

Bidding Prayers 22nd March 2020

“The Lord is our shepherd; there is nothing we shall want” even as we “walk in the valley of darkness no evil would we fear.” In a time of almost unprecedented fear and anxiety we can rest in the knowledge that the Lord is sovereign over all, cares for us and listens to our prayers.

- We pray for all Church leaders as they seek to make difficult decisions to protect their flocks. We ask for wisdom to know how to support their parishioners in new ways until church services can take place again.
- We pray for our government and those advising them who are in an impossible situation. We ask that their approach will be successful and their plans will protect the most vulnerable in our society.
- We pray for all those worldwide who have become unwell with COVID-19. We ask that their symptoms do not become severe and they can recover fully. We pray for all those who have died and the loved ones who mourn them; may they find comfort and peace from God.
- With current advice to social distance and self-isolate we pray for a growth in community spirit that although we cannot physically comfort people we will find new ways to support each other. We ask that through this pandemic we learn how to help our neighbour.
- We pray for all those for whom COVID-19 brings financial uncertainty and worry. We ask that homes and jobs will be protected and people can bring their personal fears and concerns to the Lord.
- We pray for all those who work for the NHS as they work under extraordinary pressures. We ask that they remain healthy and are able to provide care to those who need it most.
- We pray for all teachers and students who will have to adapt to changes in the coming months, especially those who were due to sit exams. We ask that they can feel secure that their futures will not be harmed by this and that in the fullness of time solutions will be found.
- Although we are not able to attend church services we ask that through this trial our faith will increase, our prayer life deepen and that our witness of hope to those around us will be powerful.
- On this Mothers’ Day, we pray for all mothers especially those who cannot be with their children because of the current restrictions. We ask that they be kept safe and are comforted by the knowledge of their children’s love for them.
- Let us not forget that we are in the holy season of Lent. As we travel towards the Cross help us to remember that Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Loving Lord, fill us with your love and your peace. May we feel your presence alongside us every day. We make our prayer through your Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Amen.