

The Gate of the Year, Minnie Louise Haskins

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

“Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.”

And he replied:

“Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.” So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.”

Ask God’s strength through this difficult time. Pray for your family and friends, and a prayer (please) for me and the church. This is Cardinal Newman’s prayer:

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troublous life, until the shades lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work done. Then, Lord, in your mercy grant us safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Ask God’s blessing

May God give us and all his children, his comfort and his peace, his light and his joy, in this world and the next; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with me and remain with us always. Amen.

If we can help in any way, please do not hesitate to contact
The Vicar - The Reverend Peter Barham - 01332 551404
Administrator - Caroline Audley - 01332 552031
www.stedsandstmatts.co.uk

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and St Matthew, Darley Abbey



All Souls’ prayers - as we remember those who have died

Find somewhere warm and comfortable. Put the mobile phone on silent. Have some tissues handy, and the kettle boiled. You might like to have a candle ready to light (be careful). If you’re like me, you’ll struggle to find matches! You might want to listen to a piece of music - either something you enjoyed together, or perhaps a piece by John Rutter (you can find his lovely setting of All things bright and beautiful on youtube).

Ask God's peace, and slowly say The Lord's Prayer

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.

The Psalms were written about 3,000 years ago, but speak us to today. Say **Psalm 121**

I lift up my eyes to the hills:
but where shall I find help?

**My help comes from the Lord:
who has made heaven and earth.**

He will not suffer your foot to stumble:
and he who watches over you will not sleep.

**Be sure he who has charge of Israel:
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

The Lord himself is your keeper:
the Lord is your defence upon your right hand;

**the sun shall not strike you by day:
nor shall the moon by night.**

The Lord will defend you from all evil:
it is he who will guard your life.

**The Lord will defend your going out and your coming in:
from this time forward for evermore.**

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever.
Amen.*

Jesus spoke to his followers and assured them of God's love -
Matthew 6.25-34

Jesus said: 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you - you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 'So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

Remember your special person and **Light a candle.** Thank God for the years you shared together, the good times, and the love. Smile and remember. Look back, and look forward. I love the image in this poem:

