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Dear friends

'Give us today our daily bread'

Words from the Lord's prayer. The Lord's prayer shows us the way to pray in seeking God's will and plan for our lives. It is also a model for praying on our own or with others, keeping us in tune with God's heart and mind.

It begins with focusing on God and then moves to bringing our own needs and requests to God. It ushers us into the presence of God who loves us.

'Give us today our daily bread'

This is a request that understands that the awesome Creator God of heaven and earth stoops to where we are. Someone once said, 'Don't worry over small things; with God everything is small.'

The phrase 'daily bread' is one covering all our essential needs. Bread in Hebrew means all that nourishes us. So, it refers to all our needs - physical, emotional, material, financial as well as spiritual.

Jesus originally addressed an agrarian culture. In those days, one crop failure spelt disaster. Not only that, labourers were paid daily for the work they did. Pay was so low it was almost impossible to save. This prayer was not empty words, as most people in those days lived from day to day.

Many in the world live in similar conditions today, unlike many of us in the western world. That is why I am so thrilled that at St Peter's we are supporting Christian Aid, a charity that reaches out with practical love that makes a difference. We live in an unjust world, where it is often the poorest whose lives are ravaged by climate change caused by richer nations. Christian Aid seeks to empower such communities, helping us all to be part of the answer to the prayer 'Give us today our daily bread.'

Please see further down in this letter how you can support Christian Aid and join in any of the activities planned. We will be focusing on the work of Christian Aid in both our services next Sunday.

The prayer refers to food, shelter, clothes, jobs, income and the ability to work, to have strength, intelligence and peace. I believe it also teaches us two further things - it warns

us against greed and teaches us gratitude. The prayer is not about cosy comforts and lovely luxuries, but about our essential needs. It should lead us to be deeply grateful for the way God supplies our daily needs, reminding us we are in debt to God every single day. Thanks be to God who daily gives us our daily bread!

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Let's pray the Lord's prayer each day, recognising it is about us – not just me and my needs – seeking for God's kingdom to come.

With my love and prayers.

Kip

ST PETER'S NEWS

- **Christian Aid Week, May 10th to 16th 2021**

The theme of this year's Christian Aid campaign is climate chaos - one of the greatest injustices in the world. There are lots of ways you can make a difference to people:

1. Give: for those able to attend church, there will be Christian Aid envelopes available at all four services from Sunday 25th April until Sunday 16th May. There will also be contactless card machines at these services for those who prefer to donate by card. You can give online by going to St Peter's own [Christian Aid donation page](#). For the fit among you, Christian Aid have a 300,000 steps challenge – walk just under 10,000 steps a day in May! You can do this alone or in a team, and you can walk, jump, hop or skip your way through! To sign up, follow the link [here](#).

If the thought of 300,000 steps doesn't appeal, you can organise your own sponsored event through the [Christian Aid Just Giving page](#). Some of you may remember that Andy Radford shaved all his hair off last year! If you are doing the 300,000 steps challenge, or a different sponsored event, it would be really helpful if you could let Sarah Beresford know (s.g.roberts44@gmail.com or 07941447029) so that we can add monies you raise to the St Peter's total.

2. Act: you are invited to [sign Christian Aid's petition](#) calling on the Prime Minister to fulfil the UK's responsibilities to build a more just, healthier and safer future for everyone. There are lots of other ways to take action listed on the [campaign for change](#) section of the Christian Aid website.

3. Pray: you may want to use this prayer throughout Christian Aid week:
*God of new life, raise in us a new hope and determination
to bring about real change in your world. Amen.*

4. Christian Aid Quiz Sunday 23rd May at 7pm – more details to follow! We are also hoping to have a Christian Aid stall at the Farmers' Market on Sat 8th May.

- **Brian Siddall**

It's with great sadness I share that Brian Siddall died this week. Our thoughts and prayers are with Pam and all his family. The funeral has yet to be arranged and will be restricted in numbers due to Covid, but I know there are many who will be giving thanks for such a godly gentleman, who has sought to follow Christ with a prayerful life, full of practical service. Amongst many other activities, Brian employed his extraordinary skills in the care of St Peter's beautiful buildings, which require attention and repair week by week, year on year. Brian's life is a glorious illustration of what Frances Ridley Havergal's prayer means: 'Take my life and let it be, consecrated, Lord, to Thee.'

We thank God for Brian, and we rejoice that he is at home with his Lord.

- **Retirement**

Sue and I have been part of St Peter's for almost 18 years and it has been a wonderful journey, with so many amazing experiences, highs and lows and travelling with remarkable people of all ages. Today I am formally announcing that Sunday 17th October will be our last Sunday here, as we will be retiring then. Many of you know this already, but I wanted to ensure that as many as possible hear it from me. There will be plenty of opportunities over the next 6 months to reflect, celebrate, remember and to look forward, but for now, I want to thank God for his faithfulness towards us all at St Peter's and ask us all to pray for the church's journey ahead.