

**Old Hills Malvern Churches**

**Prayers for The Ascension (and 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Easter) – 24<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

Almighty God, may our prayers ascend to you just as Jesus Christ, your son, was taken up to heaven. As we celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord Jesus let it inspire in us feelings of joy and hope rather than fear and separation as we await the coming of the Holy Spirit.

**Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer**

Creator God, we pray for our troubled world its peoples and their leaders. We pray for those caught up in war, and violence, and hatred; especially the innocent victims of these evils and those who are abused because of Christ. May peace abound and righteousness flourish, that we may vanquish injustice and wrong and that the suffering won't last forever.

**Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer**

Father God, we pray for all the people that we encounter in our daily lives especially through the internet and social media in these difficult times. Help us to recognise Christ in one another however stressed and tired they may be. We ask that you help us to recognise the risen Christ in the face of someone we meet today and give us an opportunity to brighten their day with a smile or a word.

**Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer**

Loving God, we pray for all those in need; for those who are filled with guilt; who are broken-hearted; who are confused and afraid; or saddened because a relationship has broken down. We pray for all suffering from illness – those with COVID19 and those with other illnesses of their body, mind or spirit, particularly those requesting our prayers and give joyful thanks for those on the road to recovery.

**Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer**

Merciful God, we pray for all who have died; especially those who encouraged us in our faith by their example. As we pray for them, may they in turn continue to pray for us that we may stay true to our faith and give the same kind of example ourselves to others.

We especially pray for the families of Dot McCaid, James Booth, Felicity Pollard and Christine Barber - their funerals have recently taken place or are in the planning. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

**Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer**

Faithful God, as we go out into the coming week make us mindful that we should constantly pray for your world and your people just as Jesus, your son, prayed for his disciple before returning to you.

**Merciful Father: Accept these prayers for the sake of your son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**