

# Parish *Prayer* Diary

July – August 2021

Focus on Summer Holidays



Take time to claim your strength; this is a gift from God. Take time to have fun; it is God's way of teaching you your strengths. Take time to grow yourself; only you can grow you. Take time to trust yourself; God trusts you. Take time to be self-reliant; it is better than being dependent. Take time to share with others; they will bless you and you will bless them. Take time to have hope; you are a child of God

Let's pray together - either separately in our own homes or together on Zoom at our **Parish *Prayer*** Meeting on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July at 7:00pm.

## **Prayers for the World**

*You decided where the borders of the earth should be, you made both summer and winter. Psalm 74 v 17*

As we start to think about holidays and perhaps going overseas, let us be considerate and respectful of other countries' situations. May we be sensible and remember that the pandemic is not over, now that restrictions are lifting.

Let us also remember that many countries still have ongoing problems such as war, famine and poverty.

Refugees The world is still witnessing high levels of displacement. Refugee camps are full and there is little social distancing and "Simple things like finding clean water or food are hard, "Crammed in these tiny tents, it would be hard to keep safe if a family member got coronavirus." (Nur Jahan, Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh)

Hunger There are still many hungry people across the world, some of the areas with the most hungry people include: Sub-Saharan Africa, Caribbean, Southern Asia, South East Asia, Western Asia.

Floods Parts of Europe, especially Germany, are experiencing terrible flooding, which is being linked to climate change.

Climate Change We have learned through the recent Home Groups studies that the poorest in the world are those most affected by climate change.

## **Prayers for our nation**

*The Lord God is like the sun that gives us light. He is like a shield that keeps us safe. Psalm 84 v 11.*

Lockdown restrictions are easing and many people are looking forward to getting away for a break. Let us pray for safety and for an end to suffering.

Let us pray for all students and children receiving exam results this summer, and thinking about their future after such a disruptive 18 months.

Some children will go hungry during the school holidays unless their families have some help, especially those from families where the pandemic has added to their poverty. Let us pray for foodbanks and other charities, and examine our own giving in this area.

## **Prayers for our church and for our community**

*From the sunrise in the East to the sunset in the west, may the name of the Lord be praised. Psalm 113 v 3*

Interviews will be held in August for our new Children, Youth and Family Life Minister, please pray for the right person to be appointed quickly and for them to be well supported in their role.

Let us pray for all our community who are going on holiday, and also for those who cannot get away. Let us be united as a church community and think of those who might still be lonely and nervous of getting out and about.

Let us pray that all the preparations for the opening weekend (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> September) go well and put the focus of the Gospel at the heart of everything we do.

Let us also pray for the 'new normal' church, and all that entails, change can often be hard to embrace.

## **We pray for our Mission partners, and the situations they are in:**

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. *Matthew 5 v 16*

for **Azaria** who returned from home leave to **Guatemala** in May and is settling back into work very well, and was due to move into her new apartment on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Azaria is excited about her new role and responsibilities as they unfold, and has been able to meet most of the youth and spend time catching up with them

for **Paul & Kate** and the children are currently on home leave, having arrived in the UK on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Having completed their self-isolation they are starting to travel around to visit family, friends and supporters. Please pray for safety for them at this time and that the children will adjust quickly.

for **Tony & Katherine** and the children in South East Asia who are now preparing for a return to Britain after 16 years' service overseas. Please pray that they may finish well, that the hoped-for flights in July materialise, that all their arrangements run smoothly, and that they may settle quickly back into life in this country

for **Isaac Mgego** and the staff at the hospital in **Berega** in Tanzania: please pray that the funds we sent out recently help them care for all the patients affected by the third wave of Covid now spreading across Tanzania.

**Our Prayers for those known to us who are ill or having treatment:** Mike Bellamy, Frankie Hall, Frances Pearson

**Our Prayers for families who have been bereaved and our prayers for those with on-going needs:**

Julie Astle Bellamy	Michael & Daphne
Doreen Bennett and Keith Bennett	Rosie Bjelland
Katie Bladen	Barbara Brown
Vickie Brown	Dorothy Bush
Betty Ellery	Gill Fazey
Frankie Hall	Gillian Hallam
Keith & Beverley Holloway	Frank & Ann Mellon
Claire Morrell	Frances Pearson
Kathleen & Albert Phillips	Martin & Mary Plackett
Richard & Rita Portwood	Dorothy Roberts
Michael Smith	Stephen Waller
David Ward	Joe & Pat Whiteley
Gill and David Wilmot	Liz Wiseman

**We remember in prayer the residents and businesses located within the parish in the following roads:**

Arundel Drive Road	Burnside Drive & Cranston
Balmoral Drive	Buttermere Drive
Bankfield Drive	Carwood Drive
Baulk Lane & Eleanor Crescent	Chapel Street
Beeston Fields Drive	Chapel Mews Court
Bembridge Court	Charlotte Grove & Tracy Close
Bramwell Drive	Chesham Drive
(Including Fieldcare Close and Siskin Close)	
Briar Close	Bridle Road

## **A Summer Prayer**

Creator of all, thank You for summer! Thank You for the warmth of the sun and the increased daylight. Thank You for the beauty I see all around me and for the opportunity to be outside and enjoy Your creation. Thank You for the increased time I have to be with my friends and family, and for the more casual pace of the summer season. Draw me closer to You this summer. Teach me how I can pray no matter where I am or what I am doing. Warm my soul with the awareness of Your presence, and light my path with Your Word and Counsel. As I enjoy Your creation, create in me a pure heart and a hunger and a thirst for You Amen.