



Anyone who claims to be a prophet, or to have spiritual powers, must acknowledge that what I am writing to you is a command of the Lord. Anyone who does not recognize this is not to be recognized. So, my friends, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues; but all things should be done decently and in order.

## **Reflec ion**

## **Q es ions**

How has the ordained ministry of women been a blessing to you

## Reflection

### Questions

Even we live in an increasingly secular age in the UK, does it matter that there are still 26 Church of England bishops in the House of Lords and that the government has a role in appointing bishops and other senior clerics? (If it does matter – why, if it doesn't – why not?) Politicians don't like it when the Church criticises the State – most recently the churches critiqued government plans to send asylum seekers to Rwanda. Should the Church mind its own business when it comes to politics? Should churches be active in local politics as well as around national and international issues? If so how might your church share its views and be active in local issues?

### Prayer

Ever-living and ever-loving God,  
You sent your Son to bring us truth  
And your Spirit to make us holy  
May we be faithful witnesses to Jesus Christ,  
That your name may be great among the nations. Amen

### A Hymn for Refugees

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See them line the dusty pathways,  
burdened with the pains of life.  
Walking from their ruined homeland,  
memories shattered left behind.  
God, we see your tears & suffering  
in the child, the youth the aged;  
Open now the gates of Justice!  
O

## Questions

How are decisions made in your local congregation? Is your Church Meeting lively, engaging and a key part of your church life or moribund and boring or something in between? What might you do to make your Church Meetings (even) better?

## Prayer

Jesus, Messiah, Son of the Living God  
We join in Peter's affirmation but shrink at Peter's responsibility.  
We rejoice in freedom from State control but wonder about our structures.  
As the United Reformed Church continues to evolve:  
give us honesty about who holds the keys;  
give us wisdom about who should hold the keys;  
give us creativity in matching aspiration with reality.  
Make us the people who help others access the kingdom of heaven. Amen.



## Hymn Writers

**G** was a member of Palmers' Green URC and her hymn, **G** was included in Rejoice and Sing at 530 and set to the tune Abbots Leigh. The Rev'd Anne Sardeson's forthcoming book Fifty Hymns for Fifty Years suggests a different tune written by URC minister Malcolm Fife which draws out the deeply reflective and spiritual nature of the hymn. You can hear this version here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d5li2nef1rw>

**G** **C** (29 May 1874 – 14 June 1936) was an English writer, philosopher, lay theologian, and literary and art critic. Chesterton created the fictional priest-detective Father Brown, and wrote on apologetics. Chesterton routinely referred to himself as an "orthodox" Christian, and came to identify this position more and more with Catholicism, eventually converting to Roman Catholicism from high church Anglicanism. His one hymn is in Rejoice and Sing.

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## Contributors

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