



# ***ST MARGARET'S CHURCH, WEST HOATHLY***

*Praying for the children,  
youth, and young families  
of our community*



*"To do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with our God." (Micah 6.8)*

*This prayer card was composed and created in 2021, by Reverend Nicol Kinrade (Priest-in-Charge from 2018- 2022)  
and members of the St Margaret's Church Family.*

*“Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them,  
for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these’.” Matthew 19.14*

We believe that children and young people are gifts from God, who remind us that God’s power in this world is the power of vulnerability. They remind us that there is an unpredictable, sometimes energetic, sometimes still side to our Creator. Children and young people show us – if we have eyes to see it – what it looks like to love God with depth and spontaneity, with authenticity and wholeheartedness.

Children also remind us of the wonder of the Incarnation. God chose to send Jesus to us as the Word made flesh, beginning life as we all do, as a child.

God values children not only for what they will become in the future but for who they are today. Jesus even recommended to His disciples that to understand God’s Kingdom, they needed to observe, learn from, and imitate young children.

We invite you to consider what our society would be like if reaching the children, youth, and families of the community we are called to serve, became one of our major priorities as a church.

We suggest that you could use one or more of these prayers in your regular time with God. Through them we encourage you to strengthen and enhance the good work that has already begun at St Margaret’s, asking God for His guidance, and allowing the Holy Spirit to work through us all - in all that we say, all that we do and all that we are.

May God bless you in this vital ministry of prayer.

**Prayers for the children, youth and young families of our community.**

*“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25.40*

***A prayer of thanksgiving for the gift of children***

Lord of life,  
you shape us in your image,  
and by your gracious gift the human family is increased.  
Thank you for the blessing of children to the young families of our community.  
Fill them with wisdom and love as they care for their family,  
so that they and their children  
may know and love you;  
through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

***A prayer for the welfare of children.***

Loving God,  
your Son told his disciples to become like little children.  
Lead us to work for the welfare and protection of all young people.  
May we respect their dignity  
that they may flourish in life,  
following the example of the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

***Prayers for family life***

God of compassion,  
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,  
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,  
and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself:  
strengthen us in our daily living  
that in joy and in sorrow  
we may know the power of your presence  
to bind together and to heal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Amen*

Gracious God,  
Guide us to fulfil in our lives your command of love.  
Shield from harm the children of our community, giving love and wisdom to their  
parents and all who care for them.  
In Jesus' name we pray.  
*Amen*

**Prayers for our Pre-school, Village School and the Secondary Schools  
of the towns of our neighbourhood.**

*“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it.”*  
***Proverbs 22.6***

Heavenly Father,  
You are a God who delights in truth.  
Instil in all those who teach and learn in the schools of our parish  
and of our neighbouring towns and villages,  
a love of what is good and true.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ.  
*Amen*

Heavenly Father,  
thank you for providing people with strong faith  
to reach the hearts of children as they seek direction and purpose.  
May children recognize Your power in their lives  
and choose to follow You as the first disciples did.  
We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ.  
*Amen*



**Prayers for us as a church in our mission to the children of our church family.**

*“We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach.” **Romans 12.6 –7***

Almighty God,

The leaders of our Sunday Club and Emmaus youth group have the ability to influence the direction in which a child grows.

We ask you to encourage them,

and equip them with the necessary tools and resources,

so that they can work alongside parents to provide the children with a strong foundation in faith.

Strengthen them with your Holy Spirit,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Amen*



Heavenly Father,

May we remember always, Lord, that you call us by name;

that you give vocations and ministries to each of us,

tailored to our unique mix of gifts

and shaped to help us grow in your love.

Inspire us to use these gifts and talents,

leading many to meet you, our Good Shepherd.

*Amen*

Loving, heavenly Father.

You call us so that through us your will might be done on earth.

You ask us, weak and imperfect as we are, to transform the world by love.

Send to each one of us, the gifts of wisdom, knowledge and discernment,

that we may be equipped to sustain your work in the support of the children, youth and young families of this parish and of our communities.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ.

*Amen*

Heavenly Father,

We seek your blessing on the communities we are called to serve,  
our homes and our friends.

We ask that you help us with our relationships,  
help us to make our strong ones stronger,  
our broken ones to be healed  
and our new ones to continue to grow.

Teach us to build up one another and serve the needs of all.

Lord, hear our prayer.

*Amen*

Almighty God,

Lord, inspire more leaders to step forward and teach the next generation  
how to lead and love others in Your name.

Strengthen and equip them to show Your love  
to the precious children in our church family  
and in this community we are called to serve.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ.

*Amen*





**The Lord's Prayer** is the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples, when they asked him how they should pray.

*Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.*

**Prayer of Saint Richard of Chichester**

*Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ,  
for all the benefits thou hast given me,  
for all the pains and insults thou hast borne for me.  
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,  
may I know thee more clearly,  
love thee more dearly,  
and follow thee more nearly, day by day.  
Amen.*





THE BENEFICE OF ALL SAINTS', HIGHBROOK AND ST MARGARET OF ANTIOCH, WEST HOATHLY



## CHURCH IS FOR KIDS TOO!

Children are welcome at all our services

**1ST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH  
10.30AM ALL AGES EUCHARIST**

A shorter, more informal service where we all stay together to worship God

**ALL OTHER SUNDAYS  
10.30AM SUNDAY CLUB AT HOLY COMMUNION**

Children aged 2-14 yrs are invited to a time of exploration, with Bible stories, crafts, singing and prayers, coming back together for a blessing



*St Margaret's Church*

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*For more information about the life of St Margaret's Church, see*

<http://westhoathly.org.uk/>



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*With gratitude to members of the church family and community for the photographs used in this prayer card, to Derek and Lindsay Shurvell for the original inspiration for its creation, and to the Church of England, Worldvision.org and Bill Braviner, (the then Archdeacon of Halifax) for many of the prayers.*