

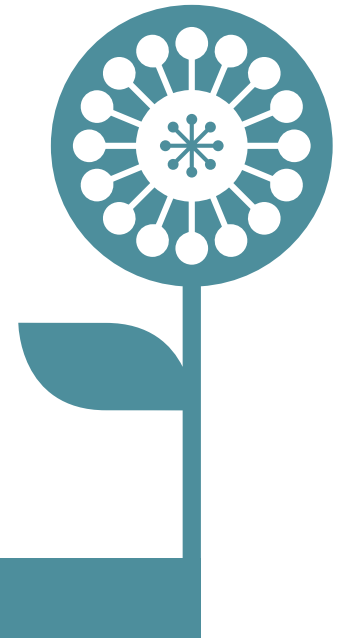
for general safety we encourage you to pray from home for the midnight to 6am slots and only come into the prayer room, at these times, if you are part of a pair or group.

On Saturday, from 10am until 4pm the prayer room will be family friendly with activities to help your children engage with prayer. Why not come along and spend some time praying as a family and with other families? Pop in when you can during your slot and just stay as long as you can manage!

There will also be an Engine Room gathering in HMC on the Saturday evening when we will spend time worshipping and waiting on God as a larger group.

So please sign up and let's join together to cry out to see God's kingdom come!

# MONTH OF PRAYER AND FASTING 4 FEBRUARY - 4 MARCH 2018



WAITING ON GOD

## Prayer 2018

It's an amazing thing to think that we can somehow commune with God, that He desires to say something to us! Prayer is at the heart of the Christian experience, but it is not easy and we are always learning more. The Danish existential philosopher Soren Kierkegaard thought prayer was talking until he realised that it was listening. C.S. Lewis wrote that "prayer without words is the best". Saint Benedict taught us about prayer as work.

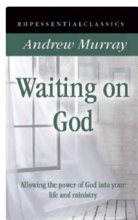
Prayer is our theme for 2018: we'll be teaching on Sunday and in small groups; we'll be doing it alone and together in many different ways; we'll be building a set of resources for you to read and listen to; together we'll go on a voyage of discovery. And because prayer changes things, things will change!

## Month of Prayer and Fasting: 4 February – 4 March 2018

This year our theme for the Month of Prayer and Fasting is 'Waiting on God'. Sundays and Small Groups will be looking at these four themes:

Prayer is a response  
Prayer is emotional  
Prayer turns theology into experience  
You are your prayer life

There are several ways in which you can engage with this as a community:



- Take a copy of Andrew Murray's book *Waiting on God*. This is made up of 31 daily devotionals to take you through the month. Use these daily nuggets to guide your prayers – your talking and listening to God.

- Fasting 'doing' for 'being'. Fasting is about choosing to go without something that would otherwise satisfy an appetite or bring comfort. Ask the Lord to speak to you about what would be good for you to fast in order to just 'be'.



- Pick up a jar of honey to remind you of this word: *I saw a cupboard full of jars of honey each one a lovingly prepared gift ready to be handed out. As you set time aside to pray, God is poised ready to bless you with the gift of the sweet goodness of His Presence and the abundant life that it brings.*

*Like honey, there is an intensity to it: He longs to overwhelm you with His love for you; His delight in you; His eagerness to do you good. He has prepared this just for you; he invites you to take the time to open it with Him. (Anne Buchan)*

## 24/7 Prayer Week: 26th Feb to 4th March

*"Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tyre?" - Corrie ten Boom*  
As we enter 2018 we are putting prayer high on our agenda because we do, indeed, want it to steer us into all God has for us as a church and for the communities our lives touch. At the end of our month of prayer and fasting, we would like to push the accelerator down a little further and go for a week of 24/7 prayer! This will be an opportunity to draw closer to God, listen to him and intercede for all that he puts on our hearts.

### How will it work?

- **Monday 26th February to Friday 2nd March:**

The vision is for 24 hours of prayer each day, collected at any place and any time. Simply sign up to pray for an hour on one (or more!) of these days and feel free to pray when and where it fits for you. For those who would like them, we will be providing some resources to help you make the most of this hour.

- **6pm Friday 2nd March to 10.30am Sunday 4th March:**

We would love to have a continual 24/7 flow of prayer over this weekend. Recent messages on Sunday have encouraged us to consider our role as 'watchmen' and 'guards' through prayer. 1 Chronicles 26:16 describes how the gatekeepers David appointed to the temples organised themselves to achieve its continual protection, 'One squad of guards served its watch after another.' We would like to form these 'squads' praying for protection and for God's promises to be fulfilled.

The weekend will be divided into two hours slots which we are encouraging small groups of prayers to sign up to cover – you may want to sign up with friends, people you know are passionate about a similar issue or with members of your small group.

For this time, we will be converting the Sunshine Room at the church office into a prayer room and there will be a number of prayer stations to prompt and facilitate your time of prayer. These will focus on our Vineyard House rocks as well as prayer for national and international issues.

You are welcome to sign up for any of the slots as an individual, however