

Prayers for 4th September 2020

Please make yourselves comfortable for our prayers:

I ask that God will be with us all at this time of prayer, that we may think carefully and wisely and take something from our prayers with us into our daily lives. **Amen.**

After each section of the prayers I would like us to have a **short silence** for our own personal thoughts, followed by this response:

I shall say '**Hear us Lord and guide us to show love to all our neighbours**'

Your response will be '**Lord be our help**'

Throughout, I have tried to focus on the commandment; **Love your neighbour.**

- Firstly thinking of the wider world:

We ask, Lord, that all leaders and decision makers use their powers and influence for the good of their peoples. That they might be able to make positive changes and put aside personal gain. There are huge issues facing our world at this time; the Covid pandemic, war and civil unrest, the challenges of climate change, the plight of refugees and asylum seekers and nowhere is free from poverty. These difficult times can make it more challenging for us to take the Christian path and treat everyone as our neighbour.

Silence

'Hear us Lord and guide us to show love to all our neighbours'

'**Lord be our help**'

- Now to think of our own country:

We ask, Lord, that our politicians might have the integrity to act for the common good. We ask that the church might continue to spread the gospel of our Lord Jesus and have meaning for people in the 21st century. Let us remember all the NHS workers, everyone involved in education at every level, the police forces of the United Kingdom and all charity workers. At this time, 75 years after the end of WW2 we particularly think of the sacrifices made and the many who paid the ultimate price for our freedom. All these people are our neighbours and deserve our respect and love.

Silence

'Hear us Lord and guide us to show love to all our neighbours'

'**Lord be our help**'

- In our parish:

We ask, Lord, for your blessing and support for those who are sick, especially Baby Jess and Simon Hamerton and any others known to us. We ask for your continued blessings for Ron and Pauline McKeown, Enid Clarke, Paul Dunham, Julie Diane, Julia Wardrop, Hazel Thorp, Kate Belfield, Kevin and Pam Ekins. The families of the deceased are in great need of neighbourly love at their time of grieving so we pray for the families and friends of June Oldershaw, Ian Hogben, Margaret Todd, Helen Mawbey and Frank Willatt.

Silence

'Hear us Lord and guide us to show love to all our neighbours'

'Lord be our help'

- Next we pray for our own families:

We ask, Lord, for your help for all children at this time of great challenge. The return to school after almost 6 months will be a challenge, socially and possibly financially. Quite apart from the effort needed to make up for lost face to face time with their teachers some families will be coping with ill-health, both mental and physical. They may have emotional changes to their family situation and find themselves in need of greater support than pre-lockdown. Help us to show love and play our part as appropriate.

Silence

'Hear us Lord and guide us to show love to all our neighbours'

'Lord be our help'

- Lastly we pray for ourselves:

We ask, Lord, for your help as we look inwards and evaluate our lives. Help us to listen to Your word, to try to follow Your commandments, even when the way seems tough. What can each of us do? Could we show more love to our neighbours, in the broadest sense?

Silence

'Hear us Lord and guide us to show love to all our neighbours'

'Lord be our help'

Amen

Mary Wallen, St Edmund's, Allestree

