

## Prayers 24<sup>th</sup> May 2020

God of love and hope, you made the world and care for all creation, but the world feels strange right now.

We may be more restricted in our movements, but we can still look up to the heavens, at the grass and flowers in gardens and parks, we can hear the songs of birds in the trees and sense the evidence of spring in renewal and growth around our homes and marvel at your work.

Teach us to keep our minds focussed on you in the beauty of a universe that speaks of you in all things.

Awaken our praise and thankfulness for everything that you have made. Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is.

Guide and inspire us to do what is necessary to preserve a world for future generations to live in.

Lord in Your Mercy **Hear our prayer.**

The news is full of stories about Coronavirus.

Some people are worried that they might get ill.  
Others are anxious for their family and friends.  
Be with them and help them to find peace.

Father God, in your word we hear how Jesus brought health and healing to the sick. May the Holy Spirit help and teach the doctors, the scientists, and all those whose work is to care for others; that they may find more and more about treating, curing and preventing Covid-19.

And help them to do their work lovingly and patiently. Strengthen them particularly in their times of physical and mental exhaustion and may they know the love you have for them and the love we have for them.

Lord in Your Mercy **Hear our prayer.**

God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love.

We bring before you our world's failings.

We pray for peace, for mutual respect, for resolution and for outcomes for the good of all.

Enlighten those who possess power and money  
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,  
that they may love the common good; advance the weak,

and care for this world in which we live.

Fill us with power of the Holy Spirit that we might be your witnesses to the ends of the earth.

That we might prepare for a better future,  
for the coming of your Kingdom  
of justice, peace and love.

Lord in Your Mercy **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for your Church, that it may continue to spread the Gospel.

We pray for brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world, especially for those who face persecution, imprisonment and threat because of their faith. Uphold and strengthen them.

We pray for our own Church of England and our Diocese of St. Albans, its clergy and its staff.

We pray for our own church here, for Charles, Simon and Gill and for all who give of their time and talents to carry forward the work of Christian witness in this place.

May those called to serve know joy in doing your will.

Lord in Your Mercy **Hear our prayer.**

We have heard today that we can “Cast all our anxiety on him because he cares for us” (1 Peter 5:7)

We bring before you those we know who are in need at this time, including:

Zachary Sayers, Karen Wade, Sheila Marsh, Penny Havercroft, David Johnston, Josie Woodhams snr, Michelle Woodmore, Peggy Grant, Michael Vickars, Jean Crome, William Campbell, Brenda Wood, Samuel Lung, Sarah Osborne, and Izzy Jones

You know the needs of your children; look with compassion on those for whom our prayers are offered; give them courage and confidence and bless those who minister to them.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our Prayer**

And we pray for those who have recently lost a loved one.

We pray especially for those who mourn the loss of

Neil Robotham, Tony Johnson, Emma Gilchrist, Steve Cook, Gemma West, Royce Tyler, Michael Wadham, Deborah O’Hara, Clare Welstead, and Elizabeth Pepper

Grant, O Lord to all who are bereaved, the spirit of faith and courage; the strength to face the days to come with steadfastness and patience; the thankful remembrance of good times past and trust in your presence with them in the future.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our Prayer**

Thank you that even in these anxious times you are with us.  
Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe.

We claim the promise of your word,

“And the God of all grace, who called you to eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen” (1 Peter 5: 10-11)

**Merciful father: accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**