



THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST LEONARD, LEXDEN



A BOOK OF PRAYERS



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A prayer for Lexden and St Leonard's

*Loving and faithful God,
Through your Spirit, gather us in peace and hope,
Bless and protect us, our friends and families,
our community of Lexden and Colchester,
and our church community, we pray;
And strengthen and uphold us in the way that is before us;
For the love of your son Jesus Christ, Our Lord,
Amen.*

Introduction

NOW IS THE TIME TO PRAY & READ THE BIBLE

To pray is simply to relate to God. It's possible to pray at any time and in any place or situation, and there are many and varied ways to do so – from improvising prayer, to keeping silence. At this time when we need to remain physically apart from each other, it is essential that we come together in prayer.

So, please find a way of praying that works for you. You don't need to have set words, but others find this helpful. This booklet has been put together to give you some prayer resources to use.

As part of this booklet, you'll find a service for 'Spiritual Communion'. This is so that you can join together with the whole Church when we celebrate the Eucharist on Wednesday at 9am and Sunday at 9.45am. Should you happen to have access to the internet, you can follow the broadcasts of our services here: www.facebook.com/stleonardslexden. (Please find instructions for how to sign up for facebook at the end of this introduction).

It is really healthy to have a regular rhythm of prayer and reading the Bible, and many of us have a set pattern already. If you don't, I strongly encourage you to find a pattern of prayer and Bible reading that works for you: it can gift to you moments of stillness and refreshment, and very much helps to mark and honour the passing of time.

It might be nice if we can all join together at the same time in prayer. If you have access to the internet, we'll be using the words found each day at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

However, if you don't have the internet, please use the forms of prayer found here. This is the basic pattern of prayer at St Leonard's:

	<i>Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday</i>		
9am	Morning Prayer	5pm	Evening Prayer
	<i>Wednesday</i>		
9am	Eucharist	5pm	Evening Prayer

Sunday

9.45am

Eucharist

5pm

Evening Prayer

To this pattern, you might also add Night Prayer (Compline), or the Litany at noon, perhaps. Just find what works for you and keep to your rhythm! Use this book as little or as much as you want or just dip in – but whatever you do – pray and read Scripture!

And remember that we are all praying for each other at this time – please use the prayer diary at the end of this booklet!

May God bless and protect you, uphold you, and surround you with his loving presence and peace.



The Rev'd Matt Simpkins
Priest-in-Charge

HOW TO JOIN FACEBOOK

1. Type www.facebook.com into your internet browser (eg. Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari) or download the Facebook app on to your phone or tablet, and open the app.
2. Follow the instructions to 'Create a new account', entering your details. Remember that you don't need to use any other part of Facebook to access our site: you don't need to add friends for example.
3. Using the search function in Facebook look for 'St Leonard's Lexden' or type www.facebook.com/stleonardslexden into your internet browser.
4. Click or press on the button that says 'Like' and has a thumbs up sign.

But, if it doesn't work, please contact a friend for help!

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

for when unable to attend a celebration of Holy Communion

If a household is praying together one person could act as leader and the others as the congregation and they join in the sections in bold type. If alone read all the words aloud. You may want to light a candle before you begin, and have a bible, cross or crucifix to look at or some music to play.

The Lord is here.

All **His Spirit is with us.**

All **Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

You may want to pray the Collect of the Day or Week, or the following Collect:

God our redeemer,
you have delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,
so by his continual presence in us he may raise us
to eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

*You could use one or more of the readings of the day
or the following short readings:*

First Reading - Revelation 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

Psalm - Psalm 62

On God alone my soul in stillness waits;
from him comes my salvation.
He alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold, so that I
shall never be shaken.

Gospel - John 15:5

I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Prayer

Spend a few moments praying for the people you know and love, for our communities in Lexden and Colchester, for the needs of the world and for an end to the current pandemic.

The Lord's Prayer

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
But deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom,
The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.**

Act of Contrition

All **I love you, Jesus, my love above all things,
and I repent with my whole heart of having
offended you. Never permit me to separate myself
from you again, grant that I may love you always,
and then do with me what you will.**

Act of Spiritual Reception

All **O loving God, in union with Christian people
throughout the world and across the centuries
gathered to make Eucharist, hearing your holy
Word and receiving the Precious Body and Blood of
your dear Son, I offer you praise and thanksgiving.
Even though I am exiled from tasting the Bread of
Heaven and drinking the Cup of Life I pray that you
will unite me with all the baptised and with your
Son who gave his life for us. Come Lord Jesus, dwell
in me and send your Holy Spirit that I may be filled
with your presence.**

Jesus, as the hem of your garment, touched in faith, healed the woman who could not touch your body, so may the soul of your servant be healed, for though I cannot receive you in the sacrament I can, through this offering of my prayer, receive you in my heart; grant this for Christ's sake.

All **Amen.**

O Lord and heavenly Father, we your humble servants entirely desire your fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching you to grant, that by the merits and death of your Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all your whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

All **Amen.**

The Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his son Jesus Christ our Lord: and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always.

All **Amen.**

SIMPLE MORNING PRAYER

All O Lord open our lips;
and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

All **Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

PSALMS AND READINGS

For any day, OR during Ordinary Time:

Psalm 139.1-18

- 1 O Lord, you have searched me out and known me;
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2 You mark out my journeys and my resting place
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 For there is not a word on my tongue,
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
- 4 You encompass me behind and before
and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
So high that I cannot attain it.
- 6 Where can I go then from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
- 7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there;
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
- 8 If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- 9 Even there your hand shall lead me,
your right hand hold me fast.

- 10 If I say, 'Surely the darkness will cover me
and the light around me turn to night,'
- 11 Even darkness is no darkness with you;
the night is as clear as the day;
darkness and light to you are both alike.
- 12 For you yourself created my inmost parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 13 I thank you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
marvellous are your works, my soul knows well.
- 14 My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was made in secret
and woven in the depths of the earth.
- 15 Your eyes beheld my form, as yet unfinished;
already in your book were all my members written,
- 16 As day by day they were fashioned
when as yet there was none of them.
- 17 How deep are your counsels to me, O God!
How great is the sum of them!
- 18 If I count them,
they are more in number than the sand,
and at the end, I am still in your presence.

All **Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Lamentations 3.22-25

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
"The Lord is my portion," says my soul,
"therefore I will hope in him."

Now turn to the Canticle and Prayer on page 15

OR during Lent:

Psalm 51.1-7

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness;
according to the abundance of your compassion
blot out my offences.
- 2 Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I acknowledge my faults
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
- 5 So that you are justified in your sentence
and righteous in your judgement.
- 6 I have been wicked even from my birth,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
- 7 Behold, you desire truth deep within me
and shall make me understand wisdom
in the depths of my heart.

All **Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

1 Thessalonians 4. 1, 7

Brothers and sisters, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus that, as you learned from us how you ought to live and to please God, you should do so more and more. For God did not call us to impurity but in holiness.

Now turn to the Canticle and Prayer on page 15

OR during the Easter Season:

Psalm 150

- 1 Alleluia.
O praise God in his holiness;
praise him in the firmament of his power.
- 2 Praise him for his mighty acts;
praise him according to his excellent greatness.
- 3 Praise him with the blast of the trumpet;
praise him upon the harp and lyre.
- 4 Praise him with timbrel and dances;
praise him upon the strings and pipe.
- 5 Praise him with ringing cymbals;
praise him upon the clashing cymbals.
- 6 Let everything that has breath
praise the Lord.
Alleluia.

