

As we pray for the church today let us remember that the church is made up of a body of people of which we are one. We are the church, the body of Christ.

Lord, we pray for a Church that is united in Christ,  
for a church that looks only to Jesus  
and has less time for pride and self-concern;  
for a church where its people are united,  
not just in word but in deed;  
for a church where there is love for each other,  
following the example and command of Christ  
to '*Love thy neighbour*'.

Lord in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer**

Lord, we pray for a church that is honest,  
that is ready to confess when it makes mistakes  
and all the wrongs that have been done in its name  
and the shame it has brought on yours:

Lord in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer**

Lord, we pray for a church that is open,  
where all are invited in,  
where everyone who enters its doors  
is always aware of the warmth of its welcome;  
for a church more concerned  
for the hurting than for its rituals,  
more for the broken than for its own image.

Lord in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer**

Lord, we pray for a church that is committed to worship;  
that is never content just to sing hymns or say prayers;  
for a church where worship, praise and adoration  
spring from hearts that know and love their Lord.

Lord in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer**

Lord, we pray for a church that is ready to serve in your name;

for a church that cares for the homeless, the lost and the broken,  
and seeks to reach out to these with no hope and no purpose;  
for a church that works for justice and dignity for all;  
for a church that is at the heart of the community  
and refuses to be sidelined or ignored;  
for a church that is the conscience of the nation  
and speaks prophetically the word that must be heard.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Lord, we pray for a church  
that demonstrates the love of God in the community  
through words actions and deeds;  
for a church filled with those who go out each day  
in the knowledge and with the intention  
that they are joining their energies with the God  
who is already at work in the world;  
for those who go out in expectation of meeting Christ  
in the lives of those who know him and of those who do not.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Lord, we pray for a church that shows the love of God  
through it's work with the young, old and marginalised;  
for a church whose loving care and genuine concern  
for the vulnerable and the innocent, the weak and the frail,  
the forgotten and the forgetful  
is a reflection of the loving heart of God and the gentleness of Christ;  
for a church who serves God through their work  
and for all who seek to heal relationships  
and share the pain of individuals and families  
who have reached the point of breaking.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Lord, we pray for a church that is focused on mission  
and whose purpose is that all may believe;  
for a church that preaches the gospel  
and demonstrates its truth through the lives of its people  
at home, at work and in the world;  
for a church committed to evangelism

and whose every meeting and every committee  
is centred on Christ and bringing others to know him as Lord.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**