

Prayer Gathering for May 2026



Psalm 69v1-15

For the director of music. To the tune of 'Lilies'. Of David.

Save me, O God,
for the waters have come up to my neck.

²I sink in the miry depths,
where there is no foothold.

I have come into the deep waters;
the floods engulf me.

³I am worn out calling for help;
my throat is parched.

My eyes fail,
looking for my God.

⁴Those who hate me without reason
outnumber the hairs of my head;
many are my enemies without cause,
those who seek to destroy me.

I am forced to restore
what I did not steal.

⁵You, God, know my folly;
my guilt is not hidden from you.

⁶Lord, the Lord Almighty,
may those who hope in you
not be disgraced because of me;

God of Israel,
may those who seek you
not be put to shame because of me.

⁷For I endure scorn for your sake,
and shame covers my face.

⁸I am a foreigner to my own family,
a stranger to my own mother's children;

⁹for zeal for your house consumes me,
and the insults of those who insult you fall on
me.

¹⁰When I weep and fast,
I must endure scorn;

¹¹when I put on sackcloth,
people make sport of me.

¹²Those who sit at the gate mock me,
and I am the song of the drunkards.

¹³But I pray to you, Lord,
in the time of your favour;
in your great love, O God,
answer me with your sure salvation.

¹⁴Rescue me from the mire,
do not let me sink;
deliver me from those who hate me,
from the deep waters.

¹⁵Do not let the floodwaters engulf me
or the depths swallow me up
or the pit close its mouth over me.

A Time of Sharing

How have we seen God at work in our lives and in our church in the last month?

Praying for People

- Pray for the members of our church in residential care homes including Vi Chambers, Frances Ross and Jenny Honeyman Brown in Crest House. Pray especially for Frances Ross in hospital.
- Pray for Shirley Coulthard recovering at home having been in hospital.
- Pray for all those struggling with their mental and physical health.
- Pray for Simon, Charley and Noah as they prepare for Noah's baptism on 24 May.
- Pray for Aaron and Lee preparing for baptism on 31 May and Becky who will re-affirm her baptismal vows.

Praying for St Matthew's Church

- Give thanks for all those who came to our Easter Services. Pray for the seeds to bear fruit.
- Give thanks for three school visits happening in May – two from St Pauls and one from Silverdale.
- Give thanks for new people joining our children's work teams. Please pray for Sunday Club especially on a Sunday morning.
- Give thanks for all the new people who have joined us on Sundays. Pray they may settle into church life.

- Pray for the recruitment of the new Families and Schools Worker based at St Matthews with the job advert closing on 15 May and interviews on 2 June.
- Pray for the men's breakfast on the theme of spiritual warfare on Saturday 9 May.
- Pray for our APCM on 17 May. Pray for the Lord to stir the right people to join the PCC at the APCM.
- Pray for the ongoing work of CAP especially Nick Warren and Gill Knox as debt coaches and Tracey Foy and Maggie Lloyd as befrienders.

Praying for our Family of Churches

- Give thanks for the funding available for new staff across our churches.
- Give thanks for the partnership with Ashburnham Trust and for the plan to launch the new community café in Hollington in July. Pray for all the practical arrangements to come together.
- Pray for Matthew and the Churchwardens as they work on the structure for our new family of churches including agreement on how clergy will be deployed at Sunday Services.
- Pray for the team putting together the profile for the new Associate Vicar. Pray for unity between the three churches. Pray especially for the Church in the Wood PCC meeting on Saturday 9 May.
- Pray for those completing the 321 course.
- Pray for our current staff: Matthew Foy, Sara Ainsworth, Pauline Blythe, Fran Wratten and Mike Dunmil.

Praying for Hastings and St Leonards

- Please pray for the upcoming elections for the Borough and County Council.
- Please pray for all the staff at Hastings BC especially Robert Cottrill as the Interim Chief Executive.
- Pray for our MP Helena Dollimore.
- Pray for Katy Bourne the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner.
- Pray for Simon Yates who is the district commander for Hastings and Rother Police.

Praying for our World

- Pray all the countries in the middle east and a path to peace in the war with Iran.
- Pray for the people of Ukraine and for negotiations between Russia and Ukraine to re-start.
- Pray for the persecuted churches especially in countries where Christians are in prison.
- Pray for wisdom and discernment for all world leaders.