



LET US PRAY

St Michael & All Angels, Macclesfield

October 2020

Season of Thanksgiving

1 Thessalonians 5.18: Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

Psalms 92.1-2: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to the most high. It is good to proclaim your unfailing love in the morning, your faithfulness in the evening.

Psalms 9:1 I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.

Philippians 4:6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

This leaflet has been produced to assist us with our daily prayers; we hope you find it useful. Feel free to use as many, or as few, of the suggestions as you feel is right for you, and of course, add your own.

Lord Jesus Take my mind and think through me,

Take my hands and bless though me,

Take my mouth and speak through me;

Above all, Lord Jesus, Take my spirit and pray in me;

So that it is you who move and have your being in me.

Book of hours (16th century)

October is traditionally a month of thanksgiving and remembrance; thanking God for the fruits of his creation and remembering those in our lives whom we love. We also mark two awareness weeks: Prison Week & Baby Loss Week.

Look back with thanks, look forward with joy

*God who cares for us,
we bring you gifts to thank you for the ways in which you continue to provide
for us and for the ways in which you still guide and care for our community.
Thank you for the beauty of your gifts.
Don't let us ever forget that all good things come from you, not ourselves.
May we always care for those who don't have enough of the good things of
life, and to work to make your world a fairer place.
In the name of Jesus. Amen.*

Prayers for remembrance and for those who are no longer with us.

We pray for the families for whom we have taken funerals recently: for the family of Ivor Nichols, for his son David and his nephew, John. For the family of John Edwards, in particular his wife Pat. And for the family of Pearl Shatwell.

We pray for Sue, Izzy and Katy as they commemorate the first anniversary of Sue's mum's death and for the family of Fenella Bull also commemorating the first anniversary of her death. And for others remembering loved ones who died at this time of year, like the Porter family, and for whom this time of year is particularly hard. We pray for comfort, for strength and for peace.

*Almighty and eternal God,
from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted,
either by death or life:
hear our prayers and thanksgivings
for all whom we remember this day;
fulfil in them the purpose of your love;
and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

Our Annual Meeting

We pray for our church leaders and our annual meeting on 18th October. We give thanks for the service given by those who are stepping down from their respective roles, particularly to Tricia and Paul, our Churchwardens. We pray that new people will come forward for the vacancies we have in church for wardens, church council members and deanery synod reps. We also give thanks for the long service that Gordon Darlington has given to the church

regarding buildings matters as he steps down from his role as Chair of the Buildings Committee and to Paul Spedding for his long service in the role as Parish Safeguarding Advisor. We give thanks for the time, commitment, skills and talents they have shared with our church family. We pray that each and every one of us will discern where God might be calling us, both in terms of these areas of ministry but also more generally in church life as we explore the possibilities of serving you Lord in many varied ways.

Please pray for Garrie Naden and Sue Reid as they embark on the accredited Foundations for Ministry course and explore their faith, gifts and talents and discern what God might be calling them to do.

In our church family

- Pray for Doreen Dawson who has had a fall in the home where she was living and is now in hospital, and for Joyce Millard who has also had a fall.
- Pray for Lynne's daughter, Ruth, as she prepares for the imminent safe arrival of her baby and for Paul and Lynne as they become grandparents again.
- Pray for Molly and Michael, Martin's parents. Molly fell a few weeks ago and is adjusting to life back at home after a spell in hospital. We pray for strength, resilience and comfort for Martin as he offers support to his parents.
- Pray for Tina Strutt as she embarks on running the London Marathon (Covid style in Bedford!) raising money for a brain cancer charity which has impacted her family.
- Pray for Sue and Kevin and Emily and Ben who are engaged and preparing for marriage in our church next year amidst the chaos and confusion of Covid. And for our wedding couples all trying to make decisions about when to reschedule their weddings planned for this year.

Witness in or Town

We give thanks to God for all the expressions of love in our town amongst our church family and beyond: to all the volunteers who give so generously of their time to keep the church open for others to come and sit and pray in our Chapel, making our visitors welcome and keeping them safe, and to those doing acts of loving kindness in our local community. Your church is very much alive in our town of Macclesfield. Lord, help us to live out our faith in everything we do each day throughout the week, not just Sundays: in our paid or unpaid roles, our caring, parenting or grandparenting roles and our pastimes. Help us to encounter you, Lord, during our daily lives. How do we

find you, Lord, in the fullness of everyday life? Help us to find faith in our joys and cares, in our challenges and conflicts as we lean into your presence and guidance.

Baby Loss Awareness Week (9-15 October)

Lord, we offer up to you our prayers for those who experience this bereavement. It is hard to grieve a reality that didn't come to pass: to lose a future that was full of promise, and yet so quickly came to nothing. Excitement turns to sorrow, anticipation to anger, and joy to despair. Let us come together in unity to comfort and support and offer our love and support to those dealing with their loss. Together we will find hope that these lives are held in the arms of God. Lord bring comfort, peace and healing to these families in their loss, confusion and sadness.

Prisons Week (11-17 October)

We pray for all those connected with the criminal justice system in any way, including all prison staff and families of prisoners, as well as prisoners themselves. Let us pray for social connection and restored relationships and an openness to the generous love of God who longs to draw close to every individual person treasured and known by name. We pray that amid both places of brokenness and beauty there might be a discovery of inner freedom and peace which is rooted in the love, hope and peace of God revealed in Jesus Christ and present through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Covid-19

Lord we lift to you the chaos, frustration and confusion; the fear and isolation; the loss and the loneliness, we face in this Pandemic. There is huge fear about how this virus will impact on our lives going into the winter months ahead. We pray for wisdom and integrity for our leaders as they make decisions about what is best to keep us safe from harm, whilst also ensuring livelihoods are protected. We pray for the many people facing a future of uncertainty job wise as the furlough scheme comes to an end and as redundancies begin to rise. We pray for your comfort, Lord, to the thousands of young students in universities facing popular blame for the rise in the virus and their mental wellbeing especially those away from home for the first time locked in their rooms, unable to make friends. Lord we trust in you and we lift all this to you.

If you would like something included in the next prayer letter, contact:
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