Intercessions 9 May 2021 Prayers by Helen

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, you promised to hear us when we pray in faith. Strengthen our Bishop, and all your Church 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.

Pray for Jeremy Trew and his family as he heads the team of the Saffron Walden village parishes. Pray for our Deanery of Saffron Walden, Margaret the Rural Dean and Graham the lay chairman. We pray for all the clergy, the retired clergy and the laity doing the essential work needed by the church enabling it to flourish in its mission. We pray for our own parish, Caroline and Alan and Barbara doing a splendid job as churchwarden. We pray for your newly elected PCC as they get to grips with the business of our church. We are blessed with people who work to keep the building and its environs looking nice and welcoming, and the music in its different forms engaging us all in our worship.

We pray for Ashdon Baptist Church, Gavin, Jo and their community.

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

Bless and guide Elizabeth. Our Queen 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 seek the common good. We pray for her politicians, those elected to office, and those aspiring to be part of our political life. Think of those who feel unable, for whatever reason, to fulfil their civic duty. **Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer**

Pray for the village school, its staff and pupils, and all those who service the school. So many children have missed out in their formative years during the virus lockdown, and aftermath has yet to be fully settle**. Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.**

Give grace to us, our families and friends, and to all our neighbours; that we may serve Christ in one another, and love as he love us. We live in a lovely area of the country but as we travel about, we notice the rubbish that lies about, left carelessly by unthinking people. In the last few years, innovative people have produced goods for our help and well being but we have carelessly discarded them, despite the local authorities effort’s. We must all treasure the earth. **Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit…; give them courage and hope in their troubles; and bring them the joy of your salvation. Pray for Angela, now bedbound and unable to communicate. We pray for Jo who has now gone into a home with specialist care for her. We pray for John and the family who have had to face up this position.

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

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. Our brother John whose anniversary falls tomorrow, missed by Brenda and family, but also us villagers whose lives have been enriched by knowing him and all the activities he took part in. We had so much fun and this brought the village together.

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

This coming week sees the three rogation days prior to Ascension Day when we the church ask for the blessing on the crops being sown, and looking forward to a good harvest. We also celebrate the ice saints, Mamertus, Pancras and Servatius, who often bring frosty nights in a mild May.

On Friday 14th we celebrate the Feast day of the Apostle Matthias, chosen to fill the place of Judas Iscariot. Little is known of him, and he is often confused in writing with St Matthew.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of St Matthias and 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**