Tomorrow, Thursday 27th April, is the day the shortlisting panel for the post of our next rector meets. The churchwardens asked Alan Stanley to write a prayer that can be used across the benefice tomorrow. They hope that, if at all possible, you will be able to pause at 1pm, which is when the panel meets, to pray the prayer. If you are able to pray with others, Ros Loach will be holding a time of prayer in St Philip’s, Scholes from 1pm to 2pm and she would love you to join her.

*Come, gracious Spirit, heavenly Dove,*

*with light and comfort from above;*

*be thou our guardian, thou our guide,*

*o’er every thought and step preside.*

Simon Brown, hymn writer (1680-1732)

Gracious God, wise and caring Father in heaven,

Today I pray for those who are deciding which of the applicants for the post of rector here to invite for an interview. Give to them the gift of your Holy Spirit to bring light to their minds and guidance to their deliberations.

Please guard and guide every thought and every word spoken. Preside over their meeting so that they will have confidence that the decisions they make today are in accordance with your will.

Help them to see the person behind the written application. Give them the humility to listen to the others on the panel and the confidence to speak from their own convictions. Where there is risk, let them find opportunity; where there is uncertainty, let them find possibility; and where there is clarity, let them rejoice.

Come, gracious Spirit, heavenly Dove,

with light and comfort from above;

be thou the panel members guardian, thou their guide,

o’er their every thought and step preside.

Amen

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