

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 as they prepare to welcome all children back into school. For children unsettled and worried, for teachers supporting them and also delivering lessons; pray that they will all remain healthy and safe. This month please pray that, amid all the difficulties, children will still have opportunities to grow in their understanding and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

For our Church:

Thank God that we will soon be open for those who wish to come and pray in our church building, and for those who give their time to make it possible. Pray for those who come seeking solace, that they will encounter God and find comfort. For those who come to start their week in prayer at "Start the week".

Praise God for the opportunities to study and explore together in Lent and ask God for to open our minds to discover something new. Ask God to bless planning as we prepare to return to "merged worship", in church and online; and that services will run smoothly and stress-free.

Pray for the Church Council meeting on 23rd March, for open and fruitful discussion and wise decision-making. As we think about "emerging from lockdown", let us rejoice in what we have learned, and make wise decisions about what to leave behind and what to carry forward. As we prepare to improve our audio-visual facilities, pray that they will be used wisely to further God's Kingdom; for wisdom in the final decisions and that sufficient funding will be available. Pray for that the right person will feel called to a role as our Clergy PA and church administrator.

Our Church Family:

Praise God for the life and witness of Doreen Dawson, and Sue Henderson -Armstrong, and ask God to support their families. Also ask God to support Tricia and her family in her recent loss, as they plan and prepare for the funeral.

Pray for families who have felt overwhelmed during the past year, with working from home and home-schooling, and that they may soon feel able to join in again.

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

March 2021

'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.' (Matthew 11:28)

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.

*Alone with none but thee, my God,
I journey on my way.
What need I fear, when thou art near O King of night and day?
More safe am I within thy hand
than if a host did round me stand.*

Columba, c.521 - 597

But also let us celebrate the signs of new life as spring arrives. Snowdrops, cyclamen, crocuses and there will be daffodils for St David's Day (1st March). We notice birds singing, feel the sun's warmth and see new shoots appearing.

This year, Lenten reflections from the Diocese of Chester celebrate God's word and God's world. The contributors delve into scripture and share inspiring personal stories about the small ways in which they are moved to cherish the gift of life. Here are a few of the prayers: find the daily reflections here <https://chester.anglican.org/lent/lentenreflections/>

*Dear Lord,
We live in an amazing world. Help us to be more aware of the wonder of your creation and to be more thankful for it.
Amen.*

*Heavenly Father,
We thank You for the world that surrounds us.
We thank You for its beauty and for all it teaches us about You, Lord.
As we see Your majesty through Your creation, may we help others see You too.
We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son.
Amen*

*Lord Jesus,
We sometimes have problems that seem bigger than we are!
We sometimes feel too small to make a difference, so we don't do anything at all.
But we are your church and you fill us with power.
Might we use this power in the small decisions of our days
To change the world, transform ourselves, and build your kingdom.
We pray in the name of the one for whom no storm is too big.
Amen.*

Pray for our Nation

Praise God for the progress made in developing vaccines against Covid-19 and in vaccinating the UK population, and pray that all will understand and access this gift. Pray for fair distribution of vaccines to all communities across the world.

Pray for those in positions of authority faced with making decisions which balance hopes of returning to "normality" and social interaction with realistic assessment of

risk. That they may decide wisely and not be influenced by short-term political goals. Pray for integrity and transparency in leadership.

14th March is Mothering Sunday

Each year, Mothering Sunday gives us the opportunity to thank God for the parents, especially women, who have had the greatest impact on our lives, and to celebrate parenthood for the unconditional love and great sacrifice it can mean. This year most gatherings of wider family will not be possible and we will feel sad, having to find other ways of thanking our mothers and caregivers.

Pray for those who have been separated from loved ones for a long time.
those who have been unable to visit a parent in a care home
those whose parent has died
Grandparents who cannot see new grandchildren

Thank God that he is there with us, and our loved ones, in these times.

We pray for all who have been abandoned for whatever reason by their mother. All who have been unable to have a child. All who have lost a child. All who have been hurt or abused. We ask you to enfold them in your arms and surround them with your love in their pain and sorrow

Thank God for the work of the Mothers' Union, supporting families across the world.

A prayer for restoration

*Come, Holy Spirit. Our hearts cry out for more of you, Lord.
In a world full of brokenness,
Show us how to use our gifts to repair and restore.
Spirit of peace,
Fall on places of conflict around the world;
Heal divisions and hurts; Bring together families torn apart by war.
Spirit of justice,
Anoint decision-makers with wisdom
To bring about systemic change and truth
Where cycles of poverty and bias have taken root.
Come, Holy Spirit, We let you take control.
Show us how we can build back better, Unite, bless others and renew.
In Jesus' name we pray, amen.*

Nigel Harris, Tearfund CEO