

**HT INTERCESSIONS**  
**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2013**

*“O Lord hear our prayers, and let our cries come unto thee.”*

**Heavenly Father**, we pray for your *church* worldwide, which is the communion of all Christian people, not their buildings. A communion which is *one* 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 grant us increased tolerance, a deeper understanding, and a genuine unity, with all our neighbours in Christ.

Bless John and Colin our bishops, and Toby, Elizabeth, and Alistair, our clergy, and their assistants. Grant to them all, and the members of their councils, wisdom and patience, as they *too*, seek to heal the disunity, and to bear witness in the community.

*“Lord, through our lives, and by our prayers, your kingdom come.”*

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

**Heavenly Father**, help us to understand, that the kingdom of God is here, now, 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, for example the supporters of the Team Parish, the Acorns, The Sunday Schools, the Choirs & Organists, Witney Churches Together, and The Street Pastors, will all strengthen the unity of your Kingdom.

Help each one of us to *question*, and *to* grow in our faith, and in our witness, and to see how they might 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 recently united in marriage; for parents and children preparing for baptism. We ask for your unifying Holy Spirit, to heal the families that have broken down, where partners fight, and children are abused or neglected. At this holiday season, bless those away from home, seeking rest and refreshment.

Guide our politicians as they seek ways, to create and sustain a financial recovery, and to support the needy and vulnerable in our society. Lord grant *us, too*, patience and restraint, as we come to understand the implications of any agenda.

Calm the troubles in Gibraltar, Northern Ireland, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Syria, Pakistan, and wherever there is tension and unrest.

We ask you to bless the leaders of the countries, who try to work together through the United Nations, The Arab League, and all the other organisations dedicated to peace, and a new world order. May they be a positive example, to despots, rogue states and totalitarian regimes.

*“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**, we pray for those in our community who are sick, sad, lonely, and distressed; and for those who support them. Grant to us all, the love that gives, without expectation of a response or a reward.

Today we remember Joy Jones, Liz Hodges, Martin, Muriel Greenway, Millie Moran, Angela Pady, Tony Eggington, Don Lawes, Harriet, Zac Durkin, Joan Potter and Jean Crane.....

*“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 in each other, and in you.”*

**Heavenly Father**, we pray for the dead, for the unity of the souls of the departed; and for those who remember their *earthly* unity, and mourn.  
(At this time we pray for the soul of .....)

Now let us bring our own silent prayers before God.

*“Father, send on us the blessing of your wisdom,  
The patience of your strength, and the life of your spirit.”*

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