**Intercessions Prayers by Caroline**

**2 May 2021.**

**Ashdon 9.30am communion**

**Easter 5**

**Acts 8:26-40; I John 4: 7-end; John 15: 1-8**

O Lord our God, we thank you that in you we find our true home. We bring before you now the needs of our brothers and sisters in the world; of those known to us personally and of those whose lives we see only from afar.

We thank you that we can come together as your church in this place. Send your Spirit on our church communities, we pray – here in Ashdon on this church and on the Baptist Church and on all the churches in the wider Saffron Walden area. May our church communities be places where all can feel at home and catch a glimpse of your love. We ask that you will help us in our decision making about the best ways in which to open up our services and buildings to all. We pray for our new Bishop Guli as she takes up her post as Bishop of Chelmsford and prepares to move to be amongst us.

Lord, in your mercy; **Hear our prayer**

We pray for the countries of the world and for their leaders. Today our hearts and minds are full with concern for those in India fighting a losing battle against Coronavirus. As our own situation improves, give us large hearts and a wide vision to encompass the needs of all. Give compassion, wisdom and generosity to all who lead the richer nations, we pray. We continue to ask your guidance for our own leaders as they make difficult decisions on our behalf.

Lord, in your mercy; **Hear our prayer**

On this Bank Holiday weekend, we thank you that many families can once again be together. We also pray for all residents of care homes who will now be able to have more freedom to see family.

Our hearts go out to the many children who have been badly affected by school closures, and to all those in our communities who remain anxious.

Lord, in your mercy; **Hear our prayer**

As we come to remember before you all those in need, we think especially of the people of Israel, where today is a national day of public mourning for those lost in the recent crush. Lord, these are your people; comfort them in their grief and be close to all those who are injured or in pain.

We also remember before God those whom **we know** who are ill, naming them in the silence of our hearts….. We have been asked to pray for May, for healing of body and mind.

We pray for all waiting for test results or undergoing other routine procedures.

Lord, be with the anxious, support the weak, and may we as your church offer a home for those who need it, the good news of your love for them, and hope for the broken hearted and despondent.

Lord, in your mercy; **Hear our prayer**

From God we come and to God we return. Let us thank God now for the lives of those known to us who have returned to Him. Today we remember especially Peggy Simmons of Steventon End who died this week at the age of 104. We think of her family. We ask, Lord, that you will so increase in us our sense of being at home with you that when our time comes, we may return to you with joyful hearts.

Be gentle we pray with all who grieve, and give us all the assurance that in your eternal life there is no separation**.**

Merciful Father,

**accept our prayers for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**