

## INTERCESSIONS

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2011

**Heavenly Father**, we believe that you hear our prayers, and will be faithful to your promise to answer them.

Bless, we pray you, Queen Elizabeth, the supreme Governor of this Church of England. Bless our archbishops and bishops, our clergy, their assistants, and us, as members of their congregations. Forgive us *all* our fears, our anxieties, our prejudices, and our misunderstandings. Strengthen our common bonds, and deepen our resolve to promote the *unity* of your church. May we learn to be less occupied with the things that divide us, and more with those, which we hold in common.

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

**Heavenly Father**, you have included *all* your commandments, in the one commandment, that we should love our neighbours as ourselves, so that, if we love *not* our neighbour, we cannot fulfil your law. Help us to interpret your law of love, in the context of our daily lives.

At this time of Party Conferences and International Gatherings, we ask for your love, to shine into the hearts of our leaders, and all those in authority, at whatever level; that their actions may demonstrate a love of your world, and its finite resources, and a love for the people entrusted to their charge. Soften the hearts of the oppressors, in the countries of the Middle East and North Africa, and be with those, who are risking their lives, fighting for their freedom, from that oppression.

And as we watch their unfolding struggle on our screens, grant us a spirit of understanding, of tolerance, and of empathy, with those on *both* sides of the conflicts.

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

**Heavenly Father**, we pray that your love may be felt by people in their darkest hours. We think of the families and friends of those caught up in the many wars be waged around your world; the lonely, the disturbed;

the bereaved; the oppressed; those displaced from their homes and lands; the hungry and thirsty; the sick in mind, body and spirit; prisoners of conscience; and the victims of earthquakes, tornadoes, fire, famine, and flood.

We remember too, the charities, the aid agencies, and the medical teams, who seek to bring them relief and support. Help *us, too*, to remember at this time of financial restraint, that without *our* support, *they* cannot carry out their humanitarian work.

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

**Heavenly Father**, we ask you to pour out your love on *our* families and friends, here and abroad, and on the members of our community: those individuals and families, who are affected by the current financial problems, for those who have lost their jobs, or cannot find work, and students and their families, faced with loans and debts. We pray for the members of our local Council, who have to balance their finances, and manage our services, grant them wisdom and patience, and a willingness to listen to those they represent. We remember; think about; and pray for all our neighbours who are in any way distressed: particularly  
Alan Homer (priest), \_\_\_\_\_ -

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Grant to them all, alleviation of their suffering, peace of mind, and an understanding of your love for them.

**Heavenly Father**, we give thanks at this time for the life and witness of Geoffrey Edwards, and we commend into your loving keeping, the souls of \_\_\_\_\_  
and all who have recently died, whether or not they knew your love in their *Earthly* lives. Grant to their eternal spirits, your light, your peace and your love; and comfort and strengthen those who are left behind to mourn their passing.

And as we keep a moment of silence, we remember those known to us personally, who need *our* prayers, *our* support, and *your* love.

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

**Heavenly Father**, as the colours of autumn unfold once again, help us today and every day, to realise that you are *with* us, and *speaking* to us through the *events* of the day, through *people*, through *things*, and through *all* your creation. Give us eyes, ears and hearts, to perceive you, however veiled your presence may be.  
Grant us your Spirit of discernment.

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