All **Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Acts 10.40-41

God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

Now turn to the Canticle and Prayer on page 15

OR from Ascension Day to Pentecost:

Psalm 104.1-6

- 1 Bless the Lord, O my soul.
 O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!
- 2 You are clothed with majesty and honour,
 wrapped in light as in a garment.
- 3 You spread out the heavens like a curtain
 and lay the beams of your dwelling place
 in the waters above.
- 4 You make the clouds your chariot
 and ride on the wings of the wind.
- 5 You make the winds your messengers
 and flames of fire your servants.
- 6 You laid the foundations of the earth,
 that it never should move at any time.

All **Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Acts 5.30-32

The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour, so that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.'

Now turn to the Canticle and Prayer on page 15

Benedictus (Luke 1.68–79)

- 1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,
 who has come to his people and set them free.
- 2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
 born of the house of his servant David.
- 3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old
 to save us from our enemies,
 from the hands of all that hate us,
- 4 To show mercy to our ancestors,
 and to remember his holy covenant.
- 5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
 to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
- 6 Free to worship him without fear,
 holy and righteous in his sight
 all the days of our life.
- 7 And you, child,
 shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
 for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
- 8 To give his people knowledge of salvation
 by the forgiveness of all their sins.
- 9 In the tender compassion of our God
 the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- 10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness
 and the shadow of death,
 and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

All

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*Keep silence or use words as you feel comfortable,
you might follow our prayer diary on page 38*

Collect

God most holy,
we give you thanks for bringing us
 out of the shadow of night into the light of morning;
We ask you
 for the joy of spending this day in your presence
so that when evening comes, we may once give you thanks
through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
But deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom,
The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.**

All Let us bless the Lord
Thanks be to God

SIMPLE EVENING PRAYER

All **O God, make speed to save us;**
O Lord, make haste to help us.

All **Glory to the Father**
and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever.
Amen.

For any day, OR during Ordinary Time:

Psalms 103.1-5,22

- 1 Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me bless his holy name.
- 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits;
- 3 Who forgives all your sins
and heals all your infirmities;
- 4 Who redeems your life from the Pit
and crowns you with faithful love and compassion;
- 5 Who satisfies you with good things,
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- 22 Bless the Lord, all you works of his,
in all places of his dominion;
bless the Lord, O my soul.

All **Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Matthew 11.28-30

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Now turn to the Canticle and Prayer on page 22

OR during Lent:

Psalm 130

- 1 Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord;
Lord, hear my voice;
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
- 2 If you, Lord, were to mark what is done amiss,
O Lord, who could stand?
- 3 But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you shall be feared.
- 4 I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him;
in his word is my hope.
- 5 My soul waits for the Lord,
more than the night watch for the morning,
more than the night watch for the morning.
- 6 O Israel, wait for the Lord,
For with the Lord there is mercy;
- 7 With him is plenteous redemption
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

All **Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

1 Corinthians 9.24-25

Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable garland, but we an imperishable one.

Now turn to the Canticle and Prayer on page 22

OR during the Easter Season:

Psalm 114

- 1 When Israel came out of Egypt,
the house of Jacob from a people of a strange tongue,
- 2 Judah became his sanctuary,
Israel his dominion.
- 3 The sea saw that, and fled;
Jordan was driven back.
- 4 The mountains skipped like rams,
the little hills like young sheep.
- 5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled?
O Jordan, that you were driven back?
- 6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams,
you little hills like young sheep?
- 7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,
at the presence of the God of Jacob,
- 8 Who turns the hard rock into a pool of water,
the flint-stone into a springing well.

All **Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Ephesians 2.4-6

But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Now turn to the Canticle and Prayer on page 22

OR, from Ascension to Pentecost:

Psalm 23

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd;
therefore can I lack nothing.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He shall refresh my soul
and guide me in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of
the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me
in the presence of those who trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil
and my cup shall be full.
- 6 Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

All **Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Romans 8.11

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Now turn to the Canticle and Prayer on page 22

CANTICLE AND PRAYER

Magnificat

- 1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;
he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.
- 2 From this day all generations will call me blessed;
the Almighty has done great things for me
and holy is his name.
- 3 He has mercy on those who fear him,
From generation to generation.
- 4 He has shown strength with his arm
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,
- 5 Casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.
- 6 He has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
- 7 He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,
to remember his promise of mercy,
- 8 The promise made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Luke 1.46-55

All **Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*Keep silence or use words as you feel comfortable,
you might follow our prayer diary on page 38*

Collect

Lord, God almighty, come and dispel the darkness from our hearts, that in the radiance of your brightness we may know you, the only unfading light, glorious in all eternity.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
But deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom,
The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.**

All Let us bless the Lord
Thanks be to God

SIMPLE NIGHT PRAYER

All The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.
Amen.

All Our help is in the name of the Lord
who made heaven and earth.

A period of silence for reflection on the past day may follow.

All **Most merciful God,**
we confess to you,
before the whole company of heaven
and one another,
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed
and in what we have failed to do.
Forgive us our sins,
heal us by your Spirit
and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.

All O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

All **Glory to the Father and to the Son**
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.

Office Hymn

I Be-fore the end-ing of the day, Cre - a - tor of the world, we pray
That you, with stead-fast love, would keep Your watch a-round us while we sleep.

From evil dreams defend our sight,
From fears and terrors of the night;
Tread underfoot our deadly foe
That we no sinful thought may know.

O Father, that we ask be done
Through Jesus Christ, your only Son;
And Holy Spirit, by whose breath
Our souls are raised to life from death.

Psalm

Psalm 134

- 1 Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord,
you that by night stand in the house of the Lord.
- 2 Lift up your hands towards the sanctuary
and bless the Lord.
- 3 The Lord who made heaven and earth
give you blessing out of Zion.

All **Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

One or more of the following passages can be read

You, O Lord, are in the midst of us and we are called by your name; leave us not, O Lord our God.

Jeremiah 14.9

I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8.38-39

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

Colossians 3.15

Responsory

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

All **Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.

All **I commend my spirit.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.

All **Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

Gospel Canticle: *Nunc dimittis*

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:
your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared
in the sight of every people;
A light to reveal you to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.

All **Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Prayers

Keep silence or use words, as you feel comfortable

Evening Collect

Lighten our darkness,
Lord, we pray, and in your great mercy
defend us from all perils and dangers of this night,
for the love of your only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

The Conclusion

All In peace we will lie down and sleep;
for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.
Abide with us, Lord Jesus,
All **for the night is at hand and the day is now past.**
As the night watch looks for the morning,
All **so do we look for you, O Christ.**

The Lord bless us and watch over us;
the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us;
the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace.

All **Amen.**

A LITANY

A Litany is a sequence of petitions to God. It is suitable to be used at any time of day, or to replace the prayers in Morning or Evening Prayer

Let us pray.

God the Father,
All **have mercy upon us.**

God the Son,
All **have mercy upon us.**

God the Holy Spirit,
All **have mercy upon us.**

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity,
All **have mercy upon us.**

From all evil and mischief;
from pride, vanity and hypocrisy;
from envy, hatred and malice;
and from all evil intent,
All **good Lord, deliver us.**

From sloth, worldliness and love of money;
from hardness of heart
and contempt for your word and your laws,
All **good Lord, deliver us.**

From sins of body and mind;
from the deceits of the world, the flesh and the devil,
All **good Lord, deliver us.**

All From famine and disaster;
from violence, murder and dying unprepared,
good Lord, deliver us.

All In all times of sorrow;
in all times of joy;
in the hour of death,
and at the day of judgement,
good Lord, deliver us.

All By the mystery of your holy incarnation;
by your birth, childhood and obedience;
by your baptism, fasting and temptation,
good Lord, deliver us.

All By your ministry in word and work;
by your mighty acts of power;
and by your preaching of the kingdom,
good Lord, deliver us.

All By your agony and trial;
by your cross and passion;
and by your precious death and burial,
good Lord, deliver us.

All By your mighty resurrection;
by your glorious ascension;
and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,
good Lord, deliver us.

All Guide the leaders of the nations
into the ways of peace and justice.
Hear us, good Lord.

Guard and strengthen your servant *Elizabeth our Queen*,
that she may put her trust in you,
and seek your honour and glory.

All **Hear us, good Lord.**

Endue the High Court of Parliament
and all the Ministers of the Crown
with wisdom and understanding.

All **Hear us, good Lord.**

Bless those who administer the law,
that they may uphold justice, honesty and truth.

All **Hear us, good Lord.**

Give us the will to use the resources
of the earth to your glory,
and for the good of all creation.

All **Hear us, good Lord.**

Bless and keep all your people.

All **Hear us, good Lord.**

Bring your joy into all families;
strengthen and deliver those in childbirth,
watch over children and guide the young,
bring reconciliation to those in discord
and peace to those in stress.

All **Hear us, good Lord.**

Help and comfort the lonely,
the bereaved and the oppressed.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Keep in safety all who are in danger.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Heal the sick in body and mind,
and provide for the homeless,
the hungry and the destitute.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Show your pity on prisoners and refugees,
and all who are in trouble.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Forgive our enemies, persecutors and slanderers,
and turn their hearts.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Hear us as we remember
those who have died in the peace of Christ,
both those who have confessed the faith
and those whose faith is known to you alone,
and grant us with them a share in your eternal kingdom.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Give us true repentance;
forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance
and our deliberate sins;
and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit
to amend our lives according to your holy word.

All **Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

PRAYERS WITH CHILDREN

for when a friend is ill

Dear God,
(*name of friend*) is ill.
I'm sad because I miss them.
They must be feeling miserable and lonely as well.
Please be close to them.
Please be with the people who are looking after them.
Please help them to get better and to know that you love them.
Amen.

for the world

God of love and hope,
you made the world and care for all creation,
but the world feels strange right now.
The news is full of stories about Coronavirus.
Some people are worried that they might get ill.
Others are worried for their family and friends.
Be with them and help them to find peace.
We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists,
and all who are working to discover
the right medicines
to help those who are ill.
Thank you that even in these tough times,
you are with us.
Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe.
Amen.

at bedtime

Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world, we pray
That you, with steadfast love, would keep
Your watch around us while we sleep.
Tonight we pray especially for
(names family or friends who are affected by Coronavirus)
and the people of *(country or place which is affected by Coronavirus)*.
Please give skill and wisdom to all who are caring for them.
Amen.

remembering God is with us

Lord God, you are always with me.
You are with me in the day and in the night.
You are with me when I'm happy and when I'm sad.
You are with me when I'm healthy and when I am ill.
You are with me when I am peaceful
and when I am worried.
Today I am feeling
(name how you are feeling)
because
(reasons you are feeling this way).
Help me to remember that you love me
and are with me in everything today.
Amen.

PRAYERS ABOUT THE OUTBREAK

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us to love our neighbour,
and to care for those in need
as if we were caring for you.
In this time of anxiety, give us strength
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,
and to assure the isolated
of our love, and your love,
for your name's sake.

Amen.

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

for those who are ill

Merciful God,
we entrust to your tender care
those who are ill or in pain,
knowing that whenever danger threatens
your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe.
Comfort and heal them,
and restore them to health and strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

for hospital staff and medical researchers

Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be restored to health;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

for those feeling isolated or ill

O God,
help me to trust you,
help me to know that you are with me,
help me to believe that nothing can separate me
from your love
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PERSONAL PRAYERS

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples,
'I am with you always'.

Be with me today, as I offer myself to you.
Hear my prayers for others and for myself,
and keep me in your care.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

from St Patrick's Breastplate

I am giving you worship with all my life,
I am giving you obedience with all my power,
I am giving you praise with all my strength,
I am giving you honour with all my speech.
I am giving you love with all my heart,
I am giving you affection with all my sense,
I am giving you my being with all my mind,
I am giving you my soul, O most high and holy God.
Praise to the Father,
Praise to the Son,
Praise to the Spirit,
The Three in One.

adapted from Alexander Carmichael, Carmina Gadelica

Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of the living God,
have mercy on me, a sinner.

Be with us, Lord, in all our prayers,
and direct our way toward the attainment of salvation,
that among the changes and chances of this mortal life,
we may always be defended by your gracious help,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O gracious and holy Father,
give us wisdom to perceive you,
diligence to seek you,
patience to wait for you,
eyes to behold you,
a heart to meditate upon you,
and a life to proclaim you,
through the power of the spirit
of Jesus Christ our Lord.

before going to sleep

God our Father, by whose mercy
the world turns safely into darkness
and returns again to light:
we place in your hands our unfinished tasks,
our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes,
knowing that only what you bless will prosper.
To your love and protection
we commit each other and all those we love,
knowing that you alone are our sure defender,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER DIARY

Please pray for the following residences, people, churches and institutions.

(Week 1: w/c 23rd March; Week 2: w/c 30th March; week 3: w/c 6th April; etc)

Week 1

Sunday

Cadenhouse Mews, Back Lane and
King Coel Road

Cleaners; those who work in the
financial Sector

Methodist Churches, especially

Lexden Methodist Church

Lexden Primary School

Those associated with St Leonard's
with names beginning A

Monday

Bramley Close, Beech Hill and Lexden
Park

Medical researchers

Eastern Orthodox Churches

Home Farm Primary School

Those associated with St Leonard's
with names beginning B

Tuesday

Bramley Court, Beaver Close and
Lexden Mews

Those who work in tourism

Roman Catholic Church, especial St
Teresa's

Lexden Springs School

Those associated with St Leonard's
with names beginning C

Wednesday

Browning Close, Bawtree Way and
Lexden Grove

The unemployed

Old Catholic Church

Kingswode Hoe School

Those associated with St Leonard's
with names beginning D

Thursday

Burns Avenue, Jefferson Close,
Tussett Mews and Whitefriars Way
Judges and magistrates, Taxi and other
drivers

United Reformed Church, and the
Moravian

Wren House

Those associated with St Leonard's
with names beginning E

Friday

Byron Avenue, Acland Avenue, Baines
Close and Lexden Court

Those who work in the Computer
industry; the farming community
Evangelical Churches

Hill House

Those associated with St Leonard's
with names beginning F

Saturday

The Chantry, Chaucer Way, Alton
Drive and Keats Road

Local GPs; local shops

Presbyterians and Lutherans

Cheviot Nursing Home

Those associated with St Leonard's
with names beginning G

Week 2

Sunday

All other housing and residences in the parish
Prison Service; those caught in modern slavery
Pentecostal and charismatic churches, and especially Kingsland Church and Praiseway
Woodlands Residential Home
Those associated with St Leonard's with names beginning H

Monday

Cherry Row, London Road, Lexden Road, and Clairmont Road
Those who work in the media, the internet industry, or in broadcast
Society of Friends
Hargood Close
Those associated with St Leonard's with names beginning I

Tuesday

Chitts Hill, Wordsworth Road, Wroxham Close, and Church Lane
All seafarers; coastguards
All in the Anglican Communion
Newwhythe
Those associated with St Leonard's with names beginning J

Wednesday

Christine Chase, Tapwoods, Thompson Avenue and Trafalgar Road
Police; the retired
Salvation Army and Church Army
All other caring institutions, nurseries, and child minders
Those associated with St Leonard's with names beginning K

Thursday

Hunters Chase, Norman Way, The Chase and The Chase Way
Those who work professional sport or the fitness industry
Coptic Church
Local secondary schools
Those associated with St Leonard's with names beginning L

