

AVONSIDE MISSION AREA

Avonmouth - Lawrence Weston - Sea Mills - Shirehampton - Stoke Bishop

Welcome to



A Week of Prayer in the Avonside Mission Area

What's the plan?

It couldn't be simpler! We're inviting people across the Mission Area to pray for 10 minutes, wherever you find yourself, at 7am, 1pm and 7pm.

When are we doing this?

We'll be giving prayer a special focus in the week leading up to Pentecost:
18-24 May 2026.

Why are we doing this?

Because our Father God loves it when we speak to him – whether that's to thank him for something, to pray for someone else or the world, to ask something for ourselves, or to say sorry. The Church across the world is always praying and, during this particular week of the year, we join with churches in every part of our nation praying especially for the Lord God's kingdom to come and his will to be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Prayer is effective. We're excited to see many visitors in our churches and to see the Lord using his people to help transform communities and lives.

How do I take part?

That's easy. You can join in by stopping wherever you are at or around the three times below. This could be at a desk, on a bench, out for a walk, before/after a meal, on your own, with someone else. The whole plan is designed to flex with your routine. See over for details.

What does it look like to pray 7-1-7?

7am

Take 10 minutes to pray very slowly through each line of the Lord's Prayer (below). Pray a line and then pause to reflect on what these words might mean for you now and in the day ahead. Welcome Father God to be with you throughout the day ahead by his Holy Spirit.

1pm

Firstly take 5 minutes to pray for one of the mission area churches and its work in the community, and then for the diocese and wider church.

Monday: St Andrew's Avonmouth
Tuesday: St Peter's Lawrence Weston
Wednesday: St Edyth's Sea Mills
Thursday: St Mary's Shirehampton
Friday: St Mary's Stoke Bishop
Saturday: The Diocese of Bristol
Sunday: The national and global Church.

Secondly, take 5 minutes to pray by name for one of your family or friends. You might like to pray for 7 people – a different one each day. If your circumstances allow, you might like to fast from lunch one day/a few days this week – prayer and fasting often go together and can be very powerful.

7pm

Take 10 minutes to read the small passage of scripture on the following pages, reflect on the brief accompanying questions, and pray about the things which the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and heart, and how the passage applies to our situation today.

*Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.*

On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." [Acts 1:4-8]

What does water do? What does it show at baptism? Are there links with what the Holy Spirit comes to do? What is the power of the Holy Spirit given to the disciples to do? Who might God be inviting you to witness to?

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. [Acts 2:1-4]

'Wind' is the same word as 'breath' and 'spirit'. Can you think of times in the bible where important events were accompanied by wind or fire? Why did the Holy Spirit give the disciples the power to speak in other human languages? Why not ask God to help you to speak to other people?

Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than human beings! The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Saviour that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him." [Acts 5:29-32]

What are the key events the Christian faith talks about? What events had the disciples witnessed? What is the aim of talking about these events? Who is also a witness of these events? How might that encourage us?

So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word." This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. So the word of God spread. [Acts 6:2-7] *PTO.*

What are the 'qualifications' given here to wait on tables? Why is serving in this way so important that it's given such significant 'qualifications'? How can this event encourage us to think differently about roles in church?

When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep. [Acts 7:56-60]

How does the Holy Spirit encourage Stephen at his point of greatest need? Where does Stephen feel is the safest place for his spirit? 'He fell asleep' is a polite way of saying 'he died'. How does Stephen's death reflect Jesus'?

"Right then three [non-Jewish] men who had been sent to me [Peter] from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.' "As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God's way?" [Acts 11:11-17]

What was 'the same gift' that God gave to the non-Jewish household as well as to the Jews who believed in Jesus? Do I believe that miracles still happen today to bring people to faith? Am I bold enough to pray for one?

Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus. [Acts 13:1-4]

What do we see the Holy Spirit doing here? How might the Holy Spirit have 'said' this? What is the church's response? Why not ask the Lord to show you, by his Holy Spirit, where/to whom he's sending you today/in future?
