

## **March 2019 - Washingborough Methodist Church - Lent Prayer Letter**

Dear Friends,

Lent always seems to me to be a fairly highly charged time in the church calendar. We remember the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness at the beginning of his ministry and ends with his journey to Jerusalem and triumph at the end of his ...well what was it the end of? His life on earth? No, he's still with us. His mission? No. that continues. His presence? No, he is ever present. Was it the end? Or was it another beginning?

We know his ministry lasted 3 short years. Or were they three long years? Time is an elusive commodity. For most of us the years between 0 and 30 are a steep learning curve. Did he really know aged 12 what his destiny was. "Didn't you know I would be in my Father's house?" he asked his desperately worried parents.

Lent is a time to think about these things. You will come up with more questions than answers. That's where faith comes in.

Travel faithfully, Blessings, Rosemary

### **Please pray for our community, our country, our world in these times of significant change:**

The new road is already having an impact on our villages, with more diversions and road closures and increased traffic coming through Washingborough. Pray for consideration on the roads and no accidents given the numbers of children and elderly people living locally.

Pray for the Government and those who share the responsibility of steering us through the next few weeks into a largely unknown future. Pray for the leaders in industry and agriculture that they make sound decisions and that changes will not be too disruptive. Remember also workers in Sunderland and Swindon for whom the future does not look good.

Pray for those involved in the knife crime epidemic, for the young people driven by fear, for victims and their families, for those in the crime and justice system and all those looking for solutions to the problem. Young people need hope for the future.

Plastic, poverty, homelessness, war, famine, migration, political unrest, persecution, oppression, injustice; the list is endless. Please pray for our world.

Thy Kingdom come.

### **Please pray for our Church Family:-**

So many members have lost beloved members of their families recently. Some after full and rewarding lives and some tragically cut short like Jean's son Stewart and Ann's husband Pete just a year ago. Give thanks for their lives, pray the Lord will comfort and may they have memories to treasure.

Pray for Marilyn and her family and ask God to grant them faith and courage as they face the future.

Rejoice that Christa has at last had her operation, is home again and pray for a good recovery and a satisfactory outcome.

Continue to pray for Claire's sister-in-law who had visual field difficulties after a stroke, and is now facing further deterioration of her remaining sight due to hardening of the arteries. She has also developed a rare cancer of the lymphatic system and will require chemotherapy

Other of our members are undergoing active treatment. Please pray for healing.

Remember also in your prayers, Ann who is finding life difficult at the moment. Bless her and the family as they continue to care for her.

Give thanks to the Lord who takes care of all of us.

**Take it to the Lord in prayer.**

Prayer is an essential part of being a Christian. It isn't always easy, but how can you be friends with someone if you don't talk to them? And Jesus is a friend you can talk to about anything. If you still have your copy of Holy Habits a useful Lent project would be to re-read the chapter on prayer.

Being a Christian is about caring, and sometimes caring hurts. Talk to him about it. My little bedside book says "I always hear you cry. No sound escapes me. Many, many in the world cry to me, but oh how few wait to hear me speak to them; and yet to the soul my speaking matters much." Now there's a thought.

The little book goes on to say, "Just carry out my wishes and leave me to carry out yours."

Loving Father, whose heart is in heaven:

How we revere your name!

So, gently come - Your ways be done

On earth, a glimpse of that in heaven.

Give us then we pray, bread for tomorrow,

And forgive the weakness of our love

As we forgive the weak love of others.

May we not be compromised by temptation,

Nor corrupted by power.

For yours are the ways Of beauty, Truth and Peace, Now and forever. Amen