**Ely Diocese Collective Worship Theme Plan Exemplar – Prayers – 14 Weeks**

**Week by Week Template**

1. Why do Christians pray?
2. How can I stay focused when I pray?
3. What is the purpose of prayer?
4. Lord’s Prayer
5. Lord’s Prayer using BSL
6. Pebble Prayers
7. Teaspoon Prayers
8. Lollipop Prayers
9. 5 Finger Prayers
10. Jelly bean Prayers
11. Prayer through Art
12. Prayer through Art
13. Candle Prayers
14. Prayer Tree

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| **Week no** |  **‘Prayers’** | **Suggested Choral Worship** | **Core Story****Core Prayer** | **Church Values** | **Other Themed Links** | **Bible stories****Things to note** |
| 1 | **Why do Christians pray?** | **Amen****Watoto Choir** | **Matthew 6:5-9, Luke 11:9-10**Jesus gives instructions about how to pray to his disciples and tells them how God wants them to behave when they pray. God who is unseen but always with you (omnipresent) will see you praying and will reward you in private. God will give you what you need, not what you want. Create a list of things God can help with through prayer and the other for unrealistic or unachievable things.  | Faith RespectResponsibilityThankfulnessForgiveness | Amen – I agree | Make links to how other faiths pray too and why it is important to them too.  |
| 2 | **How can I stay focussed when I pray?** | **Lord’s Prayer****Hillsong Worship** | **Matthew 6:5-9, Luke 11:9-10**Christians believe it is important to listen to Jesus about how they should pray. There are things that can be done to support people with prayer:* A focal point – altar in the school hall, prayer space
* A candle – Jesus is the light – John 1:1-6
* Artwork with Jesus as inspiration/focus
* Artefacts such as a crucifix to hold or look at
* Prayer beads
* Basket of objects for inspiration
* Pebbles to hold and focus
* Water to look at/listen to
* Sitting comfortably
* How to position hands, face, body
* Bowing heads
* Kneeling, sitting, stillness

It is important to establish these can all apply to times of reflection too, a time to be still, think, breathe, calm.  | Faith PeaceHonesty  | SpiritualityReflectionThinking timeMeditation  | Nehemiah 8:6, 9-5-6 |
| 3 | **What is the purpose of prayer?** | **Amen****Watoto Choir** | There are 4 main reasons for people praying: to praise, to give thanks, to say sorry (repentance) and ask for something (forgiveness). God must get millions of prayers and they are all a conversation with Him for a different reason however a conversation includes both talking and listening. When we talk with God we need to talk about the important things. Establish a list of things which we can talk to God about, build on previous list from CW, focus on the 4 types of prayers above.  | ServiceTrustFaithRespectHonesty ForgivenessTruthfulness HopeResponsibility Compassion  | Care LoveAppreciation Community  |  |
| 4 | **Lord’s Prayer** | **Lord’s Prayer****Hillsong Worship****Or alternative version** | **Matthew 6:9-13**This is the prayer Jesus taught us ‘The Lord’s Prayer’. Using Spirited play talk and explain to the children what Jesus was teaching them. See the Spirited play script attached. After discussing each line of the prayer, repeat the prayer with the new added line until the whole prayer is said. Discuss how things get changed over time and how in the Bible the last part of the prayer is missing. This is because King Henry V111 added ‘For thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and forever, Amen’ to emphasise the power and glory of God which is everlasting.  | FaithReverence | SpiritualityGlobal connectionsGlobal language of prayerCommunity | [How to pray The Lord's Prayer in British Sign Language - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5lNr-nOEmyE) Church of England supported video |
| 5 | **Lord’s Prayer****Using Sign Language** | **Matthew 6:9-13**This is the prayer Jesus taught us ‘The Lord’s Prayer’. Using BSL step-by-step and put together the full prayer. Pre-teach the prayer to some of the children so they can help to lead the prayer in front of the school. Invite the children to share what each part of the prayer means to them and how they can action what Jesus wants. Allow time for personal reflection. | FaithReverence | ReflectionBSLSEN |
| 6 | **Pebble Prayers** | **Peace like a river****CJ and Friends** | Pebble prayers – we need simple pebbles or glass stones (maybe with prompting words written on or plain) and a bowl of water. In the water you could float laminated words such as love, help, joy, thanks, praise, heal. Have a handful of pebbles and after each part of your prayer, plop a pebble into the water. Focus on the ripples created as a moment for reflection. | FaithTrust | CreativitySpiritualityMeditation Reflection  | Use meditative calming music in the background to create a special atmosphere  |
| 7 | **Teaspoon Prayers** | **You are God****Allstars Kids Club** | **Luke 11:9-10**Teaspoon prayers – on three spoons (plastic) write the letters – t, s, p (acronym for teaspoon ☺). When you take the ‘t’ spoon this is for **thanks**, say thank you to God for something or someone, the ‘s’ spoon is for **sorry**, time to say sorry for something you have done and ask God to forgive you (repentance and forgiveness), the ‘p’ spoon is for **please**, time to ask for God’s help with something. God will give you what you need, not what you want and He already knows before you ask. Ask the children to spend some time to think of a teaspoon prayer – would anyone like to share theirs in CW? | FaithTrustThankfulnessHonestyForgivenessTruthfulness  | Reflection AppreciationGratitude  | Ensure you have teaspoons ready to use |
| 8 | **Lollipop Prayers** | **Hope****Allstars Kids Club** | Lollipop prayers – ask the children to tell you the names of people who are important to them and write them on lollipop sticks. Put them all into a cup. Then tell the children, at the start of the day they can take one lollipop out of the cup. Take that lollipop stick with them and through the day say prayers to God about that person, really focus on them. This is called an intercession prayer because it will be a prayer about someone else. Ask the children to come to the front to share what kind of prayer they might say for their special person. Model one for your family/friend too.  | Faith Compassion Koinonia  | Spirituality SocialCommunity and Living wellHope and aspirationKindness Friendship | Different coloured lollipop sticks work best, allow the children to take them home |
| 9 | **5 Finger Prayer** | **Upbeat Song,** **Feels good****Rend Collective** | Five finger prayers – all you need is your hand. Each finger represents someone of importance. Your thumb – for the people closest to you, family, ask for love. Your pointer finger – for those who point you in the right direction, teachers, doctors, priests, ask for wisdom and support. Your middle finger – for those in authority, the leaders, government and royalty, ask for guidance and wisdom. Your ring finger – is the weakest finger, for those who are sick, ill, dying, in trouble or pain, ask for help and health. Your little finger – is for you, ask for help, guidance and what you need. | CompassionKoinoniaFaith PeaceGentlenessCourageHope  | FriendshipFamilyLoveKindness |  |
| 10 | **Jellybean Prayer** | **True Colours****Trolls Film version** | Jellybean prayers – every colour bean represents something to focus on. Using a bag of jellybeans, pull out each colour to help to develop a prayer. For example Red is for Jesus’ blood and the life he gave up for us, say a prayer for Jesus. Black is for sin, say a prayer for something we have done wrong. Green is for the Earth God made, say thank you for the wonders of life. Yellow is for the sun and Heaven above, say thank you for an eternal life. White is for a pure heart, pray to keep Jesus in your heart and show you the way. Pink is for love, say thank you for those around you. Purple is for the colour of sorrow, saying sorry for things we have done wrong. Orange is for happiness, say a prayer about things that make you happy. Blue is for the new day, say thank you for every new start. | ThankfulnessForgivenessCreativityFaithCompassion Hope | Colours of the world | You will need a bag of jellybeans to show what to do.Smarties would work too. |
| 11 | **Prayers through Art** | **My Lighthouse****REND Collective** | “A picture is worth 1,000 words.” Art can bring another dimension to prayer. There are two main modes from which to approach prayer through art: meditating on art as a starting point for prayer and creating art as an expression of prayer. They both use visual means to engage in and nurture prayer, reflection, and meditation. Paintings, tapestries, sculptures, friezes, stained glass, and other images and icons were one of the first ways the common people could understand the stories of Christianity.Choose a piece of artwork and then: (1) preparation and clearing your mind, (2) looking at the image, (3) meditation, (4) contemplation,  (5) prayer[Ways to Pray: Prayer through Art (stbrendans.org)](https://www.stbrendans.org/single-post/2018/03/22/Ways-to-Pray-Prayer-through-Art#:~:text=Similarly%2C%20art%20can%20bring%20another%20dimension%20to%20prayer.,engage%20in%20and%20nurture%20prayer%2C%20reflection%2C%20and%20meditation.) | Depends on the piece of artwork selected | SpiritualityReflection Art responseAppreciation  | Choose samples of artwork and ask the children if they can connect to the Bible stories where necessary  |
| 12 | **Prayer through Art** | **The Way It’s Gonna Be****Doug Horley** | 19 Best Praying in Colour images | Prayer stations, Prayers, Pray“A picture is worth 1,000 words.” Art can bring another dimension to prayer. Prayer through art - They both use visual means to engage in and nurture prayer, reflection, and meditation. Today we will look how we can use colour, pattern and words to help us with prayer. Using ‘Praying in colour’ by Sybil MacBeth, teaches children how to be creative in their prayers. Demonstrate how you can create a prayer focusing the mind whilst colouring and drawing. Choosing specific people, words, feelings and colours to build up a prayer picture. | CompassionLove Faith Creativity  | Spirituality SocialCulturalCommunityArtistic responseReflective  | ‘Praying in colour’ by Sybil MacBeth is worth investing in, however examples can be found on the web |
| 13 | **Candle Prayers** | **This Little Light of Mine****Wesley's Wuppets** | **John 12:36**Candle prayers - Candles can remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World. Christians believe they remind us to put our “trust in the Light so that [we] may become sons of Light” (John 12:36). Having a candle burning while we pray might serve to focus our prayers and thoughts on Jesus as the Light of the world. This can be actual candles or LED coloured ones. Candles are often used as part of prayer rituals, or to honour God. Christians frequently light candles for prayers; to light a candle for someone signifies an intention to pray for them. When you visit a church or cathedral you will often see a specific area where people will go and light a candle. This is a way of showing others that someone is in need of praying for and invites others to think about someone different to themselves. Different coloured candles can be linked to feelings, ideas or Biblical scripture, remind them of the jellybean prayer.  | ThankfulnessForgivenessCreativityFaithCompassion Hope | Colours of the worldJesus is the Light of the world | John 1, 12:36 |
| 14 | **Prayer Tree** | **Beat of Your Love****Watoto Choir** | Show the children a tree whereby they can hang their prayers or thoughts. Using plastic, empty baubles tell the children they can write their prayers and place them inside the baubles. They will remain hanging for God to see. Tell the children these can be private and they can put prayers onto the tree anonymously if they choose. At the end of each week, place the prayers into a prayer book which can be used to collect the prayers the children have written.  | ThankfulnessForgivenessCreativityFaithCompassion HopeHonesty  | SpiritualityReflection  | Great way to introduce a prayer tree into school/reminder how to use one |