

# prayer station

## resources

### AIMS

To encourage groups to set up local prayer stations and provide a range of resources for use at these.

### INTRODUCTION: What is a prayer station?

A prayer station is a place where people may visit for prayer. It can be in any venue: a community centre, a school, a factory, a church, a market place or in the open air. The prayer station is set up at agreed times. A warden or wardens are on hand to help with the mechanics: making sure things don't blow away, making tea, putting things away at the end. Some wardens might also be available to listen or pray with people but this will depend on the particular prayer station and the wardens. You will want to advertise when and where your prayer station is open and available. You may need to arrange a rota of wardens to look after the prayer station. A warden needs to be an unobtrusive presence and comfortable with silence and the possibility of times when no one comes without being discouraged.

### Let me tell you....

It is the only church in the village. Although not a large congregation it was agreed that it would be good to have it open at sometimes during the week and see if other local people wanted to come in for prayer. Once the decision was taken a weekly time was agreed and advertised in the village. Watch this space to see what happens next....

### STRUCTURE

Having chosen the time and place of your prayer station you will want to resource it in a way that is appropriate to that context. Try not clutter it up too much: space is as important as stuff. But you may want to include

- A notice to indicate the way in, particularly if this is not obvious and the times of opening.
- Where necessary indicate the position of toilets and the refreshments if you are serving these.
- Name badges for the wardens
- A simple focal point which could be a cross and/or a candle and open Bible, or a more elaborate centre piece that reflects a particular season or theme (see seasonal material for suggestions).
- Some material for reflection and/or a book for writing prayer experiences or requests. Remember if offering prayer requests to pass these onto those organising the worship in which the prayers are to be included.

### Prayers

Keep the prayer resources you offer simple and straight-forward. You may want to include traditional or well-known words with which folks may be familiar. This can help the first time visitor to your prayer station. A series of pdfs designed for use in a prayer station are available on the website. You can print any of these for your own use or use the ideas presented there to design your own. Some include words from the Bible and some words by other Christians.

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### EVALUATION

After trying this activity, perhaps for a few weeks, then please try to answer these questions for yourself and for others who will use this material:

1. What was the most helpful thing?
2. What was the least helpful thing?
3. What would you like to try now?

### THE NEXT STEP

Evaluation will help you to decide what you want to do next, whether you need to alter your approach or try something else. Material for seasonal prayer stations, including one for advent, will be on the website.

### Acknowledgements

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