**Dear Lord 18 April 2021 Prayers by: Julia**

We give thanks for the life of Prince who was laid to rest yesterday. We thank you for the Queen and her family sharing their goodbye. Indeed may you continue to support the Queen over the coming weeks when she will be missing Prince Philip for his wisdom and banter. We pray that the spirit and example of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards may continue. We also pray that the family will set aside differences and set about reconciliation.

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

We pray for carers/nurses, medics and the emergency services who have worked tirelessly and for those working in the vaccine centres. We hope that the progress gained here over the past month may be maintained and that are re-awakening in society and first steps of reunion with our families may continue without a third wave of the virus. We also pray for communities overseas still affected by this virus.

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

We remember that families have been impacted economically and that they will continue to need support. We also pray for the volunteers supporting this pandemic both in the UK and worldwide.

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

We pray for All Saints, The Baptists here in Ashdon and members of St Mary’s Parish Church, Saffron Walden. We remember too that some churches and chapels have not re-opened since the pandemic and sadly some smaller churches and chapels will never re-open. Amongst these I remember the community of Openwoodgate Methodist Church in Derbyshire in my heart where we were married and I went to Sunday School. May we ask Lord that you support these communities whilst they find their new spiritual journey.

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

We pray for the gardeners, some preparing for Open Gardens, others for home grown food and their love of flowers. We pray for the farmers in Ashdon and elsewhere continuing to toil and nurture the land be rewarded. Also pray for the farmers in animal husbandry bringing new life into the world like lambs and calves.

Help us all to move forward with hope and joy in our hearts and remembering Tomorrow will be a good day.

**Merciful Father accept these our prayers in your name.**

**Amen**