

Prayer in the time of Vacancy

Let there be respect for the earth
Peace for its people
Love in our lives
Delight in the good
Forgiveness for past wrongs and from now on a new start.
May we treasure the past with thanksgiving
May we embrace the future with hope
May we journey ahead with confidence
In your love and in your power
Now and always. AMEN

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Heavenly Father,

During this vacancy,
guard and grow this Benefice as we serve you together
in this period without a Rector.

Lord Jesus,

We know that you have plans for us
and that these plans are good.

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.

Holy Spirit,

We pray for your guidance for those who are seeking the right person for us,
and those who are seeking the right place for their ministry,
that together we may discover your way for the future
and see your kingdom grow.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

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God our Father, you have welcomed each one of us in Jesus
and called us to be his body in this place.

Send us your Holy Spirit, at this time of uncertainty and change,
to fill us with vision and energy;

make us faithful in prayer and worship, that we may be true to our calling
to bring new life to our community.

Guide with your heavenly wisdom those who are to choose a new Incumbent
for this parish,

that the one whom we receive may be a wise and gentle shepherd of your people:
ready to serve us with joy, to build us up in faith, and to lead us by example
in loving obedience to your son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

AMEN.

GIVE THANKS TO GOD:

- For all that God has done for us in Jesus Christ
- For our rich heritage of teaching, preaching and tradition
- For the financial resources God has provided over the years
- For our beautiful buildings in the centre of the villages
- For our ministers, lay ministers, Churchwardens and PCCs who serve so faithfully
- For those people in our congregations who do so much to improve the daily lives of others in our communities.
- For the unsung heroes who make our churches so attractive, for vergers, cleaners, flower arrangers.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Those involved in the appointment process

- Bishop Stephen, who is also patron of St Mary's
- Archdeacon Alex as he oversees the process of appointing a new incumbent
- Rural Dean Simon as he takes on responsibility for the parish in the vacancy
- the other Patrons for their part in the process of appointment
- those writing the Parish Profiles
- the Parish Representatives

That they will be guided by God as they play their parts in the appointment process

***Almighty God,** we praise you for the life and witness of St Mary's and the team benefice over the years, and the Rectors who have served you faithfully in this parish. As we prepare to enter a new incumbency, we pray for those involved in the process of selection as they choose our next leader. Thank you for their willingness to take on this responsibility on behalf of us all. Please give them your wisdom and insight as they discern the right person for the job. May they be open to your prompting, and willing to share freely with one another, and may they be united in their final decision. May they each be conscious of your presence with them during the interviews and trust you for the right decision. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Guide, Amen.*

A space to write down your own prayers or reflect on what God is saying to you

The Ministerial Leadership Team and their families:

- The Ministers, Ian, Michael and Lesley
- The Lay Ministers, Lindi, Nicola, Sarah, and Cathy
- The associate lay ministers and those in training, Gill and Sue
- Churchwardens, Hetty and Duncan (Bartlow), Patricia and David (Castle Camps), Colin and James (Shudy Camps), Nita and Pat (Horseheath) and Charlotte and David (Linton)

That:- they guide our churches wisely during the Vacancy
they may know God's strength to do all that is needful at this time
God will be preparing all the staff for the arrival of a new Rector

The PCCs, Committees, post holders and every member of the church family in our Parishes- Bartlow, Castle Camps, Horseheath, Linton and Shudy Camps during the Vacancy and in preparation for the new Rector:

For God to:-

- give us wisdom in all our interactions
- make us faithful in prayer for our Benefice and our new Rector both now and in the future
- prepare our hearts, minds and wills for the part he wants us to play in the future ministry of growing God's kingdom in the Linton Team
- make us welcoming and inclusive, showing such love for one another that we will draw others to a living faith in Christ
- sustain our lives and worship

Father of all, we pray for ourselves, for all who worship with us in the Linton team, for all connected through our services, small groups and through the different ministries and activities. Thank you for bringing us together into your family, for your grace which enables us to serve you without fear. We pray that we will all recognise you, Lord Jesus, as the Head of the Body, the church, and that we will grow up into maturity in faith, being truly filled with your love. Enable us to serve one another with humility, to remain united in your love, and to reach out to others with the hope you bring. We pray this for our church family, trusting that you, Lord Jesus, are the same, yesterday today and forever. AMEN

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The appointment process

- That the Bishop and Archdeacon will be given wisdom in suggesting a candidate
- That any advertisements will draw the best possible candidates to the vacancy
- For discernment in the short-listing of the candidates
- That God's chosen person for our new Rector will become clear during the interviews
- That God will draw the person of his choice to an awareness of the vacancy and be guided to apply for it
- That God will be preparing the heart and mind of this person for their ministry in our Benefice

Father God we pray for any potential applicants for the post of Rector. We ask that they pray honestly and seek you will in their application. Thank you for the courage of those who apply and help those involved on our behalf to work out with them what is your vocation for their lives.

Lord Jesus, we look to you as our example and role model. We lift before you whoever our new Rector will be. We pray that they will have heard your call to lead us as we seek to go your way, through the prompting of your Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit anoint the successful applicant with your gifts that with our support they may be a good leader, an equipper and facilitator. May they be prayerful and practiced at listening to your voice and in listening to others. Help them to catch your vision for St Mary's and the team, and to bring this vision to life in our lives and the lives of those who live around us who you have called us to serve. AMEN

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