



THY KINGDOM COME 2023 Ideas for churches

Praying with others for Thy Kingdom Come

Every year we hear from communities where Thy Kingdom Come is a time of celebration, creativity, collaboration and community. We'd love to share with you some tried and tested ideas for how your church could pray with other churches and other Christians perhaps even from different denominations & traditions to join in with Thy Kingdom Come in 2023 (18th-28th May 2023).

Prayer is what we do all year round, but this is a special opportunity to pray with others too. These ideas may spark other ideas. You will know best what will work in your tradition and context. Let's pray together, for our friends, neighbours and communities to know the love of Christ. We would love you to encourage your congregants to commit to praying for 5 people during the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come.

On the following pages are 23 ideas for how you could take part in Thy Kingdom come in 2023.

1 Continuous worship & prayer

Could you find a dedicated space for continuous prayer? In 2019, a group of six churches from a variety of denominations and traditions in Chester committed to 100 hours of prayer and worship. They said ‘*the most important thing for local churches was unity*’. Sharing a prayer room across many denominations for 24/7 prayer facilitated this. In Sheffield, churches committed to 36 hours of prayer too. Scan the QR code to find out more:



2 ‘Say One for Me’

In Romsey, Hampshire, those at the Abbey devised a programme called ‘**Say One For Me**’. They put up a banner on the street and simply asked people “*If you could pray today, what would you pray for?*” Many of the local churches were involved and they worked out that they collected enough prayer requests for one every minute they were on the street! Scan the QR code to find out more:



3 Pilgrimages

Local pilgrimages are a developing tradition for Thy Kingdom Come. In the Midlands, hundreds of people from many different denominations walk the 19 miles from Repton, Derbyshire to Lichfield Cathedral for Pentecost. One person said “*The conversations between strangers of different Christian traditions made for an engaging distraction from the steady rainfall! We walked and prayed and we were very happy to be part of this developing tradition of local pilgrimage. It was moving to ask God’s blessing on places, on people, on industry and on God’s creation.*” **VIDEO:** Watch this video from 2016, of a local church leader prayer pilgrimage in local churches across his parishes:



4 Children’s trails

Some churches use the Thy Kingdom Come Cheeky Pandas resources to set up a trail in the churchyard or community garden, with activities, crafts, stories and songs. Go to cheekypandas.com for resources:



5 Prayer & care

There are many ways to show love and care for those we are praying for and / or those in need. From cooking a meal, to running errands, to volunteering, being the hands and feet of Jesus is a great way to take part in Thy Kingdom Come. People of all ages can take part in praying for and caring for those in need in our communities; perhaps children could be invited to write letters or draw pictures to send to the elderly at a local nursing home to let them know that they are being prayed for and are not alone.



In Cape Town, South Africa, a group of Christians combined days of prayer with outreach to the homeless by doing prayer walks where they offered both food and prayers. Inspired by 2 Samuel 6:13, they prayed every six steps for those who received the parcels to encounter the love of Jesus.

VIDEO: Watch this video from former Methodist Youth President, volunteering at a soup kitchen as part of her involvement in TKC.

6 'Bow Down'

In Nottingham, many churches gathered in the Market Square to physically bow down and pray for the city. Members of the public watched and joined in! They have also had nights of prayer and worship attended by more than 1,000 people, including nuns who rarely leave the convent. *"It was a catalyst to bring many of the churches in our town and local area to worship and pray together. It helped build unity amongst us."*

Watch what happened:



7 'Pray On The Hills'

Standing physically above a village or town can be a great spur to prayer. A number of Churches Together/ Christians Together groups in Somerset, Bath, Glastonbury, Minehead, Wellington and other places have organised 'Pray On The Hills' gatherings. *"The idea was to identify a number of hills which would allow the group to pray for, pray over and bless their own community; then pray in the opposite direction and remind ourselves we are part of something bigger and are as interconnected as the family of God."*



8 Beacon events

These are bigger ecumenical events in a Cathedral, Abbey, Minster, large church or public space. They have taken place around the world, and are an opportunity to celebrate, worship and pray together.

There are some great examples shown in the videos below including interactive and creative prayer activities that are great for all the family. Why consider hosting a community fun day and provide activities such as face painting, bouncy castles and kite flying alongside prayer activities. Here are some examples:



A Wave of Prayer
Across the Nations.
Mothers Union,
Coventry



Citywide Prayer,
Derby



A Wave of Prayer
Across the Nations.
Burnley



Beacon Launch
Service.
Lancashire

9 Morning, Evening and Night Prayers

Many churches, including Catholic Church communities have organised these and streamed them online on social media, bringing people together both online and onsite. Some churches have hosted a night of prayer - meeting and praying through the night specifically- then celebrating with breakfast together in the morning, exciting and fruitful times of prayer.



