**Intercessions: All Saints, Ashdon 11th October 2020 Prayers by Alan**

Loving Father, in quiet reverence in the stillness of this place we bow our heads seeking a deeper sense of your presence. As we bring our prayers to you, asking you to open your heart to others and stretch out your loving arms, help us also to listen to how you would have us open our hearts and stretch out our arms in love and service.

We pray for our national church as it seeks to pursue the ways forward following the inquiry into child sexual abuse within the church. We pray for those responsible for putting new practices in place to safeguard children and vulnerable adults. We pray that the church may be a place that is not simply safe, but also may be a refuge that welcomes and supports all in need.

We pray for justice for all victims of abuse. We also pray for those who work with them, helping each person to find some restoration from life changing hurt.

Lord in Your Mercy – **Hear our Prayer**

We pray for our own church of All Saints as today we hold our Annual Meeting. We give thanks for all those who contribute to the running of the church in so many practical ways that enable it to continue to be a place and a people that attest to your presence in within our community. We ask for your continued guidance and blessing with all that we do.

In our deanery cycle of prayer we also pray today for the Baptist church here in Ashdon. We give thanks for the faithful ministry of its members. We pray for them and their minister Gavin as they like us explore how best we might all serve you in the different circumstances in which we all find ourselves in this pandemic.

In our cycle of prayer, we are also asked to pray for Ashdon primary school, and so we do pray that in the midst of all the changed arrangements that the children may still find joy, fulfilment and friendship in their schooling. We pray for Simon the headteacher and his staff as they work to make a safe and productive environment for the children.

Lord in Your Mercy – **Hear our Prayer**

Yesterday was World Mental Health Day, and so today we ask you loving Father to have compassion on all who have mental health problems of whatever sort. We pray for those who work in this field, not just those employed in mental health professions, but also the many volunteers who provide much needed support. We pray particularly for those parts of the world where mental health is poorly understood and services are very limited.

Lord in Your Mercy – **Hear our Prayer**

Now we turn to you loving Father, in a moment of quiet, to call to our hearts and minds those we know personally who may be in any kind of need. ***Quiet****.* Give healing to those who are unwell, courage to those facing challenges and difficulties. Comfort those coping with loss and give them peace. We pray for the wellbeing of all members of our communities, and especially for those who have no one to pray for them.

Sustain all who care for and support those who are going through difficult times.

Nurture thankfulness in those with new found health and hope, and grant continuing peace to those who have found assurance amidst their troubles.

Remind us of your presence with us often. Guide and inspire us so that our daily lives may be a blessing to those around us. Help us to be ever alert and ready to act with a healing word and a helping hand.

Lord in Your Mercy – **Hear our Prayer**

Merciful Father:

**Accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**