

Prayers

A prayer for our church

Gracious God,
Your promise is that you will build your church; and the gates of hell will not overcome it. We thank you for calling us to be part of that church here in Eynsford; and we pray that you would help us to be faithful: in our worship of you, in our love of one another, and in our making Jesus known through word and action. May we radiate your love in our community, so that our community reflects your heart and so that others are drawn to you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

A prayer for our building project

Father God,
We thank you for our church building and the way it speaks of you. We thank you for the generosity and care of generations past, who have kept and improved it. Please help us to be wise stewards of this great building; that it may reflect your glory And provide a fitting home for your family in this our generation, From where we may reach out in mission and welcome others in fellowship. We pray for the successful completion of our reordering project. To your praise and glory, Amen.

Nehemiah 6:16 Prayer Challenge

"For they perceived that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God"

Please pray each day at **6:16am** or **6:16pm** that we would accomplish the development of our church building, and that it would be obvious to all that it was done with the help of God.

Prayer & Inspiration

From the Rector

**Not by might, not by power,
but by my spirit says the Lord.**

This was the message of the prophet Zechariah to Zerubbabel, as he encouraged God's people to rebuild their beloved capital Jerusalem and its Temple.

This must be our sentiment as we look to fulfil what we trust is a God given mission to redevelop our church building. To this end, the project development group has produced this leaflet. In it, you will find a plan of our September sermon series, with an introduction to the book of Nehemiah and some reflections upon its significance for us. Please take time to read the book of Nehemiah and reflect upon what God might be saying to you and to our church through it.

You will also find a prayer diary and some prayers. Jesus said "ask for anything in my name and I will give it to you". James said, "you do not receive because you do not ask". Please use the prayer resources in this booklet and on the prayer calendar. Please pray; for it is through prayer that we will unlock the resources of heaven and achieve our goal.

There will be an opportunity to pray collectively every day throughout the month (see the pew sheet or web site for each week's arrangements). We are also asking each church member if they might pray at 6:16am or 6:16pm each day. Nehemiah 6:16 says, "for they perceived that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God".

Yours in Christ

Gary

Prayer Vigil

Fri 23 Sept, 6:16pm - Sun 25 Sept, 6:16pm
In the side chapel, St. Martin's.
Please sign up to cover a
1 hour slot.

St. Martin's

an open door for everyone

PROJECT MONTH SEPTEMBER 2011



The Project Month

Sunday 4th Sep—9.30am: All Age Worship (St Martin's)

- ✠ The story of Nehemiah – Nehemiah 1.1-13.31
 - ✠ Outline of building project and the month ahead (project team)
- Please pray for: Our architect (James Ford), the DAC and planning authorities, for finding the right builders and for all who will work on the plans and bring them to fruition.*

Sunday 11th Sep—9.30am: Communion (SS Peter and Paul) & Sunday School

- ✠ Motivation for the project – Nehemiah 1.1-2.6
 - ✠ What we want to do with our new building (Ruth)
- Please pray for: Our plans for the use of our building - for our own needs and for the wider community; that our project might be a witness to God and his goodness; for our building to be a place from where we can engage in mission and into which others can be welcomed.*

Sunday 18th Sep—9.30am: Communion (St Martin's) & Sunday School

- ✠ Making the project happen – Nehemiah 2.7-18 (and Luke 21.1-4)
 - ✠ We did it – testimony from a church that has achieved such a project
- Please pray for: Unity within the church congregation; for mutual encouragement; that the Devil would not cause problems for us; that the project would be well received by others; that during this time we would not forget the core reasons for our existence.*

Sunday 25th Sep—9.30am: Communion (SS Peter and Paul) & Sunday School

- ✠ Problems along the way – Nehemiah 3.28-4.5 (and Luke 9.51-62)
 - ✠ Financing our project (Mike & Norman)
- Please pray for: The finances we need to be found; for a generous and sacrificial response to the gift day from church members; for the work to come in on time and in budget.*

Sunday 2nd October—9.30am: All Age Worship (St Martin)

- Harvest – Gift day – Nehemiah 7.1-3 & 7.66-72
- Please pray for: Give thanks for the gift day; pray for the next phase of the project; for the project development team in their work.*

Prayer Meetings for All

Monday	12:00 noon	in Church
Tuesday	6:16pm	in Church
Wednesday	6:16am	in Church
Thursday	10:30am	at 71 Pollyhaugh
Friday	9:30am	in Church
Saturday	10:30am	at 17 Tilman's Mead

The Book of Nehemiah

Nehemiah is a Jew, exiled from Jerusalem and working as cupbearer to King Artaxerxes in his winter palace in Susa, Persia. Nehemiah receives news that Jerusalem, the city of God, is in ruins and its walls broken down. Heartbroken, he weeps, fasts and prays. God puts it into his heart to rebuild the walls. He asks permission of King Artaxerxes to return to Jerusalem. He asks the king for safe passage, resources and the king's authority to do the work. The king agrees.

Nehemiah organises the people to rebuild the walls. They face much opposition from those with a vested interest in their failure. They struggle with internal conflict and tiredness. But working together, they achieve their goal.

The people read the Law together, committing themselves to keeping it, pledge to resource the worship of the Temple, and praise God together.

The walls are dedicated to God.

Even then the people slip into old habits and Nehemiah must call them back to faithfulness.

Things to learn

- ✠ Nehemiah's task is rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem; but his primary concern is not bricks and mortar but the glory of God (9.5f).
Our primary concern must be too.
- ✠ Nehemiah's confidence comes from the character and promises of God (5.5, 5.8-9).
Our confidence must too.
- ✠ A vision from God and prayer did not preclude good organisation and hard work (2.11-16).
We need to attend to each of these.
- ✠ Many people played their part (3.1-31)
Let's all get involved and encourage others to get involved too.
- ✠ Nehemiah's work is to fulfil a task God has placed on his heart. It springs from fasting and prayer; and remains rooted in prayer throughout (1. 4, 2.12).
We must remain rooted in prayer too.
- ✠ Nehemiah and the people faced great opposition, in the form of ridicule, pessimism, nasty letter writing and direct attack. They met it with prayer and practical action (2.19-20, 4.1-5, 4.7-23, 5.1-19, 6.1-14, 6.16-19).
Difficulties will come, but let's not lose heart; let's keep praying and encouraging one another and working for success.

The end result of the work was:

- A renewal of commitment to God (10.29)
- A renewal of the worship of God (8.6, 9.5-37)
- Outsiders see the glory of God (6.16)
- Great rejoicing (12.43)

Let's pray for, and work for, these goals too.