

**St Paul's Letchworth  
Intercessions - 14th May**

**Reflecting on the past:**

Lord, as we approach the 100 year anniversary of St Paul's, we pray that you will be with us as we reflect back on the past. On the role that this church, its building and its people, have played in our town - spreading your word and helping people in their times of need.

We thank you for all who have built this community, for those who have preached and practiced within these four walls. For those that have given their time, money and prayers to support the work of the church.

We personally reflect on what we have learnt, seen, heard and felt in the past. Where we started on our own journeys in life, and in faith, and where we've gone. We thank you for walking with us in both the good times and bad and for forgiving us when we have strayed.

As we consider the past we pray that we can take the lessons we have learnt in life and the guidance that you have given us and hold it close to our hearts.

**In your mercy. Hear our prayer.**

**Reflecting on today:**

Lord, as we pause and look at the world around us today. A world that has been shaped by a pandemic and lockdowns, a world where we couldn't meet physically. We thank you that this hasn't dampened our spirit of community and we pray that it will continue to return and grow stronger than ever.

We marvel at the power of groups that drive this community. Connect groups, home groups, youth groups. Those times we can come together to be, to do life and to worship you. We thank you for those that lead these groups and we pray that they will flourish.

Father, as we consider the global community we pray for strong and compassionate leadership. That governments, politicians, business leaders, media and civil society approach their work with a heart of sacrifice - putting the interests of people above all else and embodying the spirit of service.

Jesus our advocate, we pray for an end to all forms of violence that is costing so many innocent lives. Whether this is in conflict or on the streets of towns and cities around the world. With so many horrific stories in the news we pray for those impacted but also for change - a change that will bring these types of violence to an end.

As we consider the world today I pray that we and others can learn from your example and always act with love.

**Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.**

### **Reflecting on the future:**

Lord, as we look to the future and all that we as individuals and as a church have planned, we pray that you will watch over what comes next.

That you will be present with us for next week's celebrations, bringing your blessing down on all that is planned and on those organising the activities. We pray for the church roof, we thank you for the amazing generosity that you inspired to fund the work and ask that you continue to guide our decisions as we prepare to start work on it.

We pray for your church to grow. That more will know your name, that more will see your love. For new parishioners to walk through the doors of churches across the country and fill the seats. That here in Letchworth St Paul's can be a beacon sharing with and serving its people.

For ourselves, we pray that our relationship with you will continue to deepen. That you will bless our lives and guide our paths and the way that we interact with others, so we can serve as ambassadors for you.

Father, as we reflect on what the future holds for our children and the next generation we yearn for a world that is rich with equality, where people's rights are respected. A world that has found better ways to settle disagreements than fighting, than going to war. A world that will protect your planet. A world that really protects children and safeguards their childhoods.

As we consider the future we pray that you will fill our hearts with both hope and determination to live your will, to serve others and to speak your truth.

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