

Prayers – 29.10.23

Let us focus on Jesus the light of the world this morning. At this time of year in particular light is in shorter supply & our world really needs more light at the moment:

**God our Saviour,
help us to follow the light
and live the truth.**

**In you, we have been born again
as sons and daughters of light.**

**May we be your witnesses before all the world.
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. AMEN**

With our focus on these lights let us pray for our churches here in Letchworth: We pray for our ministry team here, Jeni, Nick & Jess & all who are involved in preparing and providing our worship every Sunday. Let us also pray for Amanda as she recovers from her operation. For the members of St Marys & All Saints. For the preparations to re-open All Saints on the 12th of November. Let us thank God for his generosity in his provision for both our roof repairs here & the re-ordering work at All Saints.

Lord in your mercy,

Our lights now move onto our fragile & broken world. Lord, your world is so in need of your light & love currently. Let us pray for the people of Israel, Gaza and the West Bank. We pray for the future of the Holy Land, & Pray for those who will weep, and fear, and die tonight.

**Shine your light on the other places in our world where there is war
and conflict:**

PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE



**O LORD GOD, WE PRAY FOR PEACE & LOVE
IN ALL THE NATIONS, AMONG ALL THE PEOPLE
THAT ALL WARS AND HATRED WILL END.
WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO SUFFER FROM
WAR, INJUSTICE, & INTOLERANCE, FOR THE
CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE, THE POOR &
NEGLECTED ONES. WE PRAY FOR PEACE IN
OUR LIFE, LANDS, NATIONS, FAMILIES &
IN OUR HEARTS. LORD GIVE US WORLD PEACE.
WE ASK YOUR MERCY IN THE NAME OF OUR
LORD JESUS CHRIST. AMEN.**

Lord in your mercy:

Let us now shine your light into our own community: for all young people here in Letchworth as they prepare to return to school after half term. We pray for our schools, teachers, local care homes & the hospice. May your light & love reach out to everyone around us:

Lord in your mercy:

Our lights now reach out to all who are ill, whether physically or mentally, those suffering under stress in harder times or with family struggles. Those grieving for lost ones & those who feel unloved & alone. May we be compassionate neighbours and shine Gods light here in Letchworth.

Lord in your mercy:

The Light Shines On

The light shines on.

**In this season of glowing faces,
and shadowy, cobwebbed doorways,
brooding and blustery horizons,
firework skies and crackling stick-filled bonfires,
as toffee apples crunch and tricky treaters munch,
the light shines on.**

**Never confused by the strange mix of this life,
skeleton masks and vampire capes,
wishing us happiness amongst the tombs and tyrants,
adorning the shelves of commerce beside Advent calendars,
the light shines on,**

**casting glimmers of hope and clarity.
It has always shone in the darkness,
from that very first word of *HELLO!!* to a new universe,
to an *It Is Finished* on a grim hillside,
on that day of noughts and crosses when
the light seemed to come to nothing,
pinned on a landscape which summed up
every broken heart and shattered dream,
every moment of struggle and pain and despair.**

But the light shines on.

Against all odds.

**Rising again amongst the tombs and tyrants,
in the hearts of those who hunger and thirst for hope,
in the merciful and peacemakers,
in the weak and the strugglers.**

And the darkness cannot, will not, overcome it.

The light shines on.

Merciful Father: