

Prayers for 21.06.2020

If you were to ask a cross-section of people about the thing they miss most in lockdown, I think you would be given a variety of answers. I also think you would be given a number of very similar answers – one in particular would be ‘going to church’.

There is now the possibility of churches opening up for personal, private prayer and this will happen at Whiston once we have taken the necessary precautions to make sure it can be done in a way which does not risk further transmission of the virus. This will take some time, so please be patient while we take the necessary steps. This will be a start but there will be no services as we know them and certainly no hymn singing as this has been deemed a dangerous activity when it comes to spreading the virus.

Hymns and worship songs and their lyrics are really important to me, perhaps – dare I say it – more important than the sermon. So I have chosen to use the words of one of my favourite hymns as a prayer for us this week.

You can read it yourself as a prayer or sing it out loud if you know it. Lovely as it is to be in church (especially in our church in Whiston), you do not need to be there to do this. God is with us everywhere and hears us no matter where we are. It is wonderful to be in church but for now let us enjoy singing and praying to God at all times and in all places.

The hymn comes from a prayer of St Francis of Assisi and is set to music by Sebastian Temple:

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Oh, Master grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved, as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, let me bring your light;
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving to all men that we receive,
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

And we pray for all who are ill or may be sad and lonely, especially those who have lost family and friends recently and for whom life will never be the same again. We pray for the recently departed Norma Lascelles, Jean Goodwill, Dorothy Breckin and Carl Otto Rotheram and also for Joseph William Davies, Ronald Ernest Shaw, Maggie Cook, Phyllis Agnes Hopkinson, Henry Ash, Melvin Dunkley, George Arthur Smithson and Ernest Unstead whose anniversaries occurs this week. Amen