

Our Church School, Bollinbrook Primary:

Bollinbrook: *"a tree firmly planted by streams of water which yields its fruit" Ps 1 v3*

Pray for the staff, governors and pupils in this unprecedented situation. Staff are under intense pressure to deliver lessons at home and at school (for vulnerable children and the children of key workers).

Give thanks for the faith and witness of the Head teacher Lynne le Marinel, and pray that she and all the staff will remain healthy and safe.

For our Church:

We pray for all those responsible for planning the Easter services; in the hope that these will be able to go ahead in person as well as on-line.

Pray for the meeting of the Church Council on 16th February, for open and fruitful discussion and wise decision-making. Pray for the next stage in the Strategic Planning process as we seek God's will for us for the years ahead.

Pray for the recruitment of a new Clergy PA and church administrator to replace Sue Reid – and pray for Sue as she begins her new career as a Bereavement Officer at Wythenshawe Hospital

Our Church Family:

Praise God for the life and witness of Doreen Dawson, and Sue Henderson - Armstrong. Both Doreen and Sue have long been members of our congregation and will be much missed by their families and by us.

Pray for all those families struggling to cope with working from home and home-schooling.

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

Martin Stephens 01625 426 110 teamrector.macc@gmail.com

Clergy PA 01625 421 984 clergypa@maccteam.org.uk

Opportunities at St Michael's to join with others in prayer – many of our regular meetings for prayer have been suspended because of the pandemic. But there are regular groups meeting on Zoom; please see the weekly newsletter for more details



LET US PRAY

St Michael & All Angels, Macclesfield

February 2021

"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me." Psalm 23

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 prayers. With many of our regular times of communal prayer no longer available to us, it is even more important that we take time to pray individually for all the many problems which we are facing.

But we must also remember to give thanks to God for all His many blessings to us; for the successful launch of the vaccination programme; for the expertise, courage and sacrifice of all those working in our hospitals, surgeries and care homes; for all the volunteers who serve the community so generously – at the Hope Centre and the Silklife foodbank; as NHS Responders and Refugees Welcome; at WHAM the night shelter for rough sleepers; as assistants at the vaccination centres.

February is the shortest month, but for many of us it will seem to be much longer than we expected. We have just heard that the lockdown will last until March at least; and that the death toll from covid-19 in the UK is now over 100,000.

Let us pray for:

Those who are anxious and fearful

*Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Amen.

Those who are ill

*Merciful God,
we entrust to your tender care
those who are ill or in pain,
knowing that whenever danger threatens
your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe.
Comfort and heal them,
and restore them to health and strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen.

Hospital staff and medical researchers

*Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be restored to health;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen.

Pray for our Nation

In response to reaching the terrible milestone of 100,000 deaths from COVID-19 the Archbishops invite all to call on God in Prayer. Starting on 1st February we are invited to set aside time every evening to pray, particularly at 6pm each day. More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other. Prayer is an expression of love.

Gracious, loving God, we give thanks for our nation and the freedom that we enjoy. We pray for the senior members of our government as they meet together, and ask that in your mercy you would bring harmony and a common sense of purpose. We pray for our MP David Rutley, our Town and Cheshire East councillors, as they work to care for those who are struggling in our community. **Amen**

This is the prayer for the week beginning 1st February:

*Gracious God,
as we remember before you the thousands who have died,
surround us and all who mourn with your strong compassion.
Be gentle with us in our grief,
protect us from despair,
and give us grace to persevere
and face the future with hope
in Jesus Christ our risen Lord.*

Amen.

Other prayers can be found on the Church of England website at <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/prayer-nation#na>

Show the Love

February 14th is Valentine's Day. Traditionally we give those we love a token of that love. This year, in the midst of the climate crisis, let us show our love for this world, for God's creation, by praying for our leaders, that they may build a greener, cleaner world that works for everyone. From 1st – 21st February we are encouraged to show our love for this planet and for everything we want to protect from the climate crisis.

