



### Butterflies

Help us, Lord, to notice and treasure and nurture what we still have, and to take account of what we have lost or are losing. Give us a sense of responsibility rather than a sense of helplessness, as we realise that a new generation may never see what we once took for granted. Our Victorian predecessors saw and admired, and killed and collected. May we do the better thing of enabling what we admire to flourish, knowing that only so will we flourish. Amen.

Garden and window box stewardship

Church grounds stewardship

Public spaces stewardship

Policy and practice campaigning

## *Churches Together in Shirley: June Prayers Tuesday June 7th 7 30 p.m.*

### *Psalm 131 (Message)*

*God, I'm not trying to rule the roost,  
I don't want to be king of the mountain.  
I haven't meddled where I have no business  
Or fantasised grandiose plans.  
I've kept my feet on the ground.  
I've cultivated a quiet heart,  
Like a baby content in its mother's arms,  
My soul is a baby content.  
Wait, Israel, for God. Wait with hope.  
Hope now; hope always!*

### Prayers

For our ability to walk humbly with our God, and with each other

For our willingness both to challenge how things are;  
and to recognise reality

For the right sort of patience, which doesn't allow us to put up indefinitely  
with the wholly unacceptable

For trust and hope that are active, not just passive

For the ability to be grown-up AND child-like



### **Dedication of a Baby/ Naming of a Child/ Infant Baptism**

We pray, Lord, for all our different ways of welcoming a child as a Child of God, and of supporting parents and other significant adults in a child's life, and of enabling growth of very young children within the Christian community. We pray for wisdom in discussing whether children are born without sin, with sin, with a disposition to sin, or trailing bright beams of glory. We pray for our individual and collective ability to live out the notion of a Christian Family in which "children" of all ages are valued. We pray for our ability to support both "traditional" families and families that are differently based. Lord give us wisdom, humility, gentleness, and the ability to learn from those we seek to support. Amen.

Parent and Baby Groups

All Age Services

Membership preparation and arrangements

Literature (including Bible stories) for parents and children

Messy Church



### **Fellowship Meals**

We thank you, Lord, for the variety of ways in which eating and drinking together has, down the centuries, signified Christian fellowship. We also acknowledge how, down the centuries, the sharing of a cup and a loaf have marked divisions within and between faith communities in general and Christian Communities in particular. We ask for wisdom to discern ways forward that enable greater sharing of activity and of understanding—not least in relation to the Blessed Sacrament of Unity which is at the heart of Christianity for many, but not all, Christians. Give us the wisdom and humility to learn from each other, that in the fullness of time we may indeed be One, even as You are One. Amen.

Development of Open Table theology within and between churches, while respecting different traditions

The traditions in some other faith groups of feeding the hungry, with no barriers and no questions

Sensitivity to the important issues of allergies, personal rules, and cultural and personal preferences