

PRAYERS 26TH July 2020

A prayer of thanks to God for our world

God of love and hope, you created us and all we have.

We give thanks that we can experience and marvel at the natural world around us.

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.**

A prayer in the time of the Coronavirus Pandemic

Merciful God,
We come to you in our weakness.
We come to you in our fear.
We come to you with trust, for you are our hope.

We place before you the Covid-19 disease present in our world.
We turn to you in our time of need.

Bring wisdom to doctors.
Give understanding to scientists.
Endow caregivers with compassion and generosity.
Bring healing to those who are ill.
Protect those who are most at risk.
Give comfort to those who have lost a loved one.

Stabilize our communities.
Unite us in our compassion.
Remove fear from our hearts.
And fill us with confidence in your care.

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

A prayer for the people of the world

God of love, we pray for the people of the world.

We pray for peace, for mutual respect, for resolution of conflict 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.

Be with those millions of families who have been forced to flee their homes, having lost everything in places suffering violence and instability and now face, without resources, the deadly new threat of Covid-19.

We bring before you Yemen, Syria and South Sudan.

Make us ready to serve the poor, the hungry, the sick, the bereaved, the homeless, and all to whom we can bring good. And give us the strength and courage to support the liberation of the oppressed, the restoration of the dispossessed and for the dignity and freedom of all.

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

A prayer for the church

God our Father, we pray for your Church that it may continue to spread the Gospel of Christ.

We pray for our own Church of England and our Diocese of St. Albans, its clergy and its staff as it manages the demands and restrictions of our present times.

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.

Guide us as we organise our worship to be the servants to our community that you want us to be, to your glory

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

A prayer for the sick

Lord God, whose Son, Jesus Christ, understood people's fear and pain
we pray for those who are not well
surround the frightened with your tenderness;
give strength to those in pain;
hold the weak in your arms of love,
and give hope and patience
to those who are recovering.

We bring before you

Zachary Sayers, Karen Wade, Penny Havercroft, David Johnston, Michael Vickars,
William Campbell, Samuel Lung, Sarah Osborne, Izzy Jones, Richard Pilbeam,
Sharon Pilbeam, Deryck Flashman and Joan Graham

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

A prayer for those who mourn

O God, who brought us to birth and in whose arms we die,
in the grief and shock faced by those who mourn
contain and comfort them;
embrace them with your love,
give hope in confusion
and grace to let go into new life;

We bring before you the families and friends of

Elizabeth Wright, Margaret Taylor, Anthony Hartnoll, Peggy Grant and Don
MacDonald

A prayer for the growth of the kingdom of God

Lord, we give thanks that this time has brought new ways of sharing the gospel of
Christ.

We give thanks that it has shown a desire in many to know you.

Give us insight and opportunity to show the meaning and value of the kingdom of
heaven, the need for the salvation found in Jesus and the joy of becoming one of
your children.

We pray that those who are seeking will find you and so respond that your church
will grow and your kingdom will grow.

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