

## Wider Concerns

During October and November we pray for world peace. So much of our world continues to be caught up in conflict, or is affected by disaster or economic difficulties.

Many are disillusioned. We see old certainties challenged by political change. As new tensions between nations develop, and the United Nations look less than united, we must pray for wisdom for our leaders, and a willingness for all to recognise how we depend on one another.

Antonio Guterres, the UN secretary-general is bringing together a new United Nations High Level Advisory Board on Mediation. It is part of a "surge in diplomacy for peace". The new board brings together an unparalleled range of experience, skills, knowledge and contacts. Please pray for the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, who is one of the world leaders for peace joining this board. Pray that the work will be fruitful and successful.

*God of all grace, call to the nations of the earth to cease from strife, that all may join to fight not one another but their common foes of want and ignorance, disease and sin.*

*Lead mankind out of the way of death into the way of life; and from destruction to the building up of a new world of righteousness and peace, of liberty and joy.*

*End the dark night of lies and cruelty; bring the dawn of mercy and truth.*

**Amen.**

## Our People

Please remember those on our prayer list and any other specific situations in prayer.

## St. Wilfrid's Monthly Prayer Topics

October / November 2017

Each month we pray for aspects of our church life (*Worship, Fellowship and Outreach*), the needs of *our community and the wider world*. We pray that God's kingdom will come, His will be done here on earth as it is in heaven. This month we are praying specifically for:

- People helping with services
- Our congregations
- Alpha
- Mental Health
- World Peace
- Those on our prayer list
- Situations known to us that we can share in bringing before God.

**Reading:** Acts 6:4

*.....we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer ...*

## People helping with services

This month we give thanks and pray for all those who, perhaps in the background, enable our services of worship to happen: those opening up the building and ensuring it is safe; sidespersons and welcomers; those looking after the projection and sound system; those providing refreshments.

Please pray for:

- all (the whole church) to support the work of stewards and welcomers and work together to be a welcoming inclusive church.
- people to continue to volunteer for the rotas to ensure that it does not become too onerous for those who are carrying out these tasks.
- Wisdom in how we organise this work and support those in these roles.

## Our congregations

The life of our church is expressed in our meeting together—our congregations each form a *community* of worshippers catering for different needs. As our congregations continue to grow, we seek to share in a common journey of faith.

Please pray for:

- Continued growth of our congregations, in number, faith and love.
- For new activities, such as the church breakfast, that help us in building links between those involved in different congregations, that we may be one in purpose.
- As we consider our patterns of service, that we will be guided by wisdom and open to change where this is for the good of all.

## Alpha

Alpha has started and is again in full swing. This is an opportunity to explore Christian faith for the first time, or to discover more.

Please pray for:

- Those on the Alpha course that all will find it helpful and fulfilling as they explore the Christian faith.
- For Nick and Val West, Allan Ball, and other leaders involved in running Alpha—that God will bless their efforts .
- For those who have been on Alpha in the past—that they may continue their journey of faith.

## Our Community

This month we pray for people struggling with mental health problems, and those who care for them . During Mental Health week we will be recognising this issue, that we as a church continue to embrace positively.

Please pray particularly for:

- Those suffering with disabling mental health problems such as depression, anxiety or dementia, particularly those who are isolated or in need of support.
- The families involved, for understanding patience and strength
- The health and social services, for adequate resources and wisdom for those dealing with complex situations
- Ourselves, that we may have a positive attitude to people struggling in this area.