

Prayer Focus 31st March 2019

"Can a woman forget her nursing child And have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, but I will not forget you. Isaiah 49:15

Good and gracious God, we rejoice with thanks for all those who have mothered us in our lives. But

You know our hearts & you know that today some of our hearts ache.

As others rightfully celebrate the joy & love of the mothers in their lives, this day, for some will be a day of longing, for some it will be tearful, for others it will be wistful, for other is will just be empty.

Be with us in these times, even as we strive to be present for each other.

Remind us that the relationships we are longing for today can be recreated in us.

Remind us that the motherly blessings we yearn to receive today, the joy, the acceptance, the caring, the understanding, the compassion, the unconditional love, are still ours to experience by extending them to others.

Inspire us all to be the bearers of these nurturing gifts.

May others know more joy, acceptance, caring, understanding, compassion, & love because of us.

May we play even a small part in mending broken hearts, broken relationships, & this sometimes broken world. Amen.

EBC & Local Focus:- Give thanks for all our children & young people, pray they feel safe, valued & accepted at EBC. When praying for St Mark's give thanks that they are working closely with the Wave. Pray for the continued success of the Space Academy after school club held on a Friday.

Street of the Week :- Steer Road

Community Prayer Diary:- St Mark's School - Headteacher Sally Craig. Ofsted have commented on & praised the Christian ethos of the school.

National & World Prayer Points:- Please pray for Andrea King, the SCBA Safeguarding Officer, as she continues to settle in to her role within our association. Please pray that she will be able to manage her time and the Safeguarding queries alongside her other external roles, as well as making contact with all of our churches. Pray for those that do & will in future need her help to keep our churches safe. Ask God to prompt you to do your part.

Six months ago a massive earthquake and tsunami hit Indonesia. Over 4,000 people died and whole communities were forced from their homes.

Tearfund reports - After the emergency phase, I'm glad to say we are moving onto the longer-term work of rebuilding. 'We are helping people to find new livelihoods, which will keep them more secure. And we are offering training in Disaster Risk Reduction: simple ways that prepare communities better for future disasters. 'This isn't just about rebuilding what has been destroyed, it's all about helping the people of Sulawesi build back stronger – the buildings and the people!' **Please Pray:** Pray for Indonesia's upcoming elections in April. Ask for a peaceful process and for compassionate leaders to be voted in. Lift up people who are eager to rebuild their lives, and pray for peace and hope for those

who have been traumatised. Pray for our partner organisations and churches as they work to help communities rebuild.