

## Prayers for 30<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Following the example of Jesus, let us bring our prayers before God our heavenly father.

We thank you for those whose influence has led us to come to worship here this morning. We remember members of our family, youth workers, church leaders, friends and colleagues who have encouraged us to follow in the Christian way. We give thanks for the fellowship which we find in this church which supports us as we seek to put our faith into practice in our daily lives. Strengthen us, Lord, in your service, so that we, in our turn, may be an encouragement to others.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

We pray for your church here at St. Lawrence. Keep always before us the vision of church communities where people of different church backgrounds will work and worship together harmoniously and where those who seek to know more about the Christian faith will find a welcome. Give us a clear understanding of the work you have set before us and a fresh commitment to your service in the coming weeks and months. Give wisdom to those in a position of leadership in our church at this time and may our witness in Bovingdon continue to grow.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

Many of our schools reopen this week. We pray for both staff and pupils as they return after a long period of absence. Help everyone to get used to new routines and to appreciate being able to return to face to face learning. We ask you to be with them as they face new challenges and we pray especially for children who have not had access to much formal learning in the last few months and may find it especially difficult.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

Some members of this church have had the opportunity to go away on holiday this summer and we pray that this has proved to be a time of recreation and refreshment. We remember before you all those who have been unable to go away and those whose lives are much more difficult especially fellow human beings who live in poverty and hunger and have no escape from the daily grind. Relieve their distress and make plain the ways in which we can help.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

We pray for those who are sick, especially those whose illness is long term and demands much patience to bear. We remember before you those who are lonely and depressed and pray that we may be good listeners when friends and neighbours need us. Give us the right words and help us to know what simple acts of kindness may help someone else. Comfort with your presence those who suffer in body, mind or spirit and give them courage and hope in their troubles. We pray particularly for .....

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

We remember before you those who have died and those whose anniversaries fall at this time. Give strength to those who are left to grieve and help us to share each other's sorrow. We pray particularly for .....

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

Lastly we pray for ourselves at the start of this new week. May we walk closely with you, aware that you are with us. Give us courage to trust you completely so that you may refashion our lives to your glory.

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