

St Michael & All Angels', Macclesfield

## LET US PRAY



Season Of Creation Sep 1<sup>st</sup> – Oct 4<sup>th</sup>

*And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. (Genesis 1:31)*

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)*

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.

*In prayer we seek to discern God's will for us individually and collectively and to align ourselves with His purpose for us in all aspects of our lives. To that end we bring our concerns, petitions and aspirations before Him in prayer and thank Him for all the blessings we enjoy, as well as asking His forgiveness for the times we have failed Him in things we have done, or not done.*

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us to love our neighbour and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you. In this time of anxiety, give us strength to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick, and to assure the isolated of our love, and of your love, for your name's sake. Amen

**For churches and congregations:**

With some churches open and some closed, some services online, some church members still isolated or shielding, no singing, no communion, restricted opportunities to meet and socialise .. these are difficult times for us all. Help us to support and encourage one another. We pray for all those who find these current arrangements difficult or stressful. Amen

We pray for all those finding new ways to worship; new ways to bring Christ to others; new ways to show hope in adversity. Amen

**For schools, children, teachers:**

As children and teachers return to the classroom under new and difficult circumstances, we pray for them and for parents as they adapt to new situations. We pray for all those starting in new schools and for young people setting off for university and facing new challenges. From our own congregation we pray for Eleanor, Aaron, Isaac and Sharon moving from primary to high school; Aidan, Connor, Eleanor and Holly moving into new post-16 education and training and Molly heading off to Nottingham university this month. Amen.

Especially we pray for our church school, Bollinbrook, for the staff, governors, children and parents as they open their doors to the full

school once more. We pray that they have enjoyed rest and relaxation over the summer. Amen

### **For the Season Of Creation:**

The theme chosen for this year's Season of Creation is 'Jubilee', a time to renounce overconsumption and economic systems based on constant economic growth at the cost of the Earth and those who are poor. This year we at St Michael's are once again joining with St Alban's and other churches in Macclesfield to celebrate and pray for God's creation. We ask, Lord, that you grant us the courage and the will to live in harmony with our world; to live sustainably with the planet; to care for your creation and for all those with whom we share it – born and unborn. Amen

### **During the ongoing pandemic :**

With the Covid-19 pandemic and its consequences continuing far longer than many had hoped, we pray for all those suffering with anxiety, stress, loneliness; and especially for those still unable to visit loved ones, unable to gather together in joy and celebration. Amen.

When we can't see a smile behind a face mask; when we can't give a hug to a friend; when we can't rejoice together as we would wish, Lord give us strength and perseverance. Amen

### **Our Church Family:**

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.* (Psalm 46)

Pray for the family and friends of all those whose funerals have been conducted recently particularly where attendance at funerals has been minimised due to the pandemic. Especially we pray for the families and friends of Anne Chandley, Bill Dickinson, Margaret Burns Clark and Elizabeth Melling whose funerals were conducted by members of our team ministry. Amen

God of love and mercy, embrace all those whose hearts today overflow with grief, unanswered questions and such a sense of loss. Grant them space to express their tears and hold them close in the coming days and weeks. Amen

Pray for the families and friends of all those who would have been celebrating baptisms and weddings but whose preparations and rejoicing have had to be put on hold. Amen

### **Our Church Life:**

*That the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith* (Ephesians 4:12)

While we are constrained as a congregation to meet together for worship and companionship; while we as individuals may be isolated and alone, Lord, strengthen our church family. Enrich our lives with love for you and for each other in these testing times. Amen

### **Opportunities for Prayer at St Michael's:**

Along with our regular worship in church and via Zoom at 10:00am every Sunday, the following meetings have re-commenced following lockdown:

Start the Week: (Mondays 7.30-10.30am)

Contemplative Prayer: (Fridays 9.10-9.40am, Savage Chapel)

Private Prayer: St Michael's Church is open Monday-Saturday 11.00am-1.00pm for private prayer

### **If you would like something included in the next prayer letter**

please contact a member of the clergy team:

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

Sue Reid 01625 421984 clergypa@maccteam.org.uk