

PRAAYER FOR THE WEEK

Monday 30th March 2020

by Hazel Richardson



Gracious and compassionate God,
against a backdrop of so much suffering, loss, fear, and distress,
we cannot help but be grateful for so much.

We may be isolated,
and yet strangely we may feel more connected than ever.
How glad we are that neighbours, family and friends
can stay in touch easily and often by telephone and e-mail.
Thank you for their kindness and care,
and for the ingenuity of those who are creating new online ways
being together.

Our NHS staff may be exhausted and despairing,
in dire need of more resources,
but how wonderful that over half a million people have
volunteered to help them.
Thank you for the dedication and commitment of all medical
workers,
and for giving courage and inspiration to the volunteers.

When schools are closed and children and young people bereft of
their familiar routines,
we thank you for the teachers who remain in school to care for
children of key workers,
and for the online classrooms that are being set up.

We may have lost our places of work and study
but we have been enabled to spend more time with those who
share our homes,
and to pursue other interests that may have been left on the back-
burner too long.

Thank you for these chances.

We are deeply saddened by so many thousands of deaths and
young lives cut tragically short,
and yet we thank you for the beauty of new life that is emerging all
around us
in these sun-filled days of Spring.

When our opportunities to focus on buying and consuming have
been sharply curtailed
so that we have to find ways of making the most of what we have
and where we are,
we thank you for the people whose creativity inspires us to repair,
re-use and re-imagine.

When we can no longer jet off to foreign parts,
we thank you for prompting us to see the beauty and benefits of
our own home;
and in the longer term, to help reduce the level of pollution
so that across the world people may once more enjoy clear and
clean air.

In these times when we must be physically distant,
we see a new sense of togetherness emerging,
as politicians work across party divides

and nations join forces globally to fight a common and invisible danger.

We thank you for this sense of unity.

As we face economic crisis and the downfall of so many businesses,
we recognise that this may be a wake-up call for us to reconsider our way of life,
in all our over-consumption and self-centredness.

And so we thank you that, when the crisis is eventually over, we will have the chance to emerge differently, and instead of going back to busyness and business as usual we may find ways to live more simply and compassionately, stronger and in greater solidarity across the globe.

May it be so.