

## Prayers 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Generous God, for all that sustains us;  
air to breath, warmth and light, food to eat, water to drink,  
we offer our thanks and praise.

For spiritual gifts that bind us together;  
one people, one body, empowered for service  
we offer our hands and voices.

For the Good News of the Gospel;  
healing and wholeness, freedom and justice  
we offer our hearts in service and in prayer.

Today you have spoken to us to "Love the Lord our God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our mind and with all our strength and to "Love our neighbour as ourselves."

Help us to deal with our fears and anxieties.

Help us to embrace the concerns of those around us.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear Our Prayer**

Loving God we pray for all whose day starts with anxiety,  
as they leave the security of home worrying about risk;  
particularly those whose health or age classifies them as vulnerable.  
Loving God, be close, keep them safe.

Bless all who work in stressful situations;  
healthcare, teaching, law enforcement, social services and other occupations  
where patience, love and perseverance can wear thin, and daily stress levels rise.  
Keep them safe and keep them well,  
equipped to follow their vocation through this most difficult of times.

And for all of us, grant wisdom to make sensible choices, not just  
for ourselves, but for everybody.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear Our Prayer**

Gracious God, let us never forget,  
as daily life becomes more difficult  
and restrictions cause annoyance,  
that there are many for whom this has been normality for years;  
affected by long-term drought or destructive storms; struggling  
in poverty, or through violence  
forced to adopt the life of refugee.  
May we remember to be thankful for what we have, and work together  
selflessly for all who need our help.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear Our Prayer**

Give wisdom, Lord, to all in authority,  
not only leaders of nations but local communities,  
that actions and words are prompted by the needs of others, not personal gain.

That all might ask the question, 'Who is my neighbour?'  
and, as if seeing through your eyes, want nothing but the best for them.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear Our Prayer**

We pray for this world's leaders,  
with difficult decisions to make affecting the lives of so many.  
May they be guided not by any personal agenda,

but work for the common good of all,  
that this world might be led to a better place,

where trust and honesty are the values both sought and demonstrated  
in those we choose to lead us.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear Our Prayer**

We pray for our communities -  
that snapshot of humanity with all ages, backgrounds,  
education, employment status, politics and religious viewpoint  
who are our neighbours in the streets where we live.

We pray for all of them; not only those we know by name  
and chat to through the day,  
but also less familiar faces about whom we know so little  
and pass by with just a smile.

All are in need of your love at this time.  
Bless their homes and families,  
and let your love and peace so shine within this community  
that smiles turn to conversations, and strangers become friends.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear Our Prayer**

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 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 to be the servants to our community that you want us to be.

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

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, Michael Vickars, Deryck Flashman, Kireet Parmar and family, Trevor Moncrieff, Pauline Pinchham, Kay Phipps, Richard Pilbeam, Karin Vallis, Angela Fox and Ron Bowler

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

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

Colin Davy, Lily Bowler, Rosemary Moncrieff, Simon Woodmore, Mamie Dineen, and Clive Byfield

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

All we are, and all we have, we offer, Lord, to you.  
We offer you these hands, that you might use them  
in and through our daily work.  
We offer you these feet, that you might lead them  
to someone who needs our help.  
We offer you these shoulders if you should them  
to help lighten another's load.  
We offer you our voice that you might use it  
to speak up for those in need.  
All we are, and all we have, we offer, Lord, to you.

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