

All Saints Prayers 3/1/2021

Dear Lord, we have much to thank you for. We thank you for our families, our friends and our faith.

We thank you for the family members that we see every day and for those we cannot see, both present and past. We thank you for their love and support to help us through each day, in person, by email, text and zoom. This time of year is a chance for rejoicing, reconnecting and relaxing yet our larger family gatherings cannot happen at the moment. Help us to enjoy quieter times and appreciate the comforts of home which are more important than ever. Help us to share a sense of joy and seasonal cheer with each other.

Lord, hear us. Lord graciously hear us.

We thank you for our friends and neighbours and their countless acts of friendship, the meal offered, the walk in the park, the phone calls. Help us to reach out and give friendship and hope.

Lord, hear us. Lord graciously hear us.

We thank you for the communities of East Budleigh and round about where we live. The sense of community which brings people together and raises our spirits. The service of volunteers in our village shop, and teachers and staff at Drake's School. Help us to play our part.

Lord, hear us. Lord graciously hear us.

We thank you for the new 'Stronger Together' initiative where the East Budleigh Council, All Saints Church, the Village Hall, Community Shop and Drake's PTFA work together to coordinate efforts and build resilience against the pandemic at a local level. Help us to ensure no one is forgotten.

Lord, hear us. Lord graciously hear us.

Now that Brexit has happened, we give thanks for the stability that the agreement brings so that businesses can plan with certainty and safeguard employment. We ask for your support for those businesses as they adapt to the new export and import procedures and for the Institute of Export and International Trade and their students on the new customs training courses. We pray for the government, that our leaders will make good decisions on how to develop our trading relationships internationally for the common good.

Lord, hear us. Lord graciously hear us.

Lord, we pray for those less fortunate than ourselves. Those who are sick, those who are dying and those who mourn. May you wrap them in your love and help us to provide friendship and support. We pray for countries caught in war and political struggles that you may bring much needed peace and solace.

Lord, hear us. Lord graciously hear us.

Lord, we thank you for our faith and our lives here at All Saints and the ministry of Martin and Karen. We thank you for our services in these COVID times and for the church cleaners for making it safe. We thank you for those who help and arrange our services, for the lovely flower arrangements and for the All Saints WhatsApp Group which helps us communicate.

We pray for the work of the churchyard working party and the church hall committee. And for the pastoral team and helpers who made calls, wrote letters and delivered parcels to make sure we were doing ok. We remember the bell ringers and those who open the church for all to enjoy.

We especially give thanks for our new live-streaming initiatives which reached more people both online and on the phone. Help us to reflect with the PCC on how best to take this forward.

Lord, hear us. Lord graciously hear us.

Lord, we pray for our church charities, for Families for Children and their work offering children a stable and loving home. We pray for our Square Circle group and for our charity Christian Response to Eastern Europe as Hugh and the team deliver support to the people of Moldova. We pray for the many charities we personally support, help us each to volunteer and help others. Lord be with us as we follow you.

Merciful Father, Accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

