

July 4<sup>h</sup> 2021

Let us pray:

Lord, we give thanks for your loving ministry which has always reached out to strengthen the weak, and to heal the poor and the needy. We pray for the strength to do the same, to show the world the light of your love. Grant us eyes to see, and the wisdom to recognize you in all places: in the rubbish dumps on the edges of our towns, in the arid wastes of inner city jungles, in the darkness of prison cells, and in the desolate homes of the sick, the lonely, and the forgotten. Be with us and teach us to care for the hungry, the helpless and those who have lost hope.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Lord, guide your church throughout the world, that its mission may be one of service and love, meeting and welcoming people where they are, rather than where we would have them be. May those who would teach the faith do so not simply by creeds or dogmas, but by the way in which they live their lives with and for others. We remember the churches of Abinger and Coldharbour as they anticipate the departure of Tony Berry in September. May his retirement be a blessing for him and his family, and may the communities which he has served for so long rise to the challenges that this change will bring, and find new ways of building your kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Lord, we pray for the many parts of the world where people are dealing with the effects of climate change, particularly unprecedented heat and droughts. We remember today those parts of the world suffering from lack of water; and we pray today for the charity Water Aid, as it works to bring clean water, hygiene and general health to the millions of people who still live without these basic human rights. Give strength to all aid workers who bring comfort and hope to those in need.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

O Lord, come to us in our weakness with your power, touch our eyes that they may behold your glory, strengthen our hands that they may do your work, and open our hearts that they may show your love to this beautiful world.

Merciful Father

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