10 Prayer Stations

From the traditional to the creative, using Thy Kingdom Come resources, can engage all ages. Could you gather to pray around a large map of your local area? In Rochester Cathedral they created a 'Festival of Prayer' by placing lots of prayer stations in one place. A great prayer activity that they used was paper chain prayers, where each chain represented somebody that was being prayed for – this interactive idea is a brilliant way to demonstrate all the people that we are connected to in our communities and how connected we are, from young to old. **Watch this video** from Rochester Diocese featuring various prayer stations:



11 Prayer Spaces

You could use a labyrinth in your prayer space, or prayer tents. There are loads of ideas on our website, at [Prayer Spaces for Schools](#) and at [247 Prayer](#). **Watch this video:** Prayer tent



12 Prayer Craft

Ideas from other churches: write names of people on a fish and hang on a fishing net as you pray for them. Paper chains of prayers can be hung over the building. Prayer-o-planes are where prayers are written on paper, made into paper aeroplanes and thrown up.

It works equally well with rockets or balloons - a fun way to get all ages involved. In Grimsby they tried this, after listening to traditional Ascensiontide from the top of the Minster.

Watch this video
on prayer chains.



Watch this video from
BSL Church: *BSL Church-
Pray for Five*. Cutting
out hands as a way to
pray for five.



13 Spread across the region!

In 2021, over 3,500 Christians from all traditions of churches across the South West stood together on one of the 630 miles of the South West Coast Path to pray Thy Kingdom Come. To find out more, watch:



14 Prayer beads

In Nottingham, one priest produced and distributed prayer beads, each bead representing one line of The Lord's Prayer. This was given with a copy of the prayer to encourage people to learn and pray The Lord's Prayer. To hear more, watch:

