



On our behalf, our Elders and Paul have been attending events called LYCIG, or Leading your Church into Growth. This week's prayers use the seven themes (**in bold**) from the course, as we look prayerfully towards ways for our church to grow.

Monday 11th August: **A prayerful culture of growth.** In Mark 11, vs24 Jesus tells us, "*Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours*". Lord, we pray, and *believe*, that you will strengthen and refresh our church in ways that we have not yet imagined.

Tuesday 12th August: **Annual rhythm for growth.** Ecclesiastes 3, vs 1: *There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.* Lord, we pray that you can send ideas of how we can plan events throughout our Christian year to share You with our community and new people seeking faith.

Wednesday 13th August: **Fruitful Evangelism.** 1 Timothy 6, vs 18. *They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share.* What would you say if someone asked you what does it feel like to believe in Jesus? Try it now, out loud, before reading on... A new person in church may ask you this question. Lord Jesus, we pray that we can be ready to share simply our stories of faith with those who come to us.

Thursday 14th August: **Developing engaging worship.** Psalm 47, vs 1, *Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.* Throughout the Psalms (such as 100 and 150 and others), we are encouraged to worship with music, shouting, singing, dancing and every known instrument. We pray for the work of our worship team, to find new and exciting ways to worship and new inspiring people to lead. May we, ourselves, be hungry for more than a hymn sandwich!

Friday 15th August: **Becoming an inviting and welcoming in church.** We sing in church, "*Let us build a house...all our welcome in this place*". We are a welcoming church but often busy in our many groups and activities. Lord, we pray that new people coming to church can find not just a faith-filled welcome but be brought into lasting, meaningful friendships.

Saturday 16th August: **For seekers to become disciples:** Acts 2 vs 42, *They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.* We will be encouraged in LYCIG to have a pathway for those new to church to become disciples, a fellowship of new believers. Pray for yourself now, as you consider where you are on this spiritual pathway and how you can be moving onwards as an example to those who will join us.

Sunday 17th August: **A Planned Journey for Growth.** Sing “*One more step along the world we go, One more step along the world we go, From the old things to the new, keep us travelling along with You!*”. Yes, the lyrics should be *I* not *we*, *me* and not *us*, but this old hymn is to the point, that we move on together, following the LYCIG plan for growth. Add church growth to your daily prayers and especially ask God for young families to join our church and for a new minister.

We pray together the LYCIG prayer:

God of Mission, who alone brings growth to your Church, send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning, wisdom to our actions, joy to our worship and power to our witness. Help our church to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you, and in service to our local community, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.