

Prayer briefing

28 March 2020

We pray for all who work in all areas of the N.H.S. and care sector for safety, energy and wisdom and for those in the process of manufacturing much needed equipment for the health sector.

Our local hospices provide a vital service to our communities. In the current crisis their income has collapsed, as they have had to close their shops, and stop fundraising events. Please pray that they will be able to continue to care for the seriously ill, and pray for the staff, the patients and their families at this uncertain time.

We would ask that you pray for each of our schools across the Diocese. To pray for our wonderful staff, for the headteachers and teachers ensuring our schools remain open and available to provide childcare for key workers and vulnerable children. For the support staff, office staff, catering and lunchtime team and our caretakers and site managers, all who continue to provide the vital support in caring for our children during this time. We pray for their safety and continued good health over the coming weeks.

Please also pray for the children and their families, that they stay safe and look after themselves, following the guidelines to minimise the risk of becoming unwell. That they may continue their learning remotely in different and imaginative ways and able to access the educational activities and resources provided for them by their schools. We realise that these are unprecedented times, and yet we wish to give thanks to God for the way in which His love has been received and shared so widely, seeing our school communities uniting together, offering care and support for each other, and for all our children. We pray for continued good health for all, as well as for each of us to find the inner strength, resilience and hope through the difficult times that may still lie ahead.

Please pray for our Diocesan Senior staff, Bishop Keith, Mike Gilbertson, Ian Bishop, Tim Stratford, George Colville, Liz Geddes, Christine Broad and Roger Clarke, as they lead our Diocese through these uncharted waters and for our rural Deans as they co-ordinate and support their deaneries.

Please pray for the Church Treasurers and Churchwardens as they deal with the financial impact of the current crisis. As well as the numerous difficulties we all face many will also face the worry of how their Church will cope financially. Many

will be facing major problems paying bills and parish share, particularly those dependent on sources of income impacted at this time. Give them strength, faith and hope to bring problems to the Lord. Give them wisdom to address challenges as they arise. May others in the Church show love and care to them and not leave them to shoulder problems alone. May all who work in financial matters in the diocese be able to say to the Lord "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust" (Psalm 91 v2)

Pray also that those tasked in the Diocese and National Church may be able to assist them to be best of their God given gifts at this time.

We pray for continued good health for all, as well as for each of us to find the inner strength, resilience and hope through these difficult times.

Andrew Rudd has composed a prayer - Circling

May the everlasting arms of love,
the hands of God
circle you,
surround you,
enfold you
and keep you from all harm.

Andrew Rudd

**Share your prayer by text or WhatsApp to 07513170210, or by email
to: foxhill@chester.anglican.org**