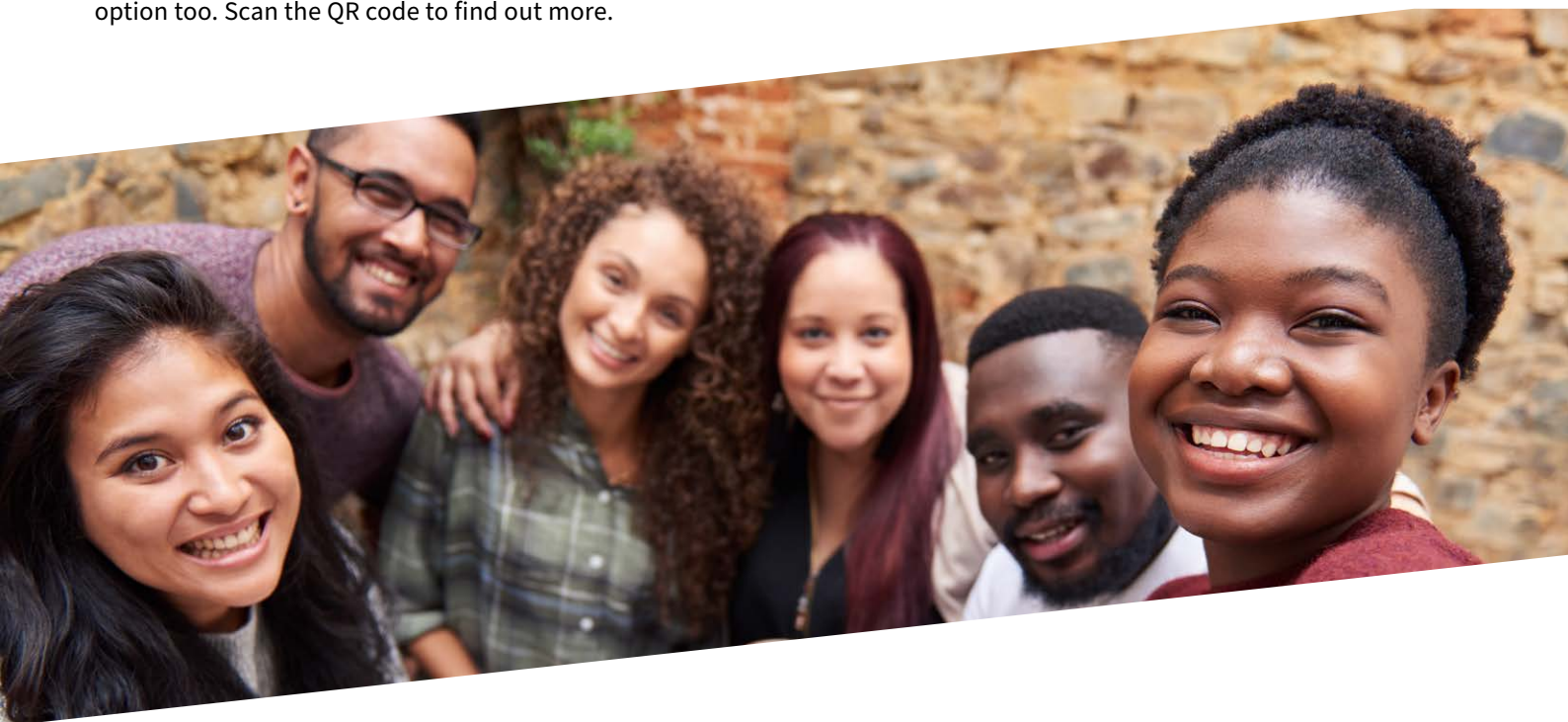


15 Upper Room

An 'Upper Room' was set up in the Peaks Park. It brought Christians together from across the denominations as they were led in prayers by a variety of leaders from across the Peak Park churches including pioneer ministers, lay leaders, priests, vicars, bishops and local students. It has been a catalyst for further meetings with Christian leaders across the Peak Park; and they will continue to pray for revival; with the hope of gathering 1,000 and for each to pray for five people.



And for those who can't gather together in person, there is brilliant 'upper room' digital resource from 24-7 prayer allowing Christians to pray online in a virtual upper room together and a new hybrid option too. Scan the QR code to find out more.



16 Big Prayer Picnic

Get together with food! In Portsmouth, thousands of Christians from all denominations across south-east Hampshire and the Isle of Wight gathered together to share food, enjoy family activities, worship God and engage in creative prayer on Pentecost Sunday at the historic Portchester Castle. This is a great activity to do to bring together people of all ages and invite families from local schools and children's groups to join in.



17 Daily prayers online together

The Ordinary Office project, provides a simple daily office for everyone in clear print, in Makaton, on audio and video. During Thy Kingdom Come, over 1,500 people a day of all abilities from across the globe pray online together three times a day. Scan the QR code for more information:

18 Prayer walk / praying for the local community

One church said *"We made a prayer walk map of our town on our 24/7 Facebook page. It had key places to stop and pray across the town. We noticed a growing passion and love for the people of the town. God gave us great ideas on how to pray."*

Some local churches, from different backgrounds, have gathered to pray and walk for the local community – from the hospital to the library, with others still, focusing on specific places such as schools and designating specific times to pray for each individual school locally throughout TKC.

19 Open Door

Open your church for an allotted time each day for anyone to come and pray. One church in Tenerife said *“We opened up our church for two hours a day during this time and between 80-90 came in to pray. We also had people on hand to offer prayer and talk. All our congregations took a red ribbon as a reminder to pray for five throughout the time.”*

20 Postcard Prayer Project

Connect with your local community by posting a ‘prayer postcard’ into nearby homes and encouraging them to send in prayer requests and visit the local church. Here is the video:



21 Silent Prayer

Many people including churches have participated in silent prayer, holding up their loved ones who have yet to know Christ, before God in silence. If you are new to silent prayer or would like to know more about this practice – watch these videos:



Day 10 ‘Silence’
Members of the
Community of St
Anselm



Time for ‘Silence’
- His Eminence
Archbishop Angaelos



‘Silence’ - Brother
Nichols and Brother
Charlie from Mirfield
Abbey

22 Communal Prayer Book

For the congregation to write down the (first) names of the 5 people they are praying for, kept at church. This can then be brought out again at another point to see what God has done and note down all the answers to prayer.

23 'Pray for Five'

Praying for five people is at the heart of Thy Kingdom Come. There are so many creative ways to do this. You could write down the names of the 5 people you're praying for on your phone, on your mirror or on a little card as a reminder to pray for them throughout the day. You could use a band and tie 5 knots, each one representing your 5 or maybe each time you [drink a cup of tea or coffee](#), you could remember to pray for them. Or perhaps you could pray during your daily exercise such as running or walking – holding one person each day in prayer then praying for them all collectively on the last day. Or you could try the [555 prayer challenge](#).

There are so many wonderful ways to pray.



Pete Greig:
Praying for
5 friends



Former Archbishop
of York, John
Sentamu: Pray for...



Former Archbishop
of York, John
Sentamu: Pray for 5.

