

## Prayer for our Circuit

We pray for those who lead our Circuit: for Martin our Superintendent, for the Circuit Leadership Team, for Ministers, Circuit Stewards, Lay Employees, Church Stewards and for all of us in our local churches.

Guide us as we move towards becoming the Berkshire and Hampshire Borders Circuit; help us to encourage and inspire each other; excite us by signs of growth; lift us when we only see signs of decline; open our eyes to potential areas of local mission; deepen our compassion and understanding.

May our relationships be surrounded by grace and kindness. Lord of our lives, lead us forward as your people in the places where we are. Amen.

Gracious God,  
When your still small voice  
Prompts me with a nudge,  
Or speaks through another,  
May I be open to hear  
And willing to act in faith.

May my willingness become  
A concrete step forward  
To a place  
Where I can reflect  
With companions on the journey,  
Listen for the next prompt  
And take my next step of faith.

May each faithful response  
To your persistent prompts  
Be another expression  
Of your goodness and grace  
As we put our trust  
In your unfailing love.  
In Jesus name, we pray  
Amen



## Basingstoke & Reading Circuit Prayers March to May 2024

Taking a step of faith, even if we don't know the final destination

Walking in faith into the unknown, guided by the Spirit



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Going before me,  
You lead me on,  
Full of surprises,  
You help me see  
New possibilities,  
New facets of me.

Leading me gently,  
You show me the way,  
Challenge my certainties  
And make me see  
A glimpse of your purpose,  
What I could be.

Showing us yourself  
As we seek to obey,  
You draw us to you  
And help us see  
Our part in your mission,  
What we could be.

As we seek you further,  
You lead us on,  
As we travel together,  
You make us see  
To learn, we must be still and be.

Angela Webb Grace Upon Grace

## **A prayer as we Dwell in the Word**

Loving God,  
Although our destination is not yet clear,  
May we trust in your graceful promises;  
Though we are uncertain of ourselves,  
May we be rooted in your loving regard;  
Though our attention is inclined to wander,  
May we hear the things you are saying;  
Though we often neglect your influence,  
May we be convicted of your power to change,  
In Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Amen.

**Dwelling in the Word text:** Hebrews 11: 8-12 NRSVA

### **The faith of Abraham**

<sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going.

<sup>9</sup> By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.

<sup>10</sup> For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

<sup>11</sup> By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old - and Sarah herself was barren - because he considered him faithful who had promised.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, 'as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.'

*Read slowly through the passage a couple of times and then find a word or phrase that jumps out to you and think what it is saying to you.*

### **Other examples of stepping into the unknown:**

Acts 8: 26-40 Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch

Acts 10:1 to 11:18 Peter and Cornelius

Acts 16: 6-15 Paul's vision of the man of Macedonia

*Read the passages from Acts and wonder about the Faith that was needed to follow God's call.*

*Ponder when and how you have heard God calling you.*

*Remember how you responded and how it felt.*

*Reflect on how it feels to follow God's direction when the outcome is unknown.*

*What is it like looking back?*