

Prayers for a Vestry or Annual Meeting

Gracious and loving God, we pray that our Annual Vestry will truly be a time when our congregation comes together to be united and inspired in our shared work of Continuing the Work of Jesus. AMEN

Holy God, the navigator of our souls, hear us as we hold up before you our annual Vestry. Be with us in our yearning to chart a course together, inspired by the presence of your Spirit. Give courage to our clergy, all of our leaders, and each of us, as we move forward with your blessing. For all we do, we do to your glory, in Jesus' name. AMEN

Lord, make our congregation a community that beholds your marvellous works. AMEN

Heavenly Father, give to our leaders, a daily renewal in your presence, uphold them with your peace, a peace that passes all understanding, enlighten them with your word, and strengthen them with your grace. AMEN

Almighty God, give us a new vision of you, of your love, of your grace and power; and then, give us a new vision of what you would have us do as your church in this congregation at this time. Give us an awareness that in the strength of your Spirit we can do it to your glory. In Jesus' Name we pray. AMEN

Lord, remind us when we forget that you talked of our being in the world not of the world. AMEN

Remind us when we conform to this world that you want us to be transformed by the renewing of our minds so that we will be the witnesses You asked us to be. AMEN

God of all, may our congregation be aware of our part in your larger church. Draw us all together into one great company of disciples, together following our Lord Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving Him in His mission to the world, and together witnessing to His love in our city and particularly in our local community. AMEN

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel (in the weeks leading to St. Richard's annual Vestry) for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honour and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN (page 676 BAS).

Prayers for the Opening of a Vestry or Annual Meeting

Lord, we are meeting today to conduct matters of business. Guide our hearts and our minds in the spirit of fairness, right thought and speech. Impart your supreme wisdom upon our activities so that our affairs may reach a successful conclusion. Thank you for being our source of guidance today.
AMEN

God of the seasons, another year has come and gone and once again we gather for the Annual Meeting of this Congregation. To this place we bring all the celebrations and hardships, the joys and the sorrows of the past 12 months. We remember with thanksgiving the highlights of the year: *(Insert highlights if desired)*

(pause)

We gather to look forward to what the coming years have in store. We know that they will not always be easy, that life will always have a mixture of easy and difficult. As we meet and discuss the life and work of this part of your family we pray that you would be a part of our discussion.

May your Spirit move in our hearts, opening them to hear what each of us has to offer, bringing light to both possibilities and realities, drawing us always to consider what you would have us be and do in this time and place.

Remind us that we are called to be bearers of Christ's life, light, and love to all we meet.

Help us to live in such a way that we draw closer to your vision for us and journey faithfully in your Way.

In this time together we celebrate the many gifts we all have to offer. Help us offer what we can to your service and your glory, mindful of the great gifts we have been given in so many ways throughout our lives.

These things we pray in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, the one we call Christ, in whose name and hope we gather together as a community.

AMEN

Prayer for the Closing of a Vestry or Annual Meeting

God of our coming and going, God of our past, our present, and our future, we have met, we have celebrated, we have remembered. We have visioned, shared hopes, and dreamed dreams, and now we go out into the world in which we do most of our living and our ministering. As we go out, remind us that we do not go alone. As we go out, remind us that we go with a mission. As we go out, fill us with love, hope, and peace to share with the world. May our lives and our ministry be signs of your love and promises and possibility for the world. AMEN