Prayer for Young People

**(revised 2023)**

**We pray for young people who:**Strop out for no reasonNever tidy up

Can never find anything they are looking fo

Use parents as a taxi service

Spend hours in the shower

**We pray for young people who:**

Recoil when kissed by a parent

Need to be assured they are loved

Are devastated by family break ups

Spend weekends with one or other parent

Struggle to call anywhere home

**We pray for young people who:**

Hug acquaintances they’ve only just met

Pass around vapes spreading endless germs

Sofa surf because it is safer than going home

Use substances to forget

Long to be loved by someone special

**We pray for young people who:**

End every text with an emoji

Binge on Netflix, boxsets and YouTube

View things on Tik-Tok we’d rather they didn’t

Prefer a virtual world, to hanging out with friends

Get bullied in secret online

**We pray for young people who:**

Long to be called by their pronouns

Struggle with self-worth and identity

Dress to fit in instead of for comfort

Long to be someone other than themself

Wish they were not here

**We pray for young people who:**

Live in homes that choose to eat or heat

Don’t receive gifts on birthdays

Never go on holiday

Share rooms with countless other siblings

Cry themselves to sleep every night

**We pray for young people who:**

Struggle with the process of growing up

Long for the innocence of childhood to return

Experiment with things that destroy lives

Go from one unhealthy relationship to another

Harm themself to feel better

**We pray for young people who:**

Are displaced by conflict

Pay for their lives in small boats

See things no child should ever see

Are harassed for the colour of their skin

Are exploited for the gratification of others

**We pray for young people who:**

Get a second chance as well as those who don’t

Far exceed expectations

Achieve more than ever imagined

Fulfil their dreams

Simply make us smile

**We pray for young people who:**

Give a year to serve others

Care for sick parents

Make a difference in their community

Are fighting to save the planet

Campaign for justice and fairness

**We pray for young people who:**

Will make the world a better place

Will transform unjust structures

Use their voice, gifts and skills for good

Become all they are capable of being

Be the young person God intended them to be