**Friday 22nd May**

Luke 11: 1, 2

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.’

He said to them, ‘When you pray, say:

‘“Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come

The disciples had this unique and wonderful opportunity to walk the earth with Jesus, and witness His matchless life. That would have been the most extraordinary three years that anyone ever experienced! In these verses from Luke, we get a little glimpse into something that really impacted them: the prayer life of Jesus. Jesus taught them so much in that time – they often called Him ‘teacher’ - but the only time the disciples asked Him to teach them something, they asked for instruction in prayer. We know that Jesus went off regularly to pray and the disciples clearly saw that those times were of fundamental importance. They saw something in the way that Jesus prayed that they too wanted to experience. They witnessed a vibrant, exciting, empowering prayer life that fuelled Jesus’ ministry.  And the first thing that Jesus responds with is not a lesson on intercession, but one on relationship. Jesus modelled for us that prayer is primarily about being with our Father. It is about approaching Him as the One who loves us unconditionally and loves it when we come to be with Him. Prayer is about seeing the character of God and allowing and His transforming presence to work in us. We can dare to call Him Father.  And isn’t it a blessing that we can come as children? That means we don’t have to have carefully crafted, honed speeches. We come as we are. We speak freely and in the security of knowing that we are loved and that He isn’t going to correct our grammar! Spend some time in His Presence today.

*Our Father, thank you that we can know you through Jesus. Help us learn to be still in your Presence, to enjoy knowing that you are there and to grow in our understanding of your incomparable love for us. As we pray ‘Your Kingdom come’ today, thank you that we can do that from the standpoint of being dearly loved children. Lord, teach us to pray – teach us to pray like Jesus prayed. Amen*

