

A Prayer Ministry for St. Mary's

Throughout Lent, we will be exploring the part that prayer plays in healing and wholeness, with a view to one of the outcomes being the establishment of prayer ministry during Sunday morning Communion services. Our exploration could then lead us onto developing St. Mary's healing ministry more broadly.

Our thinking and exploration will be guided in various ways. The main element will be a five session, weekly Lent programme intended for small groups. The programme includes what we mean by 'healing', coping with failing health, understanding death and resurrection, ways of praying, and ends with a look at the potential for our church to be a place of healing.

At least two groups will be run (Rachel will hold one in her home every Tuesday evening (16th February – 15th March) and Ruth will hold another, at a time and in a place to suit those interested). We are hoping that other groups may form specially for this. Each session is easy to follow and includes a brief introduction along with excerpts from a DVD featuring Bishop James and Paula Gooder, a key Bible passage, questions to help explore the topic further and suggestions for practical action. If you know one or two others who may be interested, please consider getting together and sharing in this. There are no particular rules about how the sessions are organised; perhaps you could fit them around coffee together or lunch maybe?

What we cover in the groups will be supported by the preaching in church during Lent. Also, a more reflective Midweek Communion will be held every Wednesday at 11.30am, and we will try different styles of prayer each week.

We hope that the programme as a whole will be exciting and rewarding, and that St. Mary's prayer life will grow stronger as, with God's help, we shape ourselves to be a place of healing for the wider community.

- If you would like to attend the Tuesday evening group, please let Rachel know (07740 368225 or rachelarcher.home@yahoo.co.uk).
- If you would like to run your own group, let Ruth know and she will supply the content.
- If you would like to join the group to be led by Ruth (or others, if there's enough interest) please indicate the best times in the week for you, below:

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Lent Programme on Prayer Ministry

Name _____

Email _____ Tel _____

Please tick (all that apply) to indicate your availability (for the period Mon 15th Feb to Sat 19th March):

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|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mon am | <input type="checkbox"/> Tues am | <input type="checkbox"/> Thurs am | <input type="checkbox"/> Fri am | <input type="checkbox"/> Sat am |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mon pm | <input type="checkbox"/> Tues pm | <input type="checkbox"/> Thurs pm | <input type="checkbox"/> Fri pm | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mon eve | | <input type="checkbox"/> Thurs eve | <input type="checkbox"/> Fri eve | |

Please return this slip to Ruth or email the information to ruthmpeet@gmail.com or phone 020 8289 1892 by Wednesday 10th February.