

Sunday 7 September – Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

Prayers written by Wendy Borgartz

Let us pray for the church and for the world and let us thank God for his goodness.

Lord God, we lift up before you your church throughout the world, especially we pray for Christians in countries where they cannot worship you freely. We bring before you Bishop Guli, Bishop Roger, Archdeacon Sally and all our churches and we thank you for the vacancy meeting held this past week. Help us to continue to work together well through the vacancy, and we pray that you are already inspiring the right person you want to send us to replace Anne-Marie. We thank you for Anne-Marie's years of service and support for us all and ask that you bless her and Alice as they leave us for Wales. We pray for her new work as Archdeacon in Wales, that you may guide her and support her as she learns a new role in your service.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Father, we pray for your world, for all the places in it where there is fighting and division. We are all made by you in your image. Help all peoples to see your image in everyone they meet, wherever they may come from and whatever they may look like on the surface. We know that you see on the inside. Help us to discern people in the way you do, looking on the inside at what is in people's hearts.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We bring before you the leaders of our country as they have returned to Westminster. May you give them wisdom that they may work together for the good of all peoples, not just a few, that they may make wise decisions that support those who are poor, left out, marginalized, so that all may feel safe and secure. We pray for all those without safe homes, all families that are worried about having enough to eat and how to light and heat their homes through the coming darker months of the year.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for our schools as they have all returned this past week. May the young people be refreshed from the summer break and ready to learn again. Guide the teachers as they start what is a very long term, let them

feel your loving hand on them as they teach. We also pray for all those who work with young people, the various organisations and clubs that run in our villages, and in particular we pray for the work of TYPO and for the recruitment of a part time youth worker in Kelvedon.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Father, we lift up before you all who are ill in any way, be it in body, mind or spirit. We think of those who are lonely, who will not see anyone to talk to today, all who are anxiously waiting for tests and treatment, all those in hospitals, hospices and care homes. We pray this morning for June Dennis and, in a moment of silence, for those known to us individually or to you alone...

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, we thank you that you have opened up for us the gates to eternal life. We pray this morning for all who mourn, including the family and friends of Alfred Johnson and of Steve. Lord, we find it especially hard when we don't understand the death of a child, but trust that he is safe in your care. We also give thanks for the life of Frank Lester, named in our memorial book this week. Grant us, with them, a share in your eternal kingdom.

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