**"A Church on Its Knees"**

What a year, what wonderful news we have read thro the reports and what joy we see week by week here at church and thro out the week.
I want to speak from the heart. Not with a list of tasks, not with a fundraising pitch, and not even with a ministry update—though we’ll touch on all of those.
I want to speak about **prayer**—not as a last resort, but as our **first move**. Because if anything is going to change, grow, heal, or thrive in this church, it will begin when we come together and place it at the feet of Jesus in prayer.

I am personally being challenged in my own life to place prayer more and more at the fore, that may seem strange for someone who is in the role I have, but it is a challenge that I can easily move things into a paid to pray mode rather than an enjoyment to pray.

Philippians 4:6 says

**6**Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.

Using the New Living Translation

We all generally have a tendency to worry, and less of a tendency to pray – God knows this and so lays it out pretty clearly - Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.

It has been great to see young men and woman in our church taking on roles and serving and showing what it means to serve Christ.

I am so grateful for the tireless energy of volunteers who have been selflessly giving of their time and serving, teaching, encouraging young people each week. Not having a full time youth minister has been hard – but the task remains

Praying for a new youth minister ris indeed one of the calls, but this is not to get any of us off the hook, for we are a family a family rooted in Christ. The challenge is not just to draw more young people in but to **raise up disciples** of Christ in the next generation.

We need to see **faith catch fire** in our teens and children. We need to see **their voices lifted in worship**, their hearts rooted in Scripture, and their lives shaped by the Holy Spirit.

But let’s be honest: that kind of discipleship doesn’t happen by accident.
It takes time. It takes love. It takes leaders.

We need to be praying for **more workers**—more mentors, more volunteers, more people to say, “Here I am, Lord. Use me to invest in the next generation.”

Let us pray: “Lord, stir our hearts for the children and young people in this town. Raise up leaders. Give us spiritual mothers and fathers who will stand in the gap.”

**Secondly in prayer I want to touch on the progress of the church rooms renovation**

This building is not just bricks and mortar. We understand it to be a **tool in God’s hand**—a place where we hope once more children will laugh, teens find community, meals are shared, tears are shed, and prayers are lifted.

This year there seems to be more traction than we have had for a while in the process of renovating the rooms. IS it still a colossal amount of money, yes, but does it seem more doable than before? I believe so.

Right now, we do need **funding**. We need resources to finish the work so that we can **welcome more people**, **serve more families**, and create a space that reflects the **excellence and hospitality of Christ**.

I am incredibly grateful to Paul Sagar, Stella stevens and Mark Padfield for there work alongside the new architects and you will find the newly submitted plan at the back of church. We are praying for a smooth planning approval of this scaled back option

However We don’t pray just for money—we pray for **vision**, for **unity**, and for **God’s provision** in the right time and the right way.

Let us pray: “Lord, bless the work of our hands. Provide what is needed. Move in hearts to give generously and joyfully.”

**Thirdly -** As a church we are known for a number of things, including the generosity of food and hospitality thro living room, breakfast and lunch on the go. The serenity of space for funeral services and the welcome into the building on Sundays and thro out the week-

We are a church on a mission. After all Jesus calls us into His work to Make disciples of all nations….

We are not and should not be content to sit comfortably—we are called to **reach those who do not know Jesus**, to **share the gospel**, and to be a **light for Him in our community**.

It can be really tough and uncomfortable, and culturally Christianity os often looked down upon and we don’t get a particuallrly good press - Yes, the world looks different.
Yes, culture is changing.
But did you know the latest research by the Bible society shows that **more people are open to returning to church**? IN fact it is being called the slow revival - People are searching. They’re hungry for meaning, for community, and for hope. And to find something more, to find an answer to the banality of the hopelessness of their lives……
**And we have that hope**—His name is Jesus.

We need to be praying for :

* **Boldness in evangelism**
* **Creative outreach**
* And a heart that breaks for the people who don't yet know Jesus

What does that look like ? Another service Sunday afternoon? Saturday? Or a mid week evening? For worship is not about you and me it is only about giving praise to Jesus.

*Like the person who commented to the church leader that they did not enjoy worship this morning, to which they replied god because it wasn’t for you…..*

Evangelism is two pronged for those of us who know jesus.

There is the joyfilled excitement of seeing new peoples excitement as they discover freedom in Jesus, and the joy of seeing services full. However the other side is that it will mean more work for you and me, more conversations, more discomfort, less time with our church friends on a Sunday, and the need to respond to serve and volunteer!

Let us pray: “Lord, send us. Use us. Let us be Your voice, Your hands, and Your heart in this community.”

WE are the church, I don’t want a church that runs solely on **human effort**. I don’t want a building that’s built without God’s presence. I don’t want a youth and childrens ministry, a church gathering, or a single Sunday morning that doesn’t carry the **power of prayer** behind it.

Remember our verse at the beginning Philippians 4:6 says

**6**Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.

So, here’s the invitation:

* Let’s be a **church on its knees**.
* Let’s pray not as a formality, but as a **furnace that fuels everything else**.
* Let’s ask God for more than we can ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20), because **He is able**.

So today, we pray for:

* **Children and young people to grow as disciples** to rise up
* For **Leaders** to walk with them
* For the **Resources** to build the house
* And hearts of **Evangelism** to reach the lost
* And of course the **presence of God** to go before us

"Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain." – Psalm 127:1

Let’s not labour in vain.
Let’s **pray first**.
Let’s **believe boldly**.
Let’s **move forward in faith**, together.

Tell God what we need, and thank him for all he has done.

LETS STAND AND LETS PRAY