

Intercessions 22nd November 2020.

The Kingdom Season

Let us pray

God who is constant Love

In these darkening and sometimes wearying days, help us to continue to seek your loving presence and be open to finding it in unexpected places.

We thank you for the gift of music and art, and for the ways they can show us your face when we struggle to find words.

We pray for those working in the arts, whose livelihoods are vulnerable at the moment. We pray for people who use music, art and story-telling to heal and help others express their full humanity.

Your Kingdom come

Your will be done

God who is our safety and refuge

We hold in our prayers all those who are living through abuse, and for survivors of abuse. We pray for those who have not spoken of it, and suffer daily, for fear of not being believed. We hold those who have spoken out, and were not believed.

We pray that the Church, and those who are in authority within it continue to be open and accountable for past and present abuses. Help us to understand that forgiveness is not the opposite of justice and that forgiveness does not remove the need to protect the vulnerable.

We pray for the safeguarding team at St Mark's, and for people who work in safeguarding in all areas of public life – in social services, education, the NHS, the Police service and the Church.

May the Church be known as a safe and nurturing place to be, where your grace and compassion is not earned, but encountered freely and lavishly.

Your Kingdom come

Your will be done

God who is always present

We pray for all those who are lonely. Help us to continue find creative ways of connecting with one another and being present to those who are isolated – physically and mentally, or in their ability to express their faith and spirituality.

We pray for those whose work – paid and unpaid is hidden from view. We pray for cleaners, carers, parents, and listeners. We acknowledge their roles can be lonely and undervalued.

Your Kingdom come

Your will be done

God who is hope

We pray for parishes within our Diocese, which are in vacancy, or have no prospect of a replacement vicar. We hold in our prayers churches where worship has been suspended as a result of Covid, or shortage of clergy. We pray particularly for the parish of St Cuthbert's.

We hold in our prayers Sarah Colver, as she prepares for her licencing as parish priest to Old Brampton, Great Barlow and Loundsley Green on Monday. May your loving presence bring hope, and be known to her and her parishioners.

We give thanks for the continued connection between St Mark's, St John's Ranmoor, and St Mary's Walkley, as we seek to share resources and be beacons of hope within each community. Today, we especially pray for and give thanks for those who help us to discern your presence through the gift of music.

Your Kingdom come

Your will be done

God, who holds all people in the palm of his hand

We continue to hold in our prayers:

Carol, James, John G, Liz C, Margaret D, Marguerite, Susan and Norman, Sarah C, Pauline E

We pray for those who are mourning, unwell, and those recovering from illness or accident:

Alistair, Anne and Annick, Charlotte, Gordon D, Ian and Anne, Lily, Marjorie K, Mary n, Mary T, Monica, Naomi, Rachel and her family, Ryan, Zhila, Zuandi

We pray for those who have died, in this community and beyond, and for all those who mourn their loss, including

Eileen P, Elsie H, Francena, Gillian, Lois A, Pam M, Sheila P

In remembrance of all those who we love, but no longer see.

God of justice, truth and love

Inspire us with your Spirit to let your Kingdom come.

