

**Hinckley United Reformed Church.**  
**Prayers for week beginning Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

We read in Matthew's gospel that Jesus said, "Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men". Those who heard and accepted his call followed him, journeying with him, growing in faith as they listened to his teaching until the time came for Jesus to leave them and he said, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the end of the age."

*Let us pray for our calling to reach out to others with the message of God's love for us.*

Lord God we thank you for sending Jesus and for his teaching. We thank you also for those who recorded Jesus's life and ministry in the gospel accounts and consequent growth of the church in letters to the early churches. Without this guidance we would be lost, wandering in the wilderness. Father God, as you, and we, send Andrew on his way to continue serving you in his journey of faith we are faced with a new challenge. We give thanks for blessing us with Andrew, Candid and Tavonga and pray for them as they also face new challenges and for the church folk in Colchester who will be welcoming them in January. It will be the start of a new journey for them too. Give us all the grace and strength to follow where you lead even when we are unsure of where we will end up. Pick us up when we go in the wrong direction or make mistakes and put us back on the right path again. Give us joy in serving you Lord and may that joy be infectious so that those we meet will wonder at it and want to know more. We pray for revival in Hinckley and the surrounding areas and for the whole Christian community to be empowered by your Holy Spirit to reach out to those who need to hear the gospel message of hope.

*Let us pray for God's presence in our troubled world.*

It has been worrying and distressing to hear in the news of the escalating violence and destruction in the Israel and Palestine conflict. There does not seem to be any easy solution to ending this terrible war. We pray for peace Lord and for justice, not just in the short term but a settlement which will enable people to flourish and rebuild their lives in the hope of a more secure future. We give thanks for those who are risking their lives to bring food and medical aid to those who so desperately need it in Gaza. We pray and give thanks also for those groups who are working to promote peace and reconciliation between both sides. There are also many other people in our world who are struggling to cope with the terrible consequences of war, oppression and natural disasters who we don't hear about in the news. We pray for them too and for compassion and understanding of governments and other agencies who are faced with the problem of re-homing refugees and dealing with the hostility of those who feel threatened by them.

*Let us pray for our church family*

We pray for Malcolm and Wendy and family and Rob and his family – Rob's dad is very unwell. We pray also for others in our church family who are struggling in one way or another. We bring before you Lord those who are in poor health and are distressed, those who have other problems, those who are lonely, those in care homes, and those at home who are being cared for by loved ones taking one day at a time and those who care for them. We bring them all to you Lord – also the families, the doctors, nurses and carers who play such an important part in maintaining their health and well-being. We pray that they will know the closeness of your presence with them at all times and be comforted.

We lift our prayers to you in the knowledge that you hear them. Amen