

## Welcome to the Real World

Godfrey Rust

This poem was read to us by John Pritchard during the Weekend on Prayer. It moved us all and we'd like to share it with the rest of you.

I'm beginning to understand.  
I saw a sign once  
outside a church. It said  
*Are you really living  
or just walking around  
to save the expense of a funeral?*

I didn't know  
that Love is real life,  
and everything else  
is just a more or less entertaining  
way of dying,

and I didn't know  
that Love is like nothing on earth.

Love isn't what you fall in.  
It's what pulls you out  
of what you fall in.

Love isn't a good feeling.  
Love is doing good  
when you're feeling bad.

Love means hanging in  
when everyone else  
shrugs their shoulders  
and goes off to McDonalds.

Love means taking the knocks  
and coming back  
to try to make things better.

Love hurts.  
It's its way of telling you  
that you're alive.  
And the funny thing is that  
after all love does feel good.

People say love is weak.  
But love is tougher than hate.  
Hating's easy.  
Most of us have a gift for it.

But love counts to ten  
while hate slams the door.  
Love says *you*  
where Hate says *me*.

Love is the strongest weapon  
known to mankind.  
Other weapons blow people up.  
Only love  
puts them back together again.

And everything that seems real,  
that looks smart,  
that feels good,  
has a sell-by date.  
But love has no sell-by date.  
Love is Long Life.  
Love is the ultimate preservative.

I don't know too much about love  
but I know a man who does,  
up there on the cross  
loving us to death.

Love is the key  
to the door of the place  
he's prepared for you  
in the kingdom of God.

If you're beginning to understand  
then welcome to the real world.

## The Beacon Benefice

# Prayer Diary

## November 2016

What a brilliant couple of days we had at our Weekend of Prayer! It was wonderful to see so many of you coming along. I know we were all uplifted by the wisdom Bishop John Pritchard shared with us.

I also know he was very impressed by the number of you who came and by your obvious sincerity and desire to know God more deeply through prayer.

But the question which now faces us is, 'What next?' We've done a lot this year by putting structures into place to help our prayer life. How do we now encourage more people to discover the joy of prayer? How do we help our Church to flourish through our shared prayer life? Watch out for a chance to share ideas.

Rev Mike

### Beacon Prayer

Please help us pray our way around all our Churches.

4<sup>th</sup> Nov Edge  
11<sup>th</sup> Nov *No Beacon Prayer*  
18<sup>th</sup> Nov Cranham  
25<sup>th</sup> Nov Sheepscombe

2<sup>nd</sup> Dec Painswick  
9<sup>th</sup> Dec Pitchcombe  
16<sup>th</sup> Dec Edge  
23<sup>rd</sup> Dec Harescombe  
30<sup>th</sup> Dec *No Beacon Prayer*

### Weekly Prayer Themes

31<sup>st</sup> Oct – 5<sup>th</sup> Nov

Those who work to relieve poverty

7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> November

Our armed forces

14<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> November

Our emergency services

21<sup>st</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> November

Those who work in education

28<sup>th</sup> Nov – 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec

Those who work in healthcare

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Reading</b>    | <b>Church</b>                         | <b>Community</b>                     | <b>People who live in ...</b> |
|-------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1           | Isaiah 35.1-9     | PCC members                           | Painswick Health Centre              | Longridge SH                  |
| 2           | Daniel 2.25–end   | Those mourning the loss of loved ones | Painswick Library                    | Lower Washwell Lane PA        |
| 3           | Daniel 3.1–18     | Psalms volunteers                     | Painswick Tourist information Centre | Lurks Lane PI                 |
| 4           | Daniel 3.19–end   | Retired clergy                        | Painswick Town Hall                  | Maitands BR                   |
| 5           | Daniel 4.1–18     | Diocesan Synod meeting today          | Bonfire parties                      | Mill Lane CR                  |
| 7           | Daniel 4.19–end   | Retired Readers                       | Painswick Village                    | Naas Drive BR                 |
| 8           | Daniel 5.1–12     | Sacristans/Vergers                    | Painswick Youth & Community Pavilion | Naas Lane BR                  |
| 9           | Daniel 5.13–end   | Sheepscombe Methodist Church          | Parish Councils                      | New Street PA                 |
| 10          | Daniel 6          | Sidespeople                           | Pitchcombe Village                   | Orchard Mead PA               |
| 11          | Daniel 7.1–14     | St James, Cranham                     | The fallen in two world wars         | Painswick Road CR             |
| 12          | Daniel 7.15–end   | St John the Baptist, Edge             | Pitchcombe Village Hall              | Paradise PA                   |
| 14          | Daniel 8.1–14     | St John the Baptist, Harescombe       | Resthaven Nursing Home               | Paul Mead ED                  |
| 15          | Daniel 8.15–end   | St John the Baptist, Pitchcombe       | Richmond Care Village                | Pincot Lane P/PA              |
| 16          | Daniel 9.1–19     | Churches Together around Painswick    | Sheepscombe Primary School           | Portway CR                    |
| 17          | Daniel 9.20–end   | St John, Sheepscombe                  | Sheepscombe Village                  | Pullens Road PA               |
| 18          | Daniel 10.1–11.1  | St Mary's, Painswick                  | Sheepscombe Village Hall             | Queensmead PA                 |
| 19          | Daniel 12         | St Mary's, Kabanga, Tanzania          | The emergency services               | Randalls Field PA             |
| 21          | Isaiah 40.1–11    | Stroud Foodbank and Furniturebank     | The retired                          | Resthaven PI                  |
| 22          | Isaiah 40.12–26   | Sue Hartley                           | The unemployed                       | Sevenleaze Lane ED            |
| 23          | Isaiah 40.27–41.7 | The work of PSALMS                    | Those away at university or college  | Sheepscombe Village           |
| 24          | Isaiah 41.8–20    | Wedding and baptism co-ordinators     | Those who look after children        | Slad Road SH                  |
| 25          | Isaiah 41.21–42.9 | Andrew Leach                          | Those who travel to work             | St Marys Mead PA              |
| 26          | Isaiah 42.10–17   | The new Diocesan Vision               | Those who work from home             | St Marys Street PA            |
| 28          | Isaiah 42.18–end  | Archdeacon Jackie Searle              | Those who work in service industries | Stamages Lane PA              |
| 29          | Isaiah 43.1–13    | Area Dean Mike Smith                  | Utility companies                    | Stepping Stone Lane PA        |
| 30          | Ezekiel 47.1-12   | The Consecration of Bishop Robert     | Visitors to the benefice             | Stockend ED                   |