

**HT Intercessions**  
**05<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

**Heavenly Father**, we bring our prayers and petitions before you, in the sure faith, that you will hear them, and answer them.

We pray for the continuing witness, of the many Christian communities around the world, and in particular for this Church of England. Strengthen and guide our Archbishops, our Bishops, our team clergy, and all the people who support them. In the power of the Holy Spirit, may they seek to unite a deeply divided church; whilst accepting that every one of us, seeks You in their own way.

*“Lord, look in mercy on your church, lest we, who know you well, shut out those who are different, difficult or demanding.”*

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

**Heavenly Father**, we pray for Queen Elizabeth, for her peers and ministers in both Houses of her Parliament, and for all those who administer our *local* governments. We ask that those who have elected responsibility, at international, national, and local level, will put aside personal ambition, and concentrate their wills for the good of all.

*“Lord, grant them regard for your laws, and respect for human rights, that they may lead us in the paths of truth, freedom and peace.”*

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

**Heavenly Father**, as we watch our television screens, and read our newspapers in comfort, help us to realise the true horrors that are being perpetrated by the *few*, but felt by the very *many*. We pray for the victims of crime, the families and friends of the assaulted, and for the *perpetrators* of the crimes. They are *all* your children, created in *your* image. Grant them *all* an understanding of your forgiving love.

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

**Heavenly Father**, we continue to pray for all those people around your world, who are caught up in political and territorial violence, and we pray for our security and armed forces, and for their families:

We think of the conflicts:

between Jew and Arab,  
between Christian and Muslim,  
between Shi'ites and Sunnies,  
between Israel and Palestine,  
between India and Pakistan,  
between the oppressor and the oppressed everywhere.

And the problems in Afghanistan, Syria, Iran and the countries of the Arab Spring.

May your atoning love triumph, and may people learn to live in peace with their neighbours.

Grant wisdom to delegates at the United Nations; and pour your Holy Spirit on the work of the aid agencies, and the medical teams, dedicated to support, and the alleviation of suffering.

*“Lord, it is your will, to hold heaven and earth in a single peace.  
Grant peace in our lands, our homes and our hearts.”*

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

**Heavenly Father**, we ask you to bless *our* homes, *our* families, *our* neighbours, and *our* communities.

Grant us patience, tolerance, and understanding of the needs of others: the cold and isolated, the sick and suffering, the elderly, the dependent, the mentally disturbed, the frightened and the despairing, the dis-eased, the dis-abled, and the dying.

Particularly today, we pray for: Joy Jones, Simon Brayton,  
Tim Maddrell, Des Kelly, Prue Carpenter and Don Laws.

*“Lord, surround the frightened with your tenderness, give strength to those in pain, hold the weak in your arms, and grant hope and peace to those recovering.”*

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

**Heavenly Father**, we pray for the souls of the departed, whether or not they knew your love in their earthly lives. (Particularly today we pray for .....)

*“Lord, you will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain, **any** more.”*

**Heavenly Father**, we pray most earnestly for inner personal peace. Jesus commanded us to, *“love one another.”* Before we can truly love others, we need to learn to love ourselves, as we are, with all our imperfections and shortcomings, our desires and our longings. Calm the troubled minds, which lead inevitably to dis-eased bodies.

*“Lord, give us **faith**, to go out with a good courage, not knowing where we are going; only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us.”*

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

**Amen**

