

**ALDRIDGE PARISH CHURCH
REPORT ON PRAYER FROM THE PCM
APRIL 2008**

‘I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you. I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.’ Philippians 1:3-4

‘The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective’ James 5:16

We have continued throughout the year with a Prayer event organised by the staff team and taking place each month on a Tuesday evening. Housegroups have been encouraged to plan to be at these instead of meeting in homes. Attendance has been good and they have been some important times of prayer for our church and community.

We had a special prayer day in December for the church buildings during which we opened the church for quiet reflection. This was a good day, appreciated and well attended by many in the church. People were encouraged to share anything that came out of this with the staff team and the response was really appreciated.

Sunday by Sunday we have continued to encourage members of the church in leading the intercessions. It has been really encouraging to see members of Beta groups and newer members of the church being involved in this and to see young people in the evening service often leading the prayers and using creative ways with music and visuals to help us.

Prayer ministry has been consistently offered at each of the three Sunday services over the last year and the team have been faithful in their support of and prayer for people in a confidential setting. The prayer ministry team have had one training session in the Summer of 2007. New members are joining the team this month. During Lent Peter and Helen Walley led a Lent course entitled ‘The Church as a healing community’ which was open to anyone from all three Aldridge churches. It went very well and was well attended and took place at St Thomas. There are handouts available if anyone would like them.

Sue Fung is running a special ‘We are Family’ prayer day in the church on 12 April during which people can come and pray for their lives and the life of the church using prayer stations around the church. It is for all ages and will be an encouragement to our children and young people to pray and see the difference it makes.

The prayer chain is now widely circulated around the church family and many requests have been placed on it over the year. It is a privilege to be able to pray for one another in this way. We have been aware of the need to keep persevering in prayer and to experience it as more than just bringing our requests but experiencing it as a deepening of our relationship with God. ‘Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. – let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and in full assurance of faith’. Hebrews 10:22