

## INTERCESSIONS

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.**

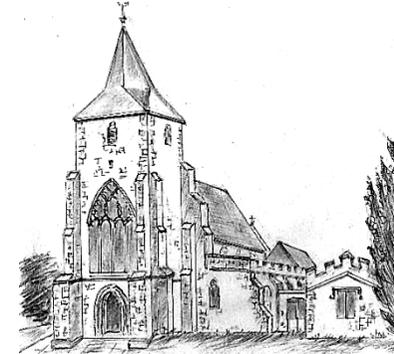
*Source: [www.churchofengland.com](http://www.churchofengland.com)*

## A BLESSING (Numbers 6: 24-26)

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;  
the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

*Leaflet produced by: Penny Evans, Licensed Reader,  
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## St Mary the Virgin, Ticehurst



***Prayers for healing and help  
in a time of crisis***

The longing to discover God's presence in our lives is deeply present in many of our hearts. This is the way God reaches out to us. He invites us to open our hearts to Jesus, to let his love enter the most painful and fearful places of our lives. We may then begin to see our fears in a new light, not as aspects of ourselves of which we should be ashamed but as ways in which God can come closer to us, and gift us with a greater sense of his presence and peace. I hope that these prayers may help you as we go through this period of national and international crisis and fearfulness.

Guide and Friend,  
of every seeking heart  
you take upon yourself  
all that burdens our lives:  
our days of doubt,  
our divided hearts,  
our physical weakness  
and that fear of the future  
which is often our companion.  
And you transfigure them,  
freeing us of all  
that weighs us down.  
Lord of the perplexed,  
enable us today to rediscover  
your amazing truth –  
that in your strength  
we truly can begin to walk anew  
with lightened step and clearer vision,  
moving from the shadows  
into the clear flowing waters  
of your healing, gentle grace.

*Peter Millar (Source: 'An Iona Prayer Book', Canterbury Press, 1998)*

#### **A PRAYER FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY CORONAVIRUS**

*God of healing and hope, in Jesus you meet us in our places of pain and fear. Look with mercy on those who have contracted the new coronavirus, on any who are vulnerable, and on all who feel isolated or fearful. Protect our nurses, doctors, carers and medical researchers who seek to heal and help the sick, putting themselves at risk in the process. Through this time of international crisis, may your Holy Spirit strengthen our sense of community and interdependence, and enable us to support one another as far as we are able, as one Body in Christ. Through Jesus Christ, our healer. Amen.*

#### **Psalm 42:1-5 : Longing for God and His Help in Distress**

<sup>1</sup>As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.

<sup>2</sup>My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God?

<sup>3</sup>My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me continually, 'Where is your God?'

<sup>4</sup>These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I went with the throng, and led them in procession to the house of God, with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival.

<sup>5</sup>Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.

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Lord, Holy Spirit,  
You are the mother eagle with her young,  
Holding them in peace under your feathers.  
On the highest mountain you have built your nest.  
Above the valley, above the storms of the world,  
Where no hunter ever comes.

Lord, Holy Spirit,  
You are the bright cloud in whom we hide,  
In whom we know already that  
The battle has been won.  
You bring to us our Brother Jesus  
To rest our heads upon his shoulder.

Lord, Holy Spirit,  
In the love of friends you are building a new home,  
Heaven is with us when you are with us.  
You are singing your song in the hearts of the poor.  
Guide us, heal us. Bring us to God.

*James Baxter (Source: Peter Millar 'An Iona Prayer Book', Canterbury Press, 1998)*