**Dear Lord 13 June 2021 Prayers by: Julia**

Today in Ashdon we are fortunate to celebrate the return of our Open Gardens, when gardens big and small are open displaying their trees, plants, veg and fruit, each tendered with loving care. This reminds me of a hymn we sung in Sunday School when I was small, written in 1881 by Ella Sophia Armitage

In our dear Lord’s garden,  
Planted here below,  
Many tiny flowerets  
In sweet beauty grow.  
  
Christ, the loving gardener,  
Tends these blossoms small;  
Loves the little lilies  
As the cedars tall.  
  
Nothing is too little  
For His gentle care;  
Nothing is too lowly  
In His love to share…

We pray for the villagers and members of our church community no longer to join in our Open Gardens through frailty. Also we remember those who have passed who worked tirelessly on Open Gardens and they too would say well done.

And in today’s reading we heard about the mustard seed so for you Lord nothing is too lowly to receive your care.

Also we pray for all growers and farmers at this time and ask that your love and help may assist them in their endeavours.

**Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer**

We are relieved that our younger people are today able to have the vaccine including my own children. We continue to pray for carers/nurses, medics and the emergency services who have worked tirelessly and for those working in the vaccine centres. We hope that the progress gained will be maintained despite the Delta variant increasing.

We pray that reunion with our families may continue and that the joy of that hug and face to face contact can be maintained.

We also pray for communities overseas still affected by this virus.

**Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer**

We remember young people who have recently left school and are on their new pathways to a first job or university Lord may your love and care shine on them in their new found choices.

We remember that families have been impacted economically and that they will continue to need support. We also pray for the volunteers supporting this pandemic both in the UK and worldwide.

**Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer**

We pray for All Saints, The Baptists here in Ashdon and members of St Mary’s Parish Church, Saffron Walden. We pray for Rachel Prior moving to Black Notley and Gavin in the village moving on to Bury St Edmunds. We remember too that some churches and chapels have not re-opened since the pandemic and sadly some smaller churches and chapels will never re-open, including Openwoodgate Methodist Church where Chris and I were married 41 years ago this week. May we ask Lord that you support these communities whilst they find their new spiritual journey.

**Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer**

Help us all to move forward with hope and joy in our hearts and remembering Tomorrow will be a good day.

**Merciful Father accept these our prayers in your name.**

**Amen**