

Prayers

Prayers to use either publicly in services or privately at home or in church to ask for the right person to be called to serve here and for this church in the time of vacancy

For the call of a rector

1. Most Holy Trinity, come in your power upon your whole Church, and especially upon the one that you are calling to serve you in this parish; that the life and labour of our new Rector may always be guided, strengthened and upheld by your peace and your presence; who lives and reigns one God, world without end. Amen.
2. Lord, call to this church and yours a true shepherds, a person of God, a minister of Christ. Make us together, a church joyful in worship, united in witness, working, caring, praising, loving: to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
3. Heavenly Father we thank you for the ministry of Graham our previous rector and we pray your presence and blessing upon him.
We ask now that you will help us to share responsibility, grow in faith, love one another, care for those in need, reach out to others, and welcome newcomers.
Lord Jesus, guard and grow this church as we serve you together in this period without a rector.
Please guide those who are seeking the right minister for us, and those who are seeking the right church for their ministry, that together we may discover your way for the future and see your kingdom grow. Amen.
4. God, you alone call us to your service,
we pray that you will open the heart and mind of the person you are already calling to the post of team Rector here in Macclesfield.
Help them hear your call, follow your path, and respond to your call.
And responding, then strengthen your Kingdom here among us.
We also pray discernment for our Bishops, our Patrons and for our parish representatives as they complete the interview process,
and for strength to all our churches during the vacancies.
Lord God, Your will be done, your kingdom come. Amen
5. Eternal God, in every generation you raise up leaders for your people and give them wisdom, insight and courage.
Give to your church in this Town a rector to lead us into the future to care for and inspire us to teach and to nurture us.
Bless those to whom has been entrusted the task of nomination that with wisdom and discernment they may do their work that in this as in all things your will may be done;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
6. Eternal God, shepherd and guide,
in your mercy give your Church in Macclesfield a shepherd after your own heart who will walk in your ways, and with loving care watch over your people.
Give us a leader of vision and a teacher of your truth.
So may your Church be built up and your name glorified;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For the parish in vacancy

7. Almighty God, You have given us the gift of life and the gift of your Holy Spirit.
For these incredible gifts, we thank you.
Help us to use them well.
Deepen within us a desire to do your will.
Help us to hear and answer your call to serve you.
Guide us to the future that you have chosen for us as a community of your Church in this place.
May your Holy Spirit keep us always close to your Son Jesus and help us to listen to Him and to follow his Word. Amen.

8. Heavenly Father,
we thank you for the history of this parish; we pray your blessing upon all who live, work and worship here.
We ask that you will help us to share responsibility, grow in faith, love one another, care for those in need, reach out to others, and welcome newcomers.
Lord Jesus, guard and grow the Church as we serve you together; guide those who are seeking the right person to lead us, and those who are seeking the right parish for their ministry, that together we may discover your way for the future and see your kingdom grow. Amen.

9. Unchanging God, the same yesterday, today and forever,
thank you for the security we find in you.
Creator God, source of transformation and new beginnings:
thank you for the sense of excitement and expectation as you lead us into a new tomorrow.
We trust you for the future of your church in this place and ask that you guide and protect us through these uncertain times.
We are your people:
fill us with your Spirit that we might be one in purpose, one in love, one in you.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

10. **Pray for:**
 - The Staff team at this busy time, especially Sue and Emma in the Church office – that God to give the staff team wisdom, purpose and people to support them in the work.
 - Volunteers who help in various activities in Church life. Thank God for the time that they spend serving our Church and community and pray for people to join our various teams.
 - Our congregation -thank God for the many people who are part of our Church congregation and for the various groups that make up our congregation, including the various teams, house groups, children's and youth groups that we would all be united at this time.
 - Our local Community, all who live, work and spend time in Macclesfield . Thank God for the links we currently have with our community and pray that these might develop and grow in the future.
 - Our partner denominations, both in Macclesfield and in the wider area. Pray that God would continue to strengthen the links between the Churches in this area.
 - this time of pastoral vacancy, that we would know that God is with us; that we would find times to "Be still, and know that I am God" {Psalm 46:10}.
 - Wisdom in all we do. Thank God for bringing to our church people who have many gifts, talents, and abilities. Ask God to help our Church members to grow and to help them to use their gifts to serve him and to help others, putting the needs of others before our own needs
 - God's protection for our congregation at this time; that God would go ahead of us, be behind us, hover over us, and stand beside us in all that we do and for us all to trust God and be content with whatever happens.