

Pray for the leaders of our churches

*I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.*

Psalm 32.8

For me (Peter) and Julie, for Clive, Melonie and Deborah, for John and the other retired clerics we are always glad to welcome, for Caroline in the Office, for churchwardens and members of our PCCs, we those who lead different groups and organisations. We all need vision and commitment as we journey together into a different future.

Pray for the work that must be done when we reopen

You will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Acts 1.8

We are going to be busy - baptisms, weddings, memorial services. Many opportunities to welcome people, to serve them, to be part of our community, to bring people into a deeper knowledge of God's love. Ask God what part you can play in all that will need to be done.

Pray for growth and commitment in our churches

Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.

Psalm 37.5

Commitment to worship and service, to prayer (individually and as a church), to walking with God, to proclaiming his love to our communities, to bringing people to a deeper faith. We need to ask God's wisdom, we need to listen to Him, we need to act on his words.

And that brings us round in a circle ...

Give thanks to God

*The Lord is good, a strong refuge when trouble comes.
God is close to those who trust in him.*

Nahum 1.7

Focus on God's love, on Christ's presence

I will be with you always, to the end of the age.

Matthew 28.20

Thank you for your prayers, your love and support, your commitment to the life and worship of our churches. May God bless us all.

The Parishes of St Edmund, Allestree
and St Matthew, Darley Abbey



Prayer as our buildings remain closed, but we look to the future

We issued a leaflet for Morning and Evening Prayer in the April magazine - if you would like another copy, please phone or email Peter and I will post you one. I hope these ideas - which I put together on May Bank Holiday Saturday morning - help with your prayers, but your concerns may be different to mine (and that is absolutely fine). It's always good to hear from you and get your thoughts!

01332 551404 - revpeterbarham@btinternet.com

Give thanks to God

*The Lord is good, a strong refuge when trouble comes.
God is close to those who trust in him.*

Nahum 1.7

Celebrate the environment - be grateful for something good - perhaps write down what you are celebrating so you can look back and rejoice

Focus on God's love, on Christ's presence

I will be with you always, to the end of the age.

Matthew 28.20

In this Pentecost season, with Easter behind us, we journey in the power of Christ. Know he is with you always.

Pray for our world

I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.

Matthew 28.18

Pray for our worldwide community, for international organisations like the World Health Organization and the Red Cross, for charities like Christian Aid, for those fighting Covid-19 in places where there is little or no healthcare system, for men and women of all faiths and none who are seeking to serve and to care. Give thanks for them, and ask God's blessing on them.

Pray for our leaders

I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings should be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. 1 Timothy 2.1,2

Pray for Her Majesty the Queen, the Prime Minister and his government, for the Opposition, for our MPs (Pauline Latham, Amanda Solloway). For wisdom and vision as we reopen and rebuild our country.

Pray for our City and local community

The Psalmist celebrated that "The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage." We can echo his praise. Psalm 16.6

Pray for our City Council, for business (the large ones like Rolls Royce, the smaller ones like the Park Farm shops), for the people that work there. There are huge employment challenges to be faced. Pray for the communities that make up our City, acknowledge how different they are, and ask God's strength as support one another. Pray for the refugee, the homeless, and those of us who have big houses and lovely gardens.

Pray for our hospitals and medical services

Colossians 4.14
Paul writes to the Colossians "Luke, the beloved physician ... greets you."

Give thanks for our "beloved physicians", for those who have cared for us and our community, and those who continue to care. Pray that Society might give them the resources that they need. Pray for those who have given their lives in the battle against Covid-19, pray for those who are tired and suffering mental anguish. Pray for those who have seen their treatment postponed. Pray for our hospices, for charities that work to support us. For the financial challenges of the future.

Pray for our residential homes and the "older community"

Is wisdom with the aged, and understanding in length of days? Job 12.12
'With God are wisdom and strength; he has counsel and understanding.

Beaumont House, Mercy Care Centre, Stanley House and Abbeydale. For so many people in their homes. What should we be doing as churches to strengthen our work with those with length of days, especially if people are less keen to leave their homes?

Pray for our University, schools and young people

Keep hold of instruction, do not let go; guard her, for she is your life. Proverbs 4.13

Toddler group, Pre-school, Walter Evans, Portway Infants and Junior, Woodland's, the University. Pray for Kids' Church at St Matthew's (led by Rachel) and JACK at St Edmund's (led by Karen), for our All Age and Family worship. For so many families we have contact with through baptism. Ask God's strength that we might show them the purpose of faith, the joy of worship and community, the love of Christ, and the wisdom of God. What should we be doing as a church to strengthen our work with families?

Pray for our church buildings

How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven. Genesis 28.17

Two special buildings. How do we reopen them? Ask God for wisdom. How can we have them open for people who want to come and pray? We are fortunate, we have buildings in excellent condition, we have enough people to care for them (though we need to pray for a new Churchwarden to replace Patrick at St Edmund's, and we need to pray for people to help us care for these churches in the decades to come). Many communities were struggling to keep their churches open before Covid-19, the problem will be harder now. We need God's wisdom.

Pray for our congregations

After the Ascension, Luke writes "They worshipped him and went back to Jerusalem, filled with great joy, and spent all their time in the Temple giving thanks to God." Luke 24.52

We can pray big - across our two churches we usually have five or six services most Sundays, and on Wednesday morning. How do we reopen? How do we cope with social distancing, with music, with communion? How do we help people worship if they don't feel safe to come to church? How do we encourage people back if they've coped without coming for several months?

We can pray small - think of the people you sit near (or sat near) when we worship. Hold them before God, and pray for them.