



St. Nicholas Church Prayers September 2021

Lord we lift up the people of Afghanistan to you. So many people who have called this place home have been displaced. We give thanks that many people have been able to find refuge in other countries. We remember all who are still trying to leave and who live in fear of what the future holds, Lord help and protect them. We pray that the rights of women to be educated and to work will be upheld by whoever governs this country in the future. We remember with sadness the many military personnel who lost their lives, were wounded in body and mind during the years of our country's involvement in Afghanistan. Lord we lift up our leaders both here and abroad who are tasked with difficult and quick decisions. Give them the clarity to approach each decision with wisdom and care.

Lord, you blessed us with many friends along the way, with whom we laughed and played as children, with whom we argued and learned in our youth, staunch friends with whom we share both joy and tears without criticism.

Thank you, Lord for being the best friend of all.

Be with all, Lord, who believe themselves to be friendless and unloved:

those who are homeless, the disadvantaged, those who are sick, those who are anxious, and all who feel completely alone. Help them to know that no-one is unloved and unlovable in your sight, nor should be in ours either.

Two farmers are talking at the beginning of January. One of them asks the other what kind of year she thinks it will be.

"I think it will be a good year," she answers.

"But how can you think that with so much uncertainty around?"

"Because I am sowing good things."

Dear God, help us to sow good things in our lives and the lives of others.

Shape us into a people who help create a better future through the choices we make today.
(Tearfund Sept. 2021)

As we hear of increases in severe storms bringing flooding to many parts of the world, of other countries suffering from severe drought and fires destroying all in their path, we pray that in this time of climate crisis and ecological emergency, You may help us to rediscover your love of creation and reflect it in our own lives. Give us the will and the courage to simplify the way we live, to reduce the energy we use, to share the resources You provide and to bear the cost of change. Lord all the world belongs to You.