

Compulsory Purchase Prayer

I hope not many of you will have the need to use this prayer for the purpose it was written for – as part of our congregation's preparations for handing over the keys of our building to the council who took the best part of ten years to finally get around to completing the Compulsory Purchase Order on the Mersey Street building. But it does serve as a reminder not to place too much faith in our buildings or to take them for granted. It could be used with a little adaptation to apply to any building closure.

Red bricked terraced houses
Row upon row of bricks and mortar
standing firm for over 100 years
yet boarded up and ready for demolition.

A much loved church
row upon row of past congregations
rooted in this community for generations
yet compulsory purchased and ready for demolition.

Our hopes and our dreams
are built on the yesterdays of our faith
are yet to be fulfilled in the tomorrows of our future
but are present embodied in us in the here and now.

Forgive us when we put our faith in the bricks and mortar of this world
Forgive us when longing for a home makes us miss the point of the journey
Forgive us when we lose our courage and our faith waivers.
Help us to build our hopes and dreams on the rock of your stories and your teachings
Help us to build our hopes and our dreams on the values of your kin-dom
Help us to build our hopes and our dreams as we meet to break bread and share wine together.

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