Friday

The homeless of the parish and town
Factory workers; those who work in local industry
Baptist Churches
Local colleges
Those associated with St Leonard's with names beginning M

Saturday

Lockhart Avenue, Llanvalley Road, Hurnard Drive and Straight Road
Those who look after their families
Agricultural workers; Mechanics and those car industry
All parishes in the Deanery of Colchester
The University of Essex
Those associated with St Leonard's with names beginning N

Week 3

Sunday

Magazine Farm Way, Sussex Road,
Hubert Road and Sterling Close
Those in the hotel, restaurant and
hospitality industries
Methodist Churches, especially
Lexden Methodist Church
Lexden Primary School
Those associated with St Leonard's
with names beginning O

Monday

Marlowe Way, Herrick Place and St
Clare Road
Council workers; commuters
Eastern Orthodox Churches
Home Farm Primary School
Those associated with St Leonard's
with names beginning P

Tuesday

Masefield Drive, Heather Drive and
Spring Lane
Those working from home; Politicians;
the self-employed
Roman Catholic Church, especially St
Teresa's
Lexden Springs School
Those associated with St Leonard's
with names beginning Q

Wednesday

Mellow Chase, Heath Road, Sheridan
Walk, and Oaklands Avenue
Communications industry; those who
work in transport
Old Catholic Church
Kingswode Hoe School
Those associated with St Leonard's
with names beginning R

Thursday

Milton Close, Halstead Road and
Shelley Road
Shopworkers and those who work in
retail; faith leaders
United Reformed Church, and the
Moravian Church
Wren House
Those associated with St Leonard's
with names beginning S

Friday

Mossfield Close, Glen Avenue and
Shakespeare Road
Hospital workers; delivery drivers
Evangelical Churches
Hill House
Those associated with St Leonard's
with names beginning T

Saturday

The Mount, Fitzwilliam Road and Scott
Drive
Carers; musicians, writers and artists
Presbyterians and Lutherans
Cheviot Nursing Home
Those associated with St Leonard's
with names beginning U

Week 4

Sunday

Nelson Road, Fitzwalter Road and Sanders Drive
Teachers and lecturers; those who work at Universities and colleges
Pentecostal and charismatic churches, and especially Kingsland Church and Praiseway
Woodlands Residential Home
Those associated with St Leonard's with names beginning V

Monday

Hargood Close, Firststore Drive and Round Close
Surgeons and consultants; those who work in the gig economy
Society of Friends
Hargood Close
Those associated with St Leonard's with names beginning W

Tuesday

Endsleigh Court, Richardson Walk, New Kiln Road, and Collingwood Road
Those in the building industry; tradespeople, plumbers and electricians
All in the Anglican Communion
Lexden Springs School
Newwhythe
Those associated with St Leonard's with names beginning X

Wednesday

Elianore Road and Ratcliffe Road
Nurses, midwives, and clinicians
Salvation Army and Church Army
All other caring institutions, nurseries, and child minders
Those associated with St Leonard's with names beginning Y

Thursday

Deburgh Road and Prettygate Road
Cleaners; probation service; those in the armed forces; charity workers
Coptic Church
Local secondary schools
Those associated with St Leonard's with names beginning Z

Friday

De Vere Road and President Road
Ambulance service, and paramedics; fire and rescue service
Baptist Churches
Local colleges
Candidates for baptism and confirmation and their families

Saturday

Cooks Lane, Piper Road, Colvin Close and Parsons Hill
Gardeners; those in the Legal profession; accountants
All parishes in the Deanery of Colchester
The University of Essex
Those preparing to be married at St Leonards, and those to whom we minister for funerals

NOTES, OR YOUR FAVOURITE PRAYERS OR BIBLE VERSES:

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‘MY GRACE
IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU,
FOR POWER IS MADE PERFECT
IN WEAKNESS’

Front cover pen and ink artwork by Jane Morgans

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