

# The United Benefice of Headcorn & the Suttons



Prayers for use during  
the Coronavirus outbreak



## *Prayers about the outbreak*

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy  
in this time of uncertainty and distress.  
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may rejoice in your comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you taught us to love our neighbour,  
and to care for those in need  
as if we were caring for you.  
In this time of anxiety, give us strength  
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,  
and to assure the isolated  
of our love, and your love,  
for your name's sake.  
Amen.

God of compassion,  
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.  
In their loneliness, be their consolation;  
in their anxiety, be their hope;  
in their darkness, be their light;  
through him who suffered alone on the cross,  
but reigns with you in glory,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## *For those who are ill*

Merciful God,  
we entrust to your tender care  
those who are ill or in pain,  
knowing that whenever danger threatens  
your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe.  
Comfort and heal them,  
and restore them to health and strength;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

*For hospital staff and medical researchers*

Gracious God,  
give skill, sympathy and resilience  
to all who are caring for the sick,  
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.  
Strengthen them with your Spirit,  
that through their work many will be restored to health;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

*From one who is ill or isolated*

O God,  
help me to trust you,  
help me to know that you are with me,  
help me to believe that nothing can separate me  
from your love  
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

*For the Christian community*

We are not people of fear:  
we are people of courage.  
We are not people who protect our own safety:  
we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.  
We are not people of greed:  
we are people of generosity.  
We are your people God,  
giving and loving,  
wherever we are,  
whatever it costs  
For as long as it takes  
wherever you call us.

*Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference*

## *Intercessions*

### SET A

Let us pray to God,  
who alone makes us dwell in safety:

For all who are affected by coronavirus,  
through illness or isolation or anxiety,  
that they may find relief and recovery:  
Lord, hear us,  
Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who are guiding our nation at this time,  
and shaping national policies,  
that they may make wise decisions:  
Lord, hear us,  
Lord, graciously hear us.

For doctors, nurses and medical researchers,  
that through their skill and insights  
many will be restored to health:  
Lord, hear us,  
Lord, graciously hear us.

For the vulnerable and the fearful,  
for the gravely ill and the dying,  
that they may know your comfort and peace:  
Lord, hear us,  
Lord, graciously hear us.

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,  
to the mercy and protection of God.  
Merciful Father,  
accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

## SET B

Let us pray to the Lord,  
who is our refuge and stronghold.

For the health and well-being of our nation,  
that all who are fearful and anxious  
may be at peace and free from worry:  
Lord, hear us,  
Lord, graciously hear us.

For the isolated and housebound,  
that we may be alert to their needs,  
and care for them in their vulnerability:  
Lord, hear us,  
Lord, graciously hear us.

For our homes and families,  
our schools and young people,  
and all in any kind of need or distress:  
Lord, hear us,  
Lord, graciously hear us.

For a blessing on our local community,  
that our neighbourhoods may be places of trust and friendship,  
where all are known and cared for:  
Lord, hear us,  
Lord, graciously hear us.

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,  
to the mercy and protection of God.  
Merciful Father,  
accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

## *Some personal prayers*

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples,  
'I am with you always'.  
Be with me today, as I offer myself to you.  
Hear my prayers for others and for myself,  
and keep me in your care.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me.  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

## *from St Patrick's Breastplate*

I am giving you worship with all my life,  
I am giving you obedience with all my power,  
I am giving you praise with all my strength,  
I am giving you honour with all my speech.  
I am giving you love with all my heart,  
I am giving you affection with all my sense,  
I am giving you my being with all my mind,  
I am giving you my soul, O most high and holy God.  
Praise to the Father,  
Praise to the Son,  
Praise to the Spirit,  
The Three in One.

adapted from Alexander Carmichael,  
Carmina Gadelica (1900)

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,  
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:  
increase and multiply upon us your mercy;  
that with you as our ruler and guide,  
we may so pass through things temporal  
that we lose not our hold on things eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Common Worship

Be with us, Lord, in all our prayers,  
and direct our way toward the attainment of salvation,  
that among the changes and chances of this mortal life,  
we may always be defended by your gracious help,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Common Worship

O gracious and holy Father,  
give us wisdom to perceive you,  
diligence to seek you,  
patience to wait for you,  
eyes to behold you,  
a heart to meditate upon you,  
and a life to proclaim you,  
through the power of the spirit  
of Jesus Christ our Lord.

St Benedict

### *Before going to sleep*

God our Father, by whose mercy  
the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light:  
we place in your hands our unfinished tasks,  
our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes,  
knowing that only what you bless will prosper.  
To your love and protection  
we commit each other and all those we love,  
knowing that you alone are our sure defender,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



### *A prayer at bedtime*

Before the ending of the day,  
Creator of the world, we pray  
That you, with steadfast love, would keep  
Your watch around us while we sleep.

Tonight I pray especially for (names family or friends who are affected by Coronavirus) and the people of (country or place which is affected by Coronavirus).  
Please give skill and wisdom to all who are caring for them.  
Amen.

### *A prayer remembering God is with us*

Lord God, you are always with me.  
You are with me in the day and in the night.  
You are with me when I'm happy and when I'm sad.  
You are with me when I'm healthy and when I am ill.  
You are with me when I am peaceful and when I am worried.  
Today I am feeling (name how you are feeling) because (reasons you are feeling this way).  
Help me to remember that you love me and are with me in everything today.  
Amen.

## Psalm 91

- 1 Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High  
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.[a]
- 2 I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress,  
my God, in whom I trust."
- 3 Surely he will save you  
from the fowler's snare  
and from the deadly pestilence.
- 4 He will cover you with his feathers,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.
- 5 You will not fear the terror of night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day,  
6 nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,  
nor the plague that destroys at midday.
- 7 A thousand may fall at your side,  
ten thousand at your right hand,  
but it will not come near you.
- 8 You will only observe with your eyes  
and see the punishment of the wicked.
- 9 If you say, "The Lord is my refuge,"  
and you make the Most High your dwelling,  
10 no harm will overtake you,  
no disaster will come near your tent.
- 11 For he will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways;  
12 they will lift you up in their hands,  
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.
- 13 You will tread on the lion and the cobra;  
you will trample the great lion and the serpent.
- 14 "Because he[b] loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him;  
I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.
- 15 He will call on me, and I will answer him;  
I will be with him in trouble,  
I will deliver him and honor him.
- 16 With long life I will satisfy him  
and show him my salvation."



*A simple Celtic Blessing on this house*

The Father is in this house  
Nothing need we fear.

Christ is in the house  
Loving us dear

The Spirit is in the house  
Listening to our prayer

The three are in this house  
Always very near,

