



## PRAYERS

Spring Term, 2018

### A thought for the new calendar year:

'And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.'

*Minnie Louise Haskins*

### Week 16 – 08.01.18 – Worship Theme: The Journey

'For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.'

*Jeremiah 29:11*

Loving God, the wise men couldn't have known where their journey was going to take them, but they went for it anyway. I have a challenge I want to face, a journey I want to make. Help me to be brave enough to take a step of faith with you and go where the journey takes me. I ask this in the name of Jesus and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

O Christ, tirelessly you seek out those who are looking for you and who think that you are far away; teach us, at every moment, to place our spirits in your hands. While we are still looking for you, already you have found us. However poor our prayer, you hear us far more than we can imagine or believe. Thank you Lord. Amen.

*Brother Roger of Taizé*

## **Week 17 – 15.01.18 - Worship Theme: Don't judge a book by its cover!**

'The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.'

*1 Samuel 16:7*

Loving God, you have made human beings three dimensional with depth, breadth and height to who we are. Please forgive us when we look at others and see only two dimensions. Help us to look beyond the surface to see people for who they really are. Amen.

Loving God, you made us in your own image and set us apart as special. I am "marvellously made" according to the bible, "the apple of your eye". Help me to value myself and others as you do. Amen.

## **Week 18 – 22.01.18 – Worship Theme: The Golden Rule (Christian Gift = Compassion)**

'Do for others what you want them to do for you....' *Matt 7:12*

Lord, open our eyes  
that we may see you in our brothers and sisters.  
Lord, open our ears  
that we may hear the cries of the hungry,  
the cold, the frightened, the oppressed.  
Lord, open our hearts  
that we may love each other as you love us.  
Renew in us your spirit.  
Lord, free us and make us one. Amen.  
*Mother Teresa*

God in heaven, we are deeply grateful for the many blessings you shower upon us every day. We are truly humbled by your generosity. Through this prayer, we ask for the compassion to follow the inspiring example of the Good Samaritan. Help us to bring comfort to our neighbours, even those we find it difficult to like or understand. Amen.

## **Week 19 – 29.01.18 – Worship Theme: Young Carers**

**(Chester College Charity Week)**

Jesus said, 'This is what I command you: Love each other as I have loved you.' *John 15:12*

*A prayer written by a carer for carers:*

"Dearest Lord, I am so glad you are my partner in life and in caring for my loved one. So often I try to go it alone and fall flat on my face. Please forgive me. I welcome the hand you offer to help me get up on my feet again and I love the idea of slipping my arm into yours and letting you guide me forwards. Thank you for the hope and renewed confidence that gives me. Amen."

## **Week 20 – 05.02.18 – Worship Theme: Mindfulness**

'Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.'

*Romans 12:2*

As I allow myself to believe that I'm too busy to pray, help me to realise that I'm too busy not to. As the world around me tells me faith is just wishful thinking, open my eyes to your presence. As I let myself be side-tracked, distracted, bring me back to you again, God. Amen.

Be, Lord Jesus, a bright flame before me,  
a guiding star above me,  
a smooth path below me,  
a kindly shepherd behind me:  
today, tonight, and forever. Amen.  
*St. Columba*

\*\*\*\*\*

**HALF TERM BREAK**

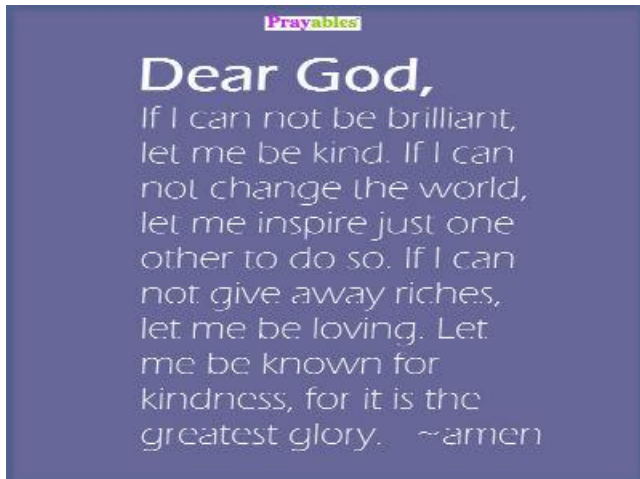
\*\*\*\*\*

## Week 21 – 19.02.18 – Worship Theme: Lent & Random Acts of Kindness

'...love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High...'  
*Luke 6:35*

Guide me, God, be my map, my inbuilt navigation system; direct my life, make my routes direct, and keep me from getting lost. Show me, God, where to go, what to do, which paths to choose; light my way. Don't let me journey alone, but with you as my constant companion and friend. Amen.

*Prayer by Martin Saunders*



## Week 22 – 26.02.18 – Worship Theme: Justice for all (Christian Gift = Justice)

'Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.'  
*Amos 5:24*

*The following prayer is from 'All We Can', a Methodist organisation which works to help the world's poor.*

Loving and compassionate Jesus,  
Help us to respond to the things our eyes perceive.  
Help us to tend to the people in this world who are in need.  
Help us to be generous with our resources, words and time.  
Help us to follow you as you lead and guide.  
Amen.

**Week 23 – 05.03.18 – Worship Theme: Never Give Up**  
**(Christian Gift = Endurance)**

Jesus said, 'If you want to come with me, you must forget yourself, take up your cross every day, and follow me.'

*Luke 9:23*

Grant me, O Lord my God,  
a mind to know you,  
a heart to seek you,  
wisdom to find you,  
behaviour to please you,  
faithful perseverance in waiting for you,  
and a hope of finally embracing you. Amen.  
*St. Thomas of Aquinas*

**Week 24 – 12.03.18 – Worship Theme: Christian Aid**  
**(Durham College Charity Week)**

*Prayers from Christian Aid:*

Jesus said, 'This is what I command you: Love each other as I have loved you.' *John 15:12*

Compassionate God, who loves all of humanity, we pray for an end to the violence, for peace, protection and provision in Myanmar and Bangladesh. In your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

God who hurts with humanity,  
We lift up our voices and pour out our hearts to You, in sadness, grief and disbelief at the devastating violence forcing so many people from their homes in Myanmar.  
Listening to stories of villages being burned, families being torn apart and people fleeing for their lives; we pray they will find places of safety to take refuge.  
Reading reports of people walking for days across difficult terrain, of bodies arriving weary with sickness, hunger and thirst; we pray for deep rest and more food and medicines to help them heal.  
Strengthen the Christian Aid partners already at work. give them the access they need to reach displaced people in Bangladesh and Myanmar; provide more funding so they can provide more help.  
And may our listening, hearing and reading move us all to make a generous response. In your merciful name we pray. Amen.

## **Week 25 – 19.03.18 – Worship Theme: Forgiveness (= Christian Gift)**

'Jesus said, "Father, forgive them. They don't know what they are doing.'" *Luke 23:34*

Forgiving Lord, you paid the price of sin for me, help me to forgive, help me to let go of painful memories, help me to let go of the desire for revenge. By the power of your Holy Spirit, help me to close a door on this chapter in my life and to move forward along the road of holiness. Amen.



\*\*\*\*\*

**WITH OUR PRAYERS FOR A BLESSED HOLY WEEK AND EASTER  
& A GREAT BREAK OVER THE HOLIDAY**

\*\*\*\*\*