

LET'S PRAY FOR:

OUR CHURCH

Whenever we turn on TV/radio it's a reminder we live in a world of uncertainty, where one minute things can be fine and the next things can fall apart. The Bible acknowledges this is the broken world we live in and that God's people aren't exempt from the fallout.

Let's thank God His incomparable awesome power and glory. Pray that we would not worship our God from a distance, but remain in close relationship with Him even though we are scattered. Thank God for the ways we are able to worship and fellowship together through online services, or by "zoom" meetings, phone or by post.

Thank God that as His Church family we find our security, refuge and joy in Him who has made us His people. Pray for wisdom for Church leaders to know how to keep people connected and safe.

Loving God, we pray you would help us as the church to love our neighbour. Help us to point others towards your love with our practical acts of love and compassion.

Let's pray that our security in Him will increase and be strengthened and not be shaken in these difficult times.

Ask God to make Himself our first love.....

that everything we learn about Him would fuel that love, that our love and service wouldn't be half-hearted.

Pray that we in the Church family would pursue the good of others around us as though their interests were our own, especially during the current coronavirus epidemic.

Lord, in this time of national uncertainty
and as the next few weeks unfold
we look to You for Your gentle guidance,
as we pray for the health of our loved ones,
of our friends and neighbours,
and as we give thanks
for all those helping others at this time.

AMEN



OUR COMMUNITY

Let's pray for local shops and businesses, that they will be able to survive the current closures/restrictions/furloughs without having to consider permanent closure or staff redundancies.

Pray for bosses rethinking how premises and equipment are shared as they organise safety from infection in offices, on factory floors and building sites. Pray that all the different types of shops, restaurants, hotels, businesses, schools, universities, hospitals and residential homes will likewise be able to meet any changes needed.

Thank God that Government has been able to offer financial aid to individuals and businesses during this period of lockdown. Pray that landlords, service providers, employers and employees would be able to work together with understanding and cooperation at this uncertain time.

As families are more at home, pray for a strengthening of family life and a renewed awareness of the Lord who "put us in families". Let's pray for children who have lately been "home schooled" unable to meet with friends or wider family. Ask God to be close to any who have found this upsetting because of difficult home circumstances or lack of facilities. Pray that youngsters planning to go on to further education or first employment would be able to take up these opportunities in the months to come.

Let's pray for those who are particularly fearful because of Covid-19 at the moment and those in our communities who may feel vulnerable and scared. Pray that the love of God might be their peace. That they may know that even in the darkest times God's love brings hope.

Pray for the most vulnerable and isolated in our neighbourhoods, and for older people who are concerned about shopping, regular hospital appointments, and pray for information of the current scams to be publicised to avoid deception and fraud amongst vulnerable people.

OUR WORLD

During this Covid-19 global pandemic there is so much to pray for and God hears every prayer. Pray that God will intervene to stop the spread of this coronavirus. Below are just a few suggestions for further prayer.

Pray for God to direct every decision made by leaders all over the world, as they plan the various stages of a nation's future and economy.

Coronavirus has prompted a new appreciation of food and farming, manufacture and supply of goods both in the UK and abroad. Pray that we will not take food or possessions for granted, but that a more just and fairer system will result both in this country and for people in the poorer nations who manufacture what we use.

Let's pray for all people across the world who have been, and are continuing to be, affected by Covid-19. Pray that all will know God's overwhelming, steadfast love.

Pray for the medical staff on the frontline of care, that they will be sustained physically, emotionally and spiritually in the coming weeks. Ask God to be their shield and their strength.

Pray for those living in countries where the health services and infrastructure might not be adequate to protect them, that God will use His servants to accompany people pastorally and missionally through this valley of uncertainty, fear and even potential death.

Pray for the scientists from across the globe as they look for ways to alleviate symptoms and as they seek a vaccine for the future.

Let's pray for others, both adults and children, in all parts of our world who daily face the uncertainty of life during the pandemic:

- those caught in war
- those who face hunger today
- those struggling with sickness and ill health because of other diseases, such as malaria.

AND WORDS FROM PAUL:

Let's acknowledge the Lord's sovereignty in and through all things and pray using the words of Paul to the church in Ephesus:

Ephesians 3:14-21 (NRSV)

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen."