

Introduction

We are going to be thinking carefully about the words and meaning of the Lord's Prayer

- Listen to the short reflection – track 2 on the CD – click the link on the website
- Read the Bible passages
- Have a go at answering the questions – if you would like to discuss your answers please phone Mary German on 01562 720393.

Matthew 6:9-15

⁹ “This, then, is how you should pray:

‘Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,

¹⁰ your kingdom come,
your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us today our daily bread.

¹² And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.’

¹⁴ For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

Luke 11:1-4

¹ One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”

² He said to them, “When you pray, say:

“‘Father,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴ Forgive us our sins,
for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.
And lead us not into temptation.’”

Questions

1. What experiences have you got of the Lord's Prayer being used helpfully or unhelpfully?
2. What differences do you notice between the Matthew version and the Luke version? Are the differences important?
3. Take the following phrases from Matthew's version in turn and think about the meaning and the implications of each phrase
 - Hallowed be your name
 - Your kingdom come
 - Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven
4. How can we make the request, "give us our daily bread" meaningful when we have freezers, fridges and cupboards stocked with food?
5. What do we learn about forgiveness from reading the Lord's Prayer?
6. James 1:13 states
¹³When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;
We are all used to saying "lead us not into temptation." What might a better translation be and why?
7. What is the difference between "deliver us from evil" and "deliver us from the evil one"? Think about the story of Job and the crucifixion to help your answer here

Further Thoughts

Pray the Lord's Prayer each day this week, drawing out the meaning of each verse.