arms. During this time of fasting may you sustain us. Grant us to wonder at the God for whom a thousand years are like a day, and for whom eternity goes on to eternity. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

## **Reflection 2**

Read Psalm 90:7-12

Moses continues his reflection on life in this world and highlights not just its brevity but also its difficulty: trouble, sorrow, moaning, even wrath, are the words he uses. For Moses, death is the ultimate sign of the wrath of God against human sin.

As the one who constantly dealt with the moaning, angry Israelites; saw most of them die in the wilderness; lived in a desert tent for 40 years; and was even refused entry to the Promised Land himself, Moses knew that this life contains a significant amount of hardship.

A time of fasting helps us to remember life's difficulties. Eating is a source of great joy. Having a short break from it, provides the opportunity to remember that life can often be difficult for us and for others.

Moses' reflection at the end of this section reminds us that God is worthy to be feared – even more than any of us really know. Because of this he requests instruction from God that we might use our days wisely. God is worthy to be feared more than we can grasp; we need his instruction to use our time wisely.

*O Lord, you are worthy to be feared even beyond what we can comprehend. This life is not easy and there is always the danger that we seek solace in things that cannot ultimately help. Enable us so to remember the fear that you deserve that we constantly seek your instruction to live wisely. For ourselves and for our church, we ask that we would use our time and resources well and for your glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

### **Reflection 3**

Read Psalm 90:13-17

These final verses remind us of the importance of reading to the end, and of considering each verse in the full context of the Psalm. Moses balances the difficult ideas about our condition in the first half of the Psalm, with some lovely ideas in the second: divine love contrasts divine wrath; days and years of gladness contrast years and days of disappointment; the deeds of the Lord being shown to us contrast the deeds of man being seen by God.

Moses appeals for compassion, satisfaction, unending love, joy, splendour and gladness. Thanks be to God that, in the midst of life's lament, we know there is another song; there is a different day. The God of compassion is always waiting for us to cry out to him. We have a permanent home in the heart of our God, and we can make sure we are living there by prayer.

Moses' reminder of the blessings available to us in the eternal God finish with an appeal for him to establish the work of our hands. The deeds of the Lord being shown to us (v16) go hand in hand with our deeds being established by him (v17).

God has called us to be active; active, not apart from him, but active with him and in him. May we see his great deeds on our behalf and may he prosper the work of our hands.

*Eternal God, our Father, we thank you for your compassion, love and splendour. As Moses prayed, we ask you to reveal your wonderful deeds to us and establish the work of our hands. May we know the joy of being yours and of fulfilling your purposes for us.*

*Thank you that the challenge of the task that is before us is dependent on your power at work in us. In Jesus' name, Amen.*