Prayers at times of ordination and induction

Loving, strengthening God,

through your church you call people into positions of leadership

and to care for you people.

Such a task loving God

can be filled with joy one moment

and frustration the next. So today we pray for those

# Prayer for Elders and their pastoral care responsibilities

you have called to be Elders in this church thinking especially of the task of pastoral care of your people here.

Give to those you have called the strength and the wisdom to care for your people.

Lord, it is not always doing it themselves, but about being part of a team

sharing with the whole congregation making sure that this your church, cares for its people

physically, mentally and spiritually,

ensuring that it is not only the few who are cared for but all. Loving God, may those you have called,

find their faith and trust in you strengthened and their vision of your Kingdom enlarged.

*All* **Amen.**

David Coote

# Hymn: O Shepherd-God

O Shepherd-God, your people knew your presence on their way –

its sign, a fire to guard by night, a cloud to guide by day;

their goal, a distant promised land, a home where they’d belong,

a place of peace, of hopes fulfilled, their song, your freedom-song.

In later years your people learned to trust a shepherd-king; to value in their prophets, too, the wisdom shepherds bring;

and Jesus, the good shepherd, called on burdened souls to come; he sought the wayward, healed the sick, and led his followers home.

So many in our world today have nowhere they belong,

like sheep without a shepherd, lost, like singers with no song;

their minds and spirits sorely lack a hope that satisfies,

that wholesome Bread, the Word of Life, the peace true faith supplies.

Lord Christ, we’re called to feed your lambs, restore the sheep that stray, to learn the wisdom shepherds need for this, your work today;

your cross, the sign of selfless love, will light the way ahead;

we’ll serve with joy the God who raised our Shepherd from the dead.

*Tune: Ladywell* Metre 8686D Basil Bridge