**Saturday 23rd May**

Matthew 6: 9

‘This, then, is how you should pray:

‘“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,

As well as calling God our Father, Jesus also teaches us that He is Holy – Hallowed means set apart, transcendent, perfect in all of His ways. God is so much greater and more awesome than we can imagine. This too gives us a confidence as we pray. We come to Him knowing that he is supremely good, and mighty in power. The Father-heart of God and his holiness are just two facets of His infinite character. We are praying that the Lord would be recognised for who He is – that His name would be treated with reverence and love. This opening line is an expression of worship – lifting high the name of the Lord. Worship is a great place to start in prayer. By beginning with getting the rightful things in their rightful place, everything else falls into perspective. God doesn’t want us to worship Him because He needs it, or He’s some sort of egomaniac, but rather because in doing so, we are doing what we were created to do and we are recognising His rightful rule and reign. CS Lewis once said that praise is ‘inner health made audible’. We become healthy on the inside when we a living in line with what we were made for.

*Lord we give you worship and praise today. As we think of your holiness, we stand in awe and wonder. You are worthy of every true expression of worship. We exalt your name. Lord, our words are insufficient for all that we want to say to you. Thank you that you are so good, and so powerful and that we can come to you in confidence when we pray, knowing that through Jesus we are made right with you and can draw near. Today we lift our nation to you again. We pray that your name would be hallowed in our homes and in our nation. We pray for your help – for your wisdom and grace and we continue to progress through lockdown and towards a new future. In Jesus name. Amen*

