

**MAYBRIDGE**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH



**FLOURISH**  
Community

# FLOURISH Community

To the extent that Jesus becomes my centre and your centre, we are community. Together with Him, Jesus Christ will draw the whole world to himself. In Jesus (or Yeshua – God saves us) we are together, **we are made to save and be saved as a community.**

## **COMMUNITY IN PRAYER**

Community in Christ starts and ends in communal prayer.

### **FROM THE C OF E DAILY PRAYER:**

**Blessed are you Lord God of our salvation,**  
to you be praise and glory for ever.

As a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief,  
Your only son was lifted up

That he might draw the whole world to himself.

May we walk this day in the way of the cross  
and always be ready to share its weight,  
declaring your love for the whole world.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



## THOUGHTS ON COMMUNITY



"Ultimately Christianity is not so much about going to heaven when you die as about being reconciled with God, his people and ourselves." - Krish Kandiah

"Salvation is being 'put in a position to live in free open loving relationship with God and our neighbours.'" - Eugene Peterson

"Biological and social, mental and emotional growing are all ultimately absorbed into growing up in Christ or not. The human task is to become mature, not only in our bodies and emotions and minds, but also in our relationships with God and other persons." - Eugene Peterson

"Everywhere the world is going to pieces...And in these fearsome times, through the Holy Spirit, Christ places the city-church with it's unconditional unity right into the world. The only help for the world is to have a place of gathering to have people whose will, undivided and free of doubt, is bent on gathering with others in unity." - Eberhard Arnold

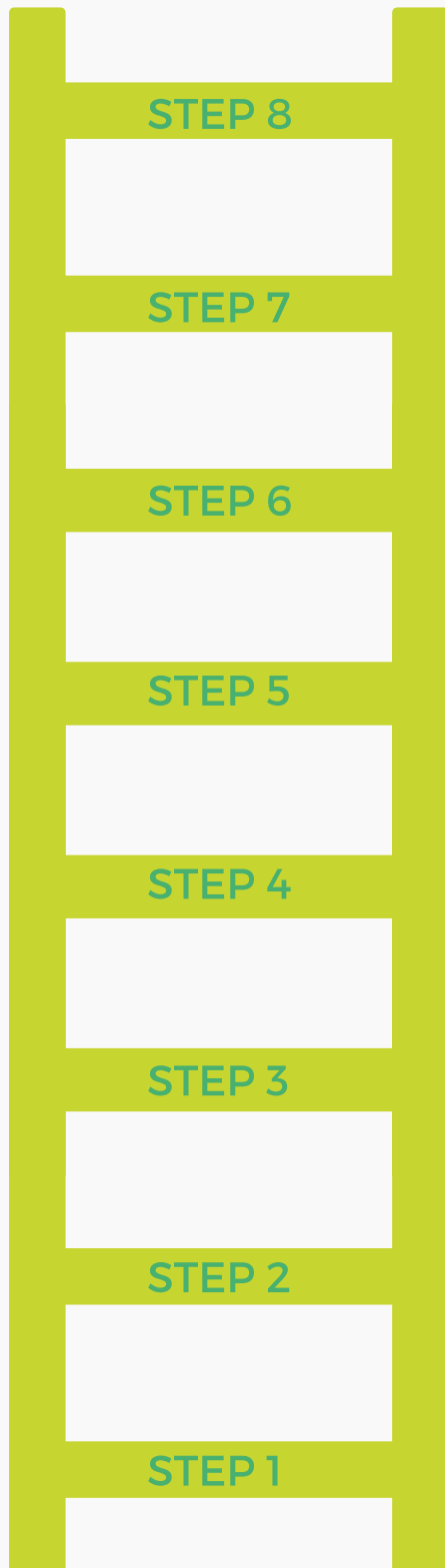
## REFLECT

-  What part of our task challenges most us individually and as a community?
-  What does it look like when we make progress towards better relationships with neighbours and with God?



## ST. BENEDICT'S LADDER OF HUMILITY

One of the grandfathers of community - St Benedict - imagined individual growth towards community like this:



Transformation into the love of God.

Speaking less.

Deep awareness of being "Chief of all Sinners".

Radical honesty to others about our weaknesses/faults.







Being patient to accept the difficulty of others.

Willingness to subject ourselves to the direction of others.

Doing God's will (not our own or other people's).

Fear of God and mindfulness of Him.

## DISCUSS

-  In different parts of your life, how can you belong to the community you pray for?
-  Are there particular gifts you believe God has given you to draw people towards Him?
-  When have you drawn someone out of isolation to a place of belonging? In what ways did that action draw that person closer to Christ?
-  What step on the ladder of humility are you climbing towards to make community happen?
-  Where do you sense hope, encouragement and growth as part of a community - at home, work, church or elsewhere?
-  What patterns and examples of caring community can you share with your partnership group?

## PRAY

I exist in a web of relationships, links to nature, people, God. I trace out these links, giving thanks to God for the life that flows through them. Some links are twisted or broken; I may feel regret, anger, disappointment. I pray for the gift of acceptance and forgiveness.

- taken from *The Sacred Space Prayer Book*.

