

Prayers of Intercession – 13 September 2020

Lord, as we move into autumn, we offer you our praise and adoration. You are God the creator, we are surrounded by your love. You are Christ the Saviour of the world, who died to set us free. You are the Spirit of truth and love, bringing light and power to our lives. You are holy and blessed. One God, eternal Trinity, be near to us the people formed in your image, and close to the world your love brings to life. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Lord we pray for your church throughout the world, for those that are thriving and those which have lost a sense of direction. Those who have reopened their buildings, those reopening, those worshipping online, and those who are missing so much the Holy Places where we gather in worship. We pray for our plans for the next few months – for vision and realism. For the family of Harper Grace Kean as they come [to St Edmund's] for her baptism this afternoon, and for Peter and Sophie being married here on Saturday. We ask Lord your blessing on them. For Bishop Libby and the life of our Diocese. We pray for music and musicians - in our churches and Cathedrals, and in all aspects of life. Lord, thank you for their gifts, protect and inspire them, and may we soon be able to sing together. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who bear the responsibility of leadership, for Her Majesty The Queen, for the Prime Minister and his government, for all our members of Parliament, for advisers, scientists, medical professionals, people involved in public health - for the media, for all of us in Society. We pray for communities torn apart by racial divisions, by divisions between young and old, between those who wear masks and those who won't, and we pray for communities like ours who live lives which are, in many ways, so sheltered. We pray for our schools and our young people, for those preparing to travel to University this week, for parents who are scared - Lord give us vision, help us all to have hope for the future. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We remember those who are sick, those who are sad or lonely and those who are brave and patient when things are going wrong. We pray that we may be aware of your comforting presence and know that in your hands they are safe and loved. We pray for all those working through this pandemic - we continue to pray for those still serving, and sacrificing so much. From St Edmund's we pray for Baby Jess, Simon Hamerton, Ron & Pauline McKeown, Enid Clarke, Paul Dunham, Julie Diane, Julia Wardrop, Hazel Thorpe, Kate Belfield, Kevin and Pam Ekins.

From St Matthew's for Martin Eades and David Roberts.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those whose life is saddened by the death of loved ones, be with them in their loneliness and let them know that Jesus Christ is the light of the world a light which no darkness can quench. From St Matthew's we pray for Andrew Robinson. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Lord we ask you to lead us into the coming week, a week of change, of new rules, of fear. Help us to believe that you are close by us, keep us from making mistakes and help us never to disappoint you. When we face hard decisions or difficult work, when we enjoy ourselves and have fun with others, may we know that you share these times with us. Thank you God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Help us Lord to be forgiving, loving people – people with faith in you.

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