

# Monthly Prayer Gathering for October

# St Matthews

## Bible Reflection from Psalm 17

Hear me, Lord, my plea is just;  
listen to my cry.

Hear my prayer –

it does not rise from deceitful lips.

<sup>2</sup> Let my vindication come from you;

may your eyes see what is right.

<sup>3</sup> Though you probe my heart,

though you examine me at night and test me,

you will find that I have planned no evil;

my mouth has not transgressed.

<sup>4</sup> Though people tried to bribe me,

I have kept myself from the ways of the violent

through what your lips have commanded.

<sup>5</sup> My steps have held to your paths;

my feet have not stumbled.

<sup>6</sup> I call on you, my God, for you will answer me;

turn your ear to me and hear my prayer.

<sup>7</sup> Show me the wonders of your great love,

you who save by your right hand

those who take refuge in you from their foes.

<sup>8</sup> Keep me as the apple of your eye;

hide me in the shadow of your wings

<sup>9</sup> from the wicked who are out to destroy me,

from my mortal enemies who surround me.

<sup>10</sup> They close up their callous hearts,

and their mouths speak with arrogance.

<sup>11</sup> They have tracked me down, they now surround me,

with eyes alert, to throw me to the ground.

<sup>12</sup> They are like a lion hungry for prey,

like a fierce lion crouching in cover.

<sup>13</sup> Rise up, Lord, confront them, bring them down;

with your sword rescue me from the wicked.

<sup>14</sup> By your hand save me from such people, Lord,

from those of this world whose reward is in this life.

May what you have stored up for the wicked fill their bellies;

may their children gorge themselves on it,

and may there be leftovers for their little ones.

<sup>15</sup> As for me, I shall be vindicated and shall see your face;

when I awake, I shall be satisfied with seeing your likeness.

## Praying for Individuals

- Pray for newcomers to church.
- Pray for members of our church family unable to come to church especially Diana Aidam, Dorothy Aimes, Peggy Blythe, Celia Bray, Vi Chambers, Thelma Fogarty, Frances Ross and Freda Tuke.
- Pray for the families of Caroline Gillett and Anne Jones following their funerals last month.

## Praying for St Matthews

- Give thanks for all God has spoken to us about in Genesis in September. Pray for the work of the Holy Spirit to transform hearts,
- Give thanks for all the new people in church last month. Pray for the new families to come to Christian faith. Please pray for Sunday Club and Creche running each week.

- Pray for our Harvest Service Sunday on 10 October.
- Pray for the recruitment of a new Families and Youth Pastor.
- Give thanks for Tom Morgan's work as Treasurer and for God providing all we need financially this year. Please pray for Tom and the PCC as we prepare a budget for 2022.
- Please continue to pray for our midweek community ministries especially Smarties, Friendlies and The Hub.
- Pray for the PCC as we seek to put together a new Mission Action Plan for the diocese. This will eventually form the church vision for 2022-23.
- Give thanks for Nigel Brett and all his hard work maintaining the church and centre, Pray for wisdom as we go through the ongoing list of maintenance tasks.

### **Praying for St Ethelburga's Church**

- Give thanks for their harvest service last Sunday and the new people who came.
- Pray for those still not ready to come back to church.
- Pray for two grant funding bids for roof repairs currently under consideration.
- Pray for Messy Church on 17 October and the Youth Forum on 20 October.
- Pray for the re-ordering plans which are with the diocese for an informal opinion. Pray for clear and helpful advice.
- Pray for a long-term solution for the St Leonard's Church site and the public meeting on 21 October.

### **Praying for Christians Against Poverty**

- Give thanks for the national work of CAP and the difference it has made in the lives of so many over the last 25 years,
- Pray for the Hastings Debt Centre and Nick Warren's ministry. Give thanks for the church partnerships.
- Pray for Heather, Susan, Tracey and Maggie as they visit people as befrienders.
- Pray for love and compassion for everyone the team meets,

### **Praying for Sussex Gospel Partnership**

- Give thanks for the joy of working with other churches across Sussex.
- Pray for the different training events for ministers and church staff.
- Pray for the courses they run would be helpful in building up the church.
- Pray for Emmanuel Church in Hastings. They have asked for prayer for their seniors' group on a Monday morning, their toddler group on a Friday morning and for the "Passion for Life" videos their home groups are using in November.

### **Praying for the Government**

- Pray for our government and especially our MP Sally Ann Hart
- Pray all those impacted by the end of the furlough scheme
- Pray for those impacted by the end of Universal Credit
- Pray for those facing higher energy bills
- Pray for new job opportunities in our town