

Let us pray for the Church and the world and let us thank God for his goodness.

Almighty God our heavenly Father, you promised through your Son Jesus Christ to hear us when we pray in faith. Strengthen our Diocesan Bishop Guli and our area Bishop Roger in the service of Christ: that those who confess your name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. We pray for Jeremy at Saffron Walden and all who serve under him, the team churches & the Deanery churches with their respective PCCs and all who keep the day to day running of the parish churches which is no mean feat! Pray for our sister church St Boltolph at Hadstock as they and All Saints seek a new incumbent. Pray for Pastor Bren & the Ashdon Baptist church and the continuing workings together in our village of Ashdon.

Lord in your Mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Bless and guide Charles our King, give wisdom to all in authority; and direct this and every nation in the ways of justice and of peace; that men may honour one another, and see the common good.

We live in a world of warring factions and we ignore the problems at our peril. It is quite clear that the lessons of the past have not been learnt and we have paid lip service to this and to our fundamental way of life. We bring before you Lord, the many who have been caught up in the degradation of this world by the madness of their rulers. The arms trade has a lot answer for, but we too have been happy to 'go with the flow', rather than stand up to be counted which actually takes a lot of courage. In our time the decency of the state has been trashed but I do pray for better times.

Lord in your Mercy. **Hear our prayer**

In the village we see signs of spring, aconites, snowdrops and birdsong. Pray for our children and allow them to spread their wings and develop their talents. We have space, do we allow them? Pray for the Baptist church here, their activities curtailed but continuing despite their roofing problems. Bren is using the church rooms for the Brigade and it is a joy to watch them. May things get better for them.

Lord in your Mercy. **Hear our prayer**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles; and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Hear us as we remember those who have died in the faith of Christ; according to your promises, grant us with them a share in your eternal kingdom. It is that time of year when kith & kin, our friends and acquaintances pass away. Ashdon and Hadstock have said their goodbyes recently. Our postie Sam has joined their ranks. Pray for him, for his friends and neighbours and families that are left behind.

Today is the anniversary of the spaceship Challenger tragedy nearly 40 years ago.

In the church calendar this week, Tuesday we remember Charles, King and Martyr 1649.  
Lord in your Mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

A foot note to my prayers. Last week saw the anniversary of the marriage of Henry VIII and Ann Boleyn roundabout 1533. The ceremony was probably conducted by Rowland Lee who was a rector here and a royalist. His behaviour over the years was awful but recently it has been said that head injuries from jousting might have been a cause. Let us think and pray for the many that suffered under him.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all your saints, we commend ourselves and all Christian people to your unfailing love.

**Merciful father: accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**