

## **Sunday 18 October – St Luke the Evangelist**

### **Prayers written by Sheila Gunson**

For the last 170 years prayers have been spoken here in St Luke's Tiptree. Prayers for our world and its people, the church and its community and today we continue that tradition.

Prayers for our world over the years have covered at least two world wars, many floods, earthquakes and disasters. Today it is not different. Today we pray for the victims of the wars and disasters. We pray for the world leaders that they will hear your voice to cease the endless and often pointless fighting and bring peace, and aid will arrive in the areas of disasters.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

We have prayed many prayers for our own country's leaders to work for the best solutions for our country's problems. We continue to do this to help us live in peace and work together for the good of the country we live in.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

Our Royal Family have often featured in our prayers. This family have over the years dedicated their lives to our country, what was the Empire and now the Commonwealth. Today we pray that you will give them strength to continue with this wonderful work.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

As people, Lord, you made us care for each other. There are many in our community who become carers, nurses and doctors who work in our homes, care homes, hospices and hospitals. We often pray for their continued commitment and dedication and today we now do this.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

170 years ago the Tiptree area was mostly rural with many smallholdings with farmers growing food for the community. We still have many farmers surrounding us and we admire and give thanks for their dedication to continue growing our food and caring for the land while battling with the changes in our weather and tastes in food.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

Over 170 years we have marked many personal moments here in St Luke's. The arrival of a new baby with a Baptism, the joining of people in Holy

Matrimony and marking the life of a person with a funeral. Many of you here today will have attended some of these occasions here. Please take a moment to reflect and say a prayer to remember those times.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

Over 170 years we have prayed for those who are unwell, we know Lord that you give comfort to those who are ill and today we pray for Jericho Hasieber, Sarah, Jean, Graham Chislett, Faheem, Owen and those known to us

Comfort each one and their families and friends and help them to support each other.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

We have over 170 years marked the lives of people in our community who have died, lives well lived, lives who have inspired us and lives who have loved us. Today we remember Allen Salmon and Sally.

Our Memorial Book contains many names from this community and known personally to us. People who are family and friends and who we remember with love and fondness. Please take a moment to remember a name from the book and know that they are now safe in God's care.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

During the 170 years we have offered prayers of thanks and this we do today. We thank you Lord that we have this lovely building in which to worship you, hear your word, and feel your presence. We thank you for the people who maintain this building, for those who lead us in our worship, for those on the PCC and for those who carry out the many tasks to keep St Luke's a safe place for us all.

We thank you for all those in the past who have led us in our prayers and we pray that you will encourage a new leader to join us very soon to enable us to continue the good work here.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

170 years of prayers, 170 years of worship, 170 years of song, 170 years of friendship. We give thanks for every minute.

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