

BARWICK METHODIST CHURCH

Valentines Coffee Morning

SATURDAY 15th FEBRUARY 2025

Come and join us in the Chapel Schoolroom

Between 10 am – 12.00 noon

Wishing you a



Admission £2.00 includes Refreshments

(Tea/Coffee)

Cake Stall/Raffle

Everyone Welcome

Proceeds to British Heart Foundation/Building Fund

T@2

Barwick Methodist Church, Chapel Schoolroom

Tuesday 4th February 2 pm

Come along for a chat, tea & cakes

and meet new friends

Everyone welcome.



All Saints'
at the heart of the
community

Sunday 2nd February 2025

THE PRESENTATION
OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

Candlemas

Readings Hebrews 2:14-18 and Luke 2:22-40

8am Holy Communion

11am Morning Worship



Elmete'
Trinity Benefice



Rediscovering the Power of Prayer: Presence, Honesty, and Faith

In a world filled with constant noise, distractions, and pressures to perform, prayer can often feel like an afterthought - a quick request tossed heavenward before moving on with our day. But what if prayer could be more? What if it was the very foundation of a life of peace, purpose, and radical faith?

Throughout history, Christians have experienced prayer as

more than just words. Monks in quiet monasteries have modelled prayer as a sacred rhythm, a way of being present with God rather than simply asking him for things. Their example invites us to rethink our own approach to prayer and rediscover its transformative power.

The first key to prayer is **presence**. Jesus taught in Matthew 6:6 that prayer is an invitation to meet with God in secret, intimate spaces. It's not about public performance or eloquent words but about resting in God's presence, just as a branch abides in the vine (John 15:4). In our fast-paced world, cultivating stillness in prayer can feel counterintuitive, but it's there that we discover the peace and joy of simply being with God.

Prayer also calls for **honesty**. Too often, we feel the need to sanitize our prayers, bringing only our "best selves" before God. Yet Scripture shows us that God welcomes the raw, unfiltered cries of His people. From Jesus weeping at Lazarus' tomb (John 11:35) to His vulnerable plea in Gethsemane (Matthew 26:39), we see that true intimacy with God begins when we bring our full selves to Him—griefs, doubts, and all.

Then there's the challenge of **waiting**. Seasons of silence or unanswered prayers can feel like wilderness experiences, but they're also times of profound growth. Just as Jesus

spent 40 days in the desert preparing for His ministry (Matthew 4:1-11), we, too, can find strength and purpose as we trust God in the waiting. These moments teach us dependence, faith, and patience in God's perfect timing.

Finally, prayer invites us to live with a radical faith that may seem foolish to others. From the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12) to Jesus' surrender in Gethsemane, we see that God's ways are often upside down to the world's logic. To pray boldly is to live boldly, trusting in God's wisdom over our own understanding.

Prayer isn't just a spiritual discipline; it's the foundation of a life fully surrendered to God. It's an invitation to slow down, be honest, trust deeply, and live courageously.

From 9th February, we will be exploring some of these prayer themes as part of a short sermon series across the Benefice. So, whether you're new to prayer or longing to go deeper, consider how these themes can shape your approach to prayer and transform your relationship with God.

Revd Jonathan
February 2025