**The Way Forward Meditative Prayer**

Because we’re trying to understand what God wants us to do, we’ll start with a meditative prayer so that we can ask him.

Try and immerse yourself in it as much as possible.

Don’t try and think logically or analyse the situation

keep your mind open and simply go with your feelings.

There’ll be a short time of silence at the end, which I’ll close with a prayer.

Get into a comfortable position and close your eyes.

Imagine yourself at a meeting at your church.

It’s a special meeting, open to everyone, being held to discuss what the church has been doing and what its plans are.

Imagine which room you’re in.

Look around at the familiar surroundings.............

Other members of the congregation are there, waiting for the meeting to start.

Look around and see their familiar faces.

Do they look cheerful or fed up; excited or bored?...........

Listen to what are they’re talking about before the meeting starts?.........

What are your feelings about the meeting that’s about to start?..............

The meeting has started.

Who’s chairing the meeting? ............

Who’s taking the minutes? ..............

People are now talking about what the church has been doing.

Listen to what people are saying about what the church has been doing.............

The discussion now moves on to what the church will be doing in the future.

What are people in the room saying about this?...........

During the meeting you’ve noticed a man who you don’t recognise, sitting at the back.

He’s been listening carefully but not said a word.

You’re puzzled about who he is.

The meeting comes to a close.

As people get up to leave you notice that the stranger has already left.

 You ask who he was – but nobody else had noticed him.

You leave the building.

You are by yourself.

Then you see the stranger who was in the meeting.

At that moment you realise the man is Jesus.

What does he look like?.............

What‘s the expression on His face?..............

How do you feel, standing face to face with Jesus?..............

In that moment you realise that Jesus has heard everything that has just been said at the church meeting.

He has heard what our church is doing at present.

He has heard what our church is planning to do in the future.

Think about what was said that you feel pleased Jesus heard?............

Now think about what was said, or not said, that you now feel ashamed about?............

You realise that you have the opportunity to ask Jesus what He wants our church to do.

Ask Jesus now what he wants our church to do.

What does Jesus say to you in reply?...............

*<silence>*

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank you for your continued help and guidance in all things. We thank you for speaking to us this morning. Amen.