

## HT INTERCESSIONS

Sunday 29 May 2011

*“Love one another with mutual affection.  
Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.”*

**Heavenly Father**, we pray for the church worldwide, which is *united* in the greatness of *your* love, but *divided* by the smallness of *our own*. Help us to be less occupied with the things that divide us, and more with those things which unite us.

Lord, bless John and Colin our bishops, Toby, Elizabeth, and Sally, our priests, and all our spiritual leaders. Grant to them, and the members of their councils, wisdom and patience, as they *too*, seek to heal the disunity, and to bear witness in the community.

*“Draw your church together, O God,  
Into one great company of disciples.”*

**Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.**

**Heavenly Father**, help us to understand, that the kingdom of God is here, now, and in our hearts. Help us to *feel* it, help us to *show* it to those we meet day by day? Help us to *act it out* in our daily lives, so that it is not just a once-a-week duty here on Sunday?

We pray that those acts of witness - the Team Parish, the Acorns, Witney Churches Together, The Street Pastors, and all the events organised by the churches of all denominations in the community, will strengthen the unity of your kingdom.

Help each one of us to *question* our faith, and our witness, and to ask ourselves, how they could be extended, both personally and collectively.

*“Thy kingdom come O God, Thy rule on earth begin.”*

**Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.**

**Heavenly Father**, we pray for the unity of *families*; for those *preparing* for marriage, and for those recently *united* in marriage; for parents, and for parents-to-be; for their children, and for those preparing for baptism. Particularly today we ask for your blessing on baby Felicity Wright, born on Monday, and on her parents, Sally and Toby. And we ask for your unifying Holy Spirit, to heal the families that have broken down, where partners fight, and children are neglected.

*“Jesus said, ‘Suffer little children to come unto Me’.”*

**Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.**

**Heavenly Father**, support our politicians as they seek to lead our nation. May they act in a true spirit of honesty and openness, for the benefit of all. But *we* also need patience and restraint, as we try to understand the implications of their decisions, lest we come to misinformed and selfish conclusions. Grant to *them*, and to *us*, a true spirit of dialogue and diplomacy.

We ask you to bless President Obama, and leaders of the united Countries of the European Community, may their discussions this week, prove to have been of lasting benefit to all their peoples. We pray also for positive outcomes from the G8 summit, and for progress towards stability, between Israel and Palestine, in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Libya, and the other democracy seeking Arab countries of North Africa, and all the troubled countries of your World.

*“**Heavenly Father**, we come to you as children. Be with us as we learn to see one another with new eyes, hear one another with new hearts, and treat one another in new ways.”*

**Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.**

**Heavenly Father**, our hearts go out to those caught up in the latest natural disasters around the world; the storm damage in Scotland, the volcanic eruption in Iceland, and the tornados in Missouri and Oklahoma. Be with them in their time of need. And let us not forget those, no longer seen on our screens, but still in desperate need, in Haiti, Australia, New Zealand and Japan.

We pray for those in our *own* community who are sick, sad, lonely, or distressed; and for those who support them, carers, medical teams and social workers, the charities and the aid agencies. Grant to us all, the love that *gives*, without expectation of a response or a reward.

Today we remember Derek, Joy Jones, Jonathan Keane, Martin, Don Lawes, Amanda Harvey, Joyce Townsend, Violet Haukozi, Philip Best, Simon Brayton, Tim Maddell and Helen Fletcher.

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*“Heavenly Father, protect those whom we love, but who are separated from us. Guide them when they are uncertain, comfort them when they are lonely or afraid, and bless them with the warmth of your presence. We thank you that neither space, nor time, can cut us off from the love we have for each other, and for you.”*

**Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.**

**Heavenly Father**, as we anticipate your *glorious* ascension into heaven, we pray for the dead, for those risen with you to new life, and for the unity of the souls of the departed. We ask for your comforting Holy Spirit, to envelop all those left behind, who remember their *earthly* unity, and mourn.

At this time we pray especially for the souls of Jim Moody and Len Rudman, ..... and for *all* our departed loved ones.

We ask that the memory of those brave young people, who have fought and died for the freedom of this Country, may never dim.

*“Send on us, the blessing of your wisdom,  
The patience of your strength,  
And the life of your spirit.  
We ask this in the name of your Son,  
Our Lord and Saviour,  
Jesus, the Christ.”*

**Merciful Father,  
Accept these prayers,  
For the sake of your Son,  
Our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**

