

A Sunday service is a celebration of what God has enabled us to do in the past week as well as an encouragement to serve the Lord in the days that are coming.

We are given the opportunity to leave behind mistakes we've made and disappointments we've experienced, as we lift them to God and ask for help to move on from them.

Dear Lord, many of us will leave this week with a heavy heart, as we mourn the passing of our brother Robert Bewell.

Robert was a long-time member of St Paul's church family, an integral part of our Sunday services and prayer ministry and an inspiration to all of us.

Lord, as we know Robert is safe with you now, we lift his wife Jane and their family to you, asking that in their grief, you will envelop them in the divine loving support, only Christians experience through you.

Lord, in your Mercy

Hear our Prayer

Patient Father, as we enter the Churches Together Week of Prayer

The list of issues that need your urgent attention seems longer than ever

The pandemic has turned our once free-moving society into a series of bubbles, each containing humans wrought with fear, anger and not least; loneliness.

Help us Lord, help us to appreciate every glimmer of light in the January darkness so we can strengthen our hope that this too will pass.

Lord in your Mercy

Hear our Prayer

Benevolent Father, this week we give thanks to the many ordinary men and women who enables our communities to continue looking after those who need extra support.

God – you know these people by name, but we now highlight some of the many whose mission it is to look after all of us.

Thank you to the supermarket workers, the delivery people, the pharmacist staff, the teachers, teaching assistants, nursery staff, NHS workers, carers, the postal service, the police, the fire service as well as the thousand of volunteers who gladly give their time to help others.

May our prayers keep you strong, healthy and always certain our gratitude and God's love.

Lord in your Mercy

Hear our Prayer

Father of Wisdom, it is never easy to understand what goes on in the corridors of power and no more so during this time of lockdown.

We pray that the politicians and officials of our country will not forget to turn to you and let you guide them in their decision making.

We beg you to shine your light of benevolence and grace stronger than ever, so everyone from every layer of society can feel encouraged that you will lead us through this and that you will be there for us, yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Lord, in your Mercy

Hear our Prayer

So, as we begin the Week of Prayer – help us Lord to be more like your Son Jesus.

Help us find grace and forgiveness when anger is simmering just below the surface.

Make it possible for us to appreciate the good things we often overlook; the warmth of the sun, the friendly nod of a passing stranger, the comforting taste of a cup of tea or coffee.

Give us the ability to persevere, even now, when we seemed to have moved beyond the end of several tethers.

Above all – remind us to meditate on the wise words found in Ephesians chapter 4, verse 31 to 32:

*Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, bawling and slander along with every form of malice.*

*Be kind and compassionate to one another,*

*Forgiving each other*

*Just as Christ God forgave you*

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

Amen