

Lord God, sometimes even though the evidence of you is staring us in the face, battering our eardrums, we still deliberately close our minds.

Forgive us, and challenge us, good Lord.

We come into your presence, sometimes we question whether others are accepted by you, and whether we are ourselves. We might have too little self-esteem, or too much self-importance.

Forgive us, and challenge us, good Lord.

Sometimes we just don't want to walk in your light. We see what we want to see, not what you would have us see. We block out what is right before our eyes. Our hearts are cold and we don't feel the all-consuming heat of your spirit.

Forgive us, and challenge us, good Lord.

Amen.



Joseph



Moses



David



Mary



Simon
the Zealot



Peter



Philip



John



James
the Younger



James
the Elder



Bartholomew



Thomas



Andrew



Matthias



Thaddaeus



Matthew

Lord Jesus, we pray for your Church in these times of great change, may we always be open to new ideas; may we never fear different ways brought by new people, because their insights might surprise us and inspire us to try new things; may we always seek your guidance and be alert to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

**Open our hearts and minds,
O Lord – lead us forward together**

Lord Jesus, we pray for your whole world, where age-old conflicts continue and history repeats itself to fuel wars in Ukraine, the Middle East and so many other places, and where conflict between individuals and groups with different ways and ideas has never been greater. We pray for openness of heart, mind and spirit, in order to find solutions to enable peace to descend and radical harmony to break out;

meanwhile, may the hungry be fed, the sick receive the care they need, and the grieving be comforted

**Open our hearts and minds,
O Lord – lead us forward together**

Lord Jesus, we pray for our own community, especially for any new neighbours who have come among us this week. May we welcome them with open hearts, minds and doors and encourage the contributions they bring.

**Open our hearts and minds,
O Lord – lead us forward together**

Lord Jesus, we pray for all who are sick in body, mind or spirit; for all who are without shelter, food, or other basic necessities of life; and we pray for all those who seek to help them, especially those who explore new ways to ensure better lives where all needs are met.

Guide and inspire them, Lord, in whatever field they work, to improve the lives of those in need.

**Open our hearts and minds,
O Lord – lead us forward together**

Lord Jesus, with knife crime dominating the headlines again this week, we pray for all who have been personally affected; please comfort the grieving and heal the injured, and give strength to those whose professions bring them into contact with its consequences. We pray, too, for those who work to change hearts and minds, so that the lives of many may be changed for the better, and many lives may be saved.

**Let knives be laid down, O Lord;
let lives be changed, and saved.**

**Open ALL hearts and minds,
O Lord – lead us forward together. Amen**