

Intercessions

Sunday 10 May 2020

Let us pray.

We come together as two congregations combined into one - as a single Church - and so we pray:

O God, make the door of this Church wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship and a Heavenly Father's care and yet narrow enough to shut out all envy pride and hate. Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling block to children nor to straying feet, but rugged enough to turn back the tempter's power. Make it a gateway to your eternal Kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

This weekend we remember with thanks the ending of the Second World War in Europe. We pay tribute to all those who offered themselves in that conflict whether

in the armed forces or in any other way, to create a future for our society, to whom we shall be eternally grateful and we give thanks for the lives of all those who died and whose sacrifice enabled our new dawn to break in 1945.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for our spiritual leaders and at this time particularly, give thanks for the comfort and support which they give us as we live through this period of little contact with friends and relatives. We pray especially for Alan and Wendy and Bill, for the authors of our Thoughts for Today, for the Diocese and the Church of England as a whole and also for all spiritual leaders in our diverse society. Help them to help us Lord, to find our way through the unfamiliar maze of life-just-now in our search for grace and salvation.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for our Queen and for her Family and give thanks for her quiet and calming example to us as our figurehead. We pray for her Government and for Parliament as they guide us through this unforeseen pandemic. We pray for keyworkers and all those people who publicly or privately care for and support those who need their help. We give thanks for all these people, for their commitment and their contribution towards ensuring our survival. And we offer ourselves, together or individually, to help and support others who need us, in your name and for your sake.

In the words of Francesca from Hertingfordbury Cowper School:

Dear God, Please help those who are lonely and those who wish for the comfort of their family. We shall hope that we will all come together again in happiness, in excitement and more connected. Let us in these times put an arm around each other and be brave. Though we are far away let the rainbow guide your way to the road of happiness and togetherness. Amen.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are sick and those who are troubled, bewildered or distressed in any way. We think especially of Rebecca Phipps, Andy, Jo Holdstock, Barbara Wilbourn-Smith, Mark Johnson, Bernard Stack, Ellen Cook, Colin Harding, Gillian MacKenna, Joe Caruana, Tim, Suzanne and Paul, Debbie, Malini and Al together with anyone known to us personally who needs our prayers.

And we pray for those who have died and also for those left behind and grieving. We remember Anthony Wormold, Avile Grey, Sheila Place and Terry Asser. We give thanks for their lives, for the pleasure which they brought whilst amongst us and the joy they took from being part of our community and we beseech you to hold them always in your loving embrace.

In Years' Mind, we remember those whose anniversaries fall at this time, in particular Eileen Brooks, Lily John, Laura Pendleton and Jim Rowley.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We give thanks for all those people who are involved in our struggle to overcome the threat posed by the pandemic. For members of the NHS and all other keyworkers. For the unseen numbers of people who comfort and support others in need and who stay in touch with the isolated and lonely. And we give thanks for the sacrifices of all those who have endured the discomfort and hardship of the measures which we have all had to take, in our collective effort to avoid the horror of what might otherwise have happened.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

And as we stand on the threshold of a new beginning for our society, may we take comfort from the words of the psalmist:

I will lift up my eyes to the hills - from where will my help come?

My help comes from the Lord who made Heaven and Earth.

He will not let your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber.

He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

*The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in
From this time on and for evermore.*

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