

A Prayer of Thanks for the Past Year

God of the turning seasons,
another year has come and gone and once again we
gather for worship at the beginning of a New Year.
To this place we bring all the celebrations and hard-
ships, the joys and the sorrows of the past 12 months.
Here we pause to remember those whose lives we
have celebrated as we said the last farewell of death.

Here we remember the highlights of the year: Bap-
tisms; Marriages, the Confirmation of our young people
and adults, and the welcoming of new members into
our parish family. We give thanks for the presence of
children and youth in our midst, for the beginning of
the Godly Play in our Sunday school, for those who
teach and care for our young ones and who lead the
youth. We give thanks for the special gift of the Christ-
mas pageant with L'Arche Sudbury and the reminder
that Jesus is the real gift of Christmas.

We give thanks for opportunities for fellowship –The
pancake dinner, the monthly Messy Church and fellow-
ship times after church on Sundays. We give thanks
for the Evening of Story and Song. We give thanks for
the growing fellowship we enjoy with the ecumenical
faith communities in our neighbourhood.

We give thanks for our worship times and for the times

we spent together learning and getting to know each other and sharing stories of our faith in our weekly Bible Studies. We thank you for giving us so many willing volunteers to become involved with our outreach projects and to visit those who are no longer able to attend weekly services of worship.

We give thanks for the work and ministry of the members of the ARK Steering Committee as they work hard to bring a Syrian family Sudbury. We also give thanks for the many gifts which have been provided for the family - from housing to bedding.

We thank you for those who take care of the building and the upkeep of our property. We thank you for all those who served God faithfully in our church last year; who gave their time, their talent, and their gift of money and expected no reward for their efforts.

A Prayer for the Year to Come

Here also 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 our great giftedness 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.