

HT INTERCESSIONS
Advent 1 1st December 2013

Almighty God, the day draws near, when the glory of your Son, will make radiant, the night of the waiting world.

Heavenly Father, at the commencement of this new Church's year, and as we wait with increased anticipation for the birth of our Saviour, strengthen and guide our Archbishop, our Bishops, our Archdeacon and our clergy. Bless the ministries of our priests; particularly we ask your Holy Spirit to guide and support Toby, as he assumes the mantle of Area Dean today. Bless Elizabeth, Sally and Alister, and all those ordained and lay people, who support them in their work. Grant to them all, wisdom and patience, tolerance and understanding, as they seek to reunite the dissenters, to work with other churches, and to spread the Good News of Christ's coming, throughout the community.

"Lord, bestow on them, the blessing of your wisdom, the patience of your strength, and the life of your spirit."

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

Heavenly Father, at this Advent-tide, help *us*, as seekers after your truth, to use this time of waiting, and looking forward, to assess our *own* lives. We all fall short of your example in Jesus, by petty jealousies, by gossip and dissension, by meanness and ignorance of the facts, and by misuse of power, all of which are against Jesus' commandment, to "*Love one another*".

Help us Lord, to exercise your love, in all our dealings with our neighbours. Help us to find the *good*, that is within each one of us, and to *build* that.

"Forgive us, O Lord, wherein we have wasted our time, or misused our gifts. Forgive us, wherein we have excused our own wrong-doing, or evaded our responsibilities.

Forgive us, that we have been unwilling to overcome evil with good.

Forgive us, wherein we have cherished the things that divide us from others.

And forgive us Lord, wherein we have been thoughtless in our judgements, hasty in condemnation, and grudging in forgiveness."

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

Heavenly Father, at this Advent-tide, when the commercial world is determined to plunge us deeper into debt, we pray for those, who are affected by the World's economic problems, the unemployed, the destitute, and those carrying crippling debts and cannot see a way out.

Draw our attention afresh, to the plight, of a *third* of this World's people, who live below subsistence level.

Help us to understand why so many of those people, are prepared to risk their lives to reach the prosperous West. Lord, teach us tolerance and understanding. We think of the ordinary people in war-torn countries, and those parts of the world affected by natural disasters; those who have lost their homes and livelihoods; those who live in terror of oppressive regimes. We pray for the victims of natural disasters; and those involved in recent horrific accidents, particularly at this time, for those in Glasgow, China, Latvia, Mozambique and Brazil.

We remember the plight of the people of the Philippines and Syria, Afghanistan and Libya, Pakistan and Egypt.

Help us too, to appreciate the strength of the faith, of the 100 million Christians around the world, who are persecuted *daily* for what they believe.

Bless and guide the rulers of the nations, and all in authority at all levels. Bless the deliberations of the world's leaders as they try to agree a settlement with Iran. Direct them in the ways of justice, of truth, and of reconciliation, that we may *all* learn to honour one another, and to seek the common good.

“Heavenly Father, may the lure of greed, not impede us from that joy, which moves the hearts of those who await the coming of your Son. May the darkness not blind us to the vision of wisdom, which fills the minds of those who find Him.”

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

Heavenly Father, at this Advent-tide, we pray for your blessing on the members of *our* families, wherever they may be around the world; on our friends, on our neighbours, and on this congregation. May this time be healthy, refreshing, exciting, uniting and *re*-uniting.

Be with those, for whom this is *not* a happy time; those who will inevitably remember past sorrows, family break downs, or bereavements. Help them to remember the good and positive aspects of their lives, and grant them peace of mind, and a knowledge of