

Give thanks to our Lord for his love, protection, guidance and

Let us say together:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our father who art in heaven
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
On 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
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**

'The communion must become a body of disciples who are serious and purposeful about following Christ.....

That means prayer, alone or together, aloud or silently, or in dialogue with scriptures. It mean's communities of prayer.....when the heart of life is to desire for God, a hunger to be close to God. We transform our churches when at their heart they have deliberate communities of prayer.'

By joining together we commit to become a 'Community of Prayer'. Let us strive to be widely recognised as such and so bring ourselves along with others closer to God.

JOSHUA 1;9

I have commanded you, be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Let us finish by saying together Mary Summer's own prayer.

**All this day, O Lord,
Let me touch as many lives
As possible for thee; and every life I
touch, do thou by they spirit quicken
Whether through the word I speak, the
prayer I breathe or the life I live.
Amen**



Wave of
prayer 2023

The wave of prayer is a continuous expression of our commitment in prayer to each other, which runs throughout the year and encompasses all the places in which we are represented.

At this time we join our link partners becoming closer together through prayer.

PSALM 145:18

Promises, "The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth." We amplify the power of prayer when we pray together. One person praying alone is heard. When we pray with just one more person we amplify the power of prayer but not in the way we may think.

Let us say together

THE MOTHER'S UNION PRAYER

Loving Lord

We thank you for your love so freely given to us all. We pray for families around the world.

Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life. Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship, and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world. In Jesus' name. Amen

For this service of prayer many aspects have been taken directly from The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby's, address to the Lambeth conference in 2022 His words echo our membership and let us reflect on our own faith.

Open our eyes Lord, as you speak to us in your word in revelation that we may see like John the Divine, the Seer, your heavenly city, and in

seeing may be filled with hope for your work on the earth. **Amen.**

'We are not defined as we were for many years after 1867, we are not defined by colour or nationality or language or class or education or background or contacts. We are defined by Christ. And therefore we are called Christians because there is no other way in the world of defining us.'

'They came from all over the known world and not a lot has changed. We are indigenous and immigrant, we are rich and poor. For some to own the name of Christ is routine. For others it is life and death.'

1 Peter 8:15

Always be ready to give an explanation for the hope that is within you, yet with gentleness and grace.

The Mother's Union throughout the world can be seen working on common goals with actions being mirrored no matter the differences in individual situations. It's an obvious statement as we all strive to help families, standing up for equality and justice.

Let us take a moment to pray for each of our common actions.

- Parenting
- Prison visiting
- Fight against gender violence
- Awareness of domestic violence
- Support of marriage
- Care for those in need
- Modern day slavery
- Life in Faith and Prayer

LICHFIELD, ENGLAND

Following the difficulties of working during the COVID pandemic our members are now challenging themselves to strive to move forward meeting together and working to meet changing community needs.

ANKOLE, UGANDA

The Eagle project is the country's take on church mobilization. Churches, Mother's union and related charities striving together to make a real difference in family life. Training offered in multiple related areas.

KARNATAKA, INDIA

The sheer scale of child abuse/trafficking is unimaginable as lives are so easily seen as a cheap commodity. Struggling families can blindly grip onto the hope of better futures falsely offered or perceived. Members take part in education directed towards all family members, but highlight parenting, values and roles.

LAINYA, SOUTH SUDAN

As in many areas that experience war, here our members not only offer but are approached for guidance around reconciliation and peace. As a result of such circumstances members are very involved in the care of widows and orphans.

LAGOS WEST & ABUJA, NIGERIA

Working together with local women's guild branches members work on promoting and developing opportunities for girls and women. Ensuring female roles are respected and equal. Child care and education going hand in hand.

Our Lichfield Churches prayer link MATSOLANE, South Africa

Gender violence campaigns around awareness also leads to education and care for all who experience such situations. Our own Bishops Lent appeal contributed financially to projects of support as recent world events have put vital work in jeopardy as is seen globally.

During this time of silent prayers let us give thanks for diocesan presidents and trustees as they plan and steer our work to those in need in our communities.

Silence

Let us pray for the safety of those who work on our behalf and members putting others before themselves.

Silence

Celebrate in prayer our own faith and fellowship. Striving together to change the world, touching lives as Christ has come into our own lives.

Silence