

**Prayer Letter**

**29th January 2023**

* ***Lord of comfort and peace,***
* *we pray for all who are affected by the breakdown of family relationships, domestic abuse and divorce.*

***Lord of comfort and peace,***

*we pray for all who are struggling to escape from addiction, or from any form of physical, emotional or spiritual oppression.*

* ***Lord of comfort and peace,***
* *we pray for all who are lonely and for all who are struggling with infirmity or pain in body, mind or spirit. We bring before you in our prayers:*
* ***Nicola, Sarah, Leah, Debbie, Stephen, Norman and Jean, Anne and Ian and all who we know personally who are suffering at this time.***
* ***"The Lord bless you and keep you.***

***The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.***

***The Lord turn His face to you and give you His peace."***

**Numbers 6: 24-26**

**4th Sunday of Epiphany**

**“The Spirit of the Lord is upon** *me*because **He has annointed *me*** to **proclaim the good news to the poor. He has sent *me* to proclaim freedom for the prisoners, and recovery of sight to the blind, and to set the oppressed free”**

**Luke 4: 18-19**

***Lord hear us as we pray,***

**for the continuing situation in Ukraine,** that there will be continued unity and strength of purpose from the leaders of all nations seeking to restore peace and freedom for the people of Ukraine from the relentless aggression of President Putin and his forces which they have faced and withstood for the past year.

**for the people whose lives have been affected** by the separate mass shootings in California in the past week, especially those wounded and the families and loved ones who have bereaved in these incidents.

**for the many parts of our world where there is civil unrest and violent conflict,**

**including;**

**Peru,** where many have died in the ongoing civil unrest in that nation.

**Iran,** where so many have risen up against the oppressive cruel regime, and where the regime have responded with violence against citizens, false imprisonment and the brutal execution of many political prisoners.

**Rwanda and Tanzania;** to peacefully end the threat of conflict between these neighbouring nations:- where military and diplomatic tension between them has become heightened.

**for the millions of Christians around our world** who face arrest, imprisonment torture and even death, simply for proclaiming You as their Lord and Saviour. From the World Watch List 2022 issued by Open Doors, **we continue to pray especially for those in the 10 countries where persecution of Christians is at the highest levels:**

* Afghanistan
* North Korea
* Somalia
* Libya
* Yemen
* Eritrea
* Nigeria
* Pakistan
* Iran

***Amen.***

***Lord hear us as we pray,***

**for all Church leaders** across our nation, and in our community. For Bishop Philip in his new position as the Bishop of Blackburn Diocese. In our parish, for our Vicar Dave, for Alison and Josh.

**for Steve and Lisa** and for their ministry in our Church and elsewhere, especially for their work with the Life Association in India.

**for Matt and Rosie** and everyone involved in helping in Matt's ministry.

**forThomas**as he continues his placement with us.

**for those who will be with us at our Church for the first tim**e, that they may know God’s loving presence and peace and accept Jesus into their lives as their Saviour and Redeemer.

***Lord hear us as we pray,***

**for all those is positions of power** and leadership across our nation in national government, in parliament, in local councils, in devolved governments and the mayors of regions around our nation.

**for our emergency service workers**, police, ambulance, fire & rescue, HM Coastguard. **Lord protect them and guide them in your ways of justice and peace.**

**for the many women of our nation who face misogyny**, sexual violence and other forms of criminal abuse, often from men who have power or control over them. ***We also pray that change will come*** to improve the safety of women, bring an end to misogynistic behaviour through both education and stronger sanctions under the law**. Also, that justice will be done** for the women who have been or continue to be victims of abuse and violence against them by misogynists.

**for all who volunteer** across our nation to give their time to help or protect others in distress – For those operating food banks, for those providing life saving services, for those providing pastoral care and support in nursing homes and hospitals.

**for our NHS, Social Workers** and all key workers at this difficult time.