**CREATIVE PRAYER AND WORSHIP IDEAS**

**1. Shifting perspective**

As you begin the prayer time in your meeting, invite everyone to stand up and turn so they’re facing in a different direction from the way their chair is facing (that may mean they turn to face the back or the side). Invite them to notice what is different … what do they see which they don’t normally see when they’re sitting in a meeting? As they stand in that position, who are they prompted to pray for? What is the Spirit showing them? Invite them to let that ‘noticing’ inspire their prayers.

**2. Making the jigsaw**

Give everyone a piece of jigsaw and invite them to write on it one word or phrase which they think is important for the corps to hear at this time. Gather the pieces and put them together on a display so that everyone can read the words and ‘hear’ one another’s voice. (NB. If jigsaw pieces are too complicated, use triangles of paper. When you put them together they will look a bit like a mosaic.)

**3. Praying the details**

Are you involved in a change project of some kind at the moment (some building work, the start/end of an activity/group, a change of leadership etc)? Write out some detailed, specific prayer points for the situation and put them on a PowerPoint slide or a handout. Invite people to get into small groups and to simply pray through the various details outlined.

**4. Receiving the Spirit**

People often need time and space to welcome the work of the Holy Spirit into their lives. Don’t be afraid to give them that time, playing some gentle music in the background and encouraging them to invite the Holy Spirit to fill them afresh and work in the deep places of their hearts. Depending on your congregation, it may feel like there’s not much happening, but remember that God’s work is often quiet and always deep. You could of course also offer the Mercy Seat as a place to come, for those who would like someone to pray with them or would just like to make a more public statement of their inner prayer.

**5. Oily hands**

Oil is often used as a symbol of the Holy Spirit and can be a powerful way to help people reflect on Pentecost. Using olive oil or a more fragrant anointing oil, you could either anoint people’s hands or give each person a piece of cotton wool soaked in oil. Invite them to think about the oil, its properties and what it says to them about the Holy Spirit.

**6. Flames**

Fire is also a physical symbol which helps people think about the Spirit. Give each person a tealight (real or battery-operated), or light one single large candle at the front of the hall. Invite people to look at the flame and ask God to teach them something new about the Holy Spirit as they contemplate it.