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 Challock, Chilham, Crundale, Godmersham and Molash

**Prayers**

**for**

**King’s Wood Benefice**

**During**

**Coronavirus Outbreak**

**SUNDAY**

Lord God,

In these troubled times, when life is difficult,

We continue to praise and thank you for all that we enjoy:

our family and friend,

our worshipping community,

this beautiful part of Kent,

and, above all, the reassurance of your love for us and all mankind.

We vow not to lose sight of the beauty, abundance and inherent goodness of your creation.

Father God,

On this first day of the week, when we would be coming together to worship you in our own places of worship, we each pray for our fellow worshippers, who are joining us in these prayers. We ask you to bless everyone throughout our Benefice of King’s Wood. May we find different ways to serve those amongst whom we live, looking forward to the day when can celebrate together the ending of this epidemic.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord. Amen

**MONDAY**

Lord God, whose Son, Jesus Christ,
understood people's fear and pain
before they spoke of them,
we pray particularly for those in hospital

and in residential & care homes;

surround the frightened with your tenderness;
give strength to those in pain;
hold the weak in your arms of love,
and give hope and patience
to those who are recovering.

We pray for all those who are sick; those suffering from the current epidemic and those with continuing health issues including Sheila Rigley, Val Dennison, John Mason, Louise Pracey-Smith, Kirsten Fiona Brown, Paula Conway, Liam, Vi Shilling, Liz Lester, Chris Godfrey, Stuart Wheeler and David Ridgeway. (Taken from our Benefice News Prayer List)

In these our joint prayers, we remember all those who live, work and worship in **Challock**, including the congregations of St Cosmas & St Damian and Challock Methodist Church.

**TUESDAY**

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those
who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing
can separate us from your love.

We remember all the children and staff of schools affected at this time and, in particular Chilham St Mary’s, Challock and Hope Schools within our benefice. We pray for those children who are at home. Also for all remaining in their schools where life will be very different.

Pray for all those in the Parish of **Chilham**, including the congregations of St Mary’s, Old Wives Lees Methodist Church and OWL Village Hall

**WEDNESDAY**

God of compassion,
your love for humanity was revealed in Jesus,
whose earthly life began in the poverty of a stable
and ended in the pain and isolation of the cross:
we hold before you those who are homeless and cold
especially during this epidemic.

Draw near and comfort them in spirit
and bless those who work to provide them
with shelter, food and friendship.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

We pray for all those who are lonely and especially those on the fringe of our society with no home.

As travel around our Benefice, today we remember the community of **Crundale**, including our fellow worshippers at St Mary the Virgin.

**THURSDAY**

Heavenly Father,

We pray for all those who find themselves in financial difficulty. For those who have no knowledge of how they are going to sustain themselves and their loved ones.

May government interventions be effective and may all be assured that they will have sufficient.

We pray for leaders of business that they will have the interests of their employees at heart and feel able to look beyond the immediate crisis.

This we ask in the name of him who came and showed us how simply we could live.

Amen

Please pray today especially for those described in this prayer and for a fairer share of our country’s resources in these difficult days.

Today we move down into the valley of the Stour by praying for our friends at St Lawrence the Martyr **Godmersham** and the communities of Godmersham and Bilting which they serve.

**FRIDAY**

The Prayer of St Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

And where there is sadness, joy.

Reflecting on this prayer, we ask God to show us how we can bring love to others.

We invite prayers, for all those everywhere, who work to nurse and care for the sick, elderly and lonely. Also for all organisations, official and ad hoc, trying to serve their communities.

We conclude our prayer travels at **Molash**, praying for the church of St Peter Molash, its congregation and wider community.

**SATURDAY**

Looking to the future, we pray for the life of our benefice and for a Priest in Charge.

Heavenly Father,

Guide us in our search for a new priest

to minister here in our benefice of King’s Wood.

Give to us all … wisdom, an openness to your will and a clear focus

to sustain our future and grow your church.

May we truly be ...

a valued presence in our communities,

a place where everyone can belong and be loved,

and a place to find peace and to find God.

We pray for a priest to hear and respond to your call.

Amen

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your Kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours.
Now and for ever. Amen.