**Daily Prayer and Encouragement for Friday 1st January 2021 –** Gary Tyler

Two hundred and twenty years ago today, on the 1st January 1801, the Kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland became one United Kingdom when the Act of Union came into effect. Interestingly, Article VI of the Act created a customs union between Great Britain and Ireland. Two hundred and twenty years later, the single market is still a hot topic!

Reading newspapers and listening to the news, it is easy to be overwhelmed with bad news. I can't think of a better start to the New Year than to remind ourselves of the **Good News**: God loves us. He sent His Son Jesus to save us and has called us into His family to go and share the news with everyone. What a privilege!

Article V of the Act of Union joined together the churches of Ireland and England. As we start this New Year, let us consider that, as followers of Jesus, we are joined into the largest family in the world – the worldwide church. Across the earth, as we pray together the Lord's Prayer, we are praying for His Kingdom, not just in Ferndown but everywhere.

The words below may not be familiar, but the Message translation of the Lord's Prayer gives a fresh perspective and focus for 2021. From Matthew 6:7-13, let us pray together:

**Our Father in heaven,**

**Reveal who you are.**

**Set the world right;**

**Do what's best -**

**as above, so below.**

**Keep us alive with three square meals.**

**Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others.**

**Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil.**

**You're in charge!**

**You can do anything you want!**

**You're ablaze in beauty!**

**Yes. Yes. Yes.**

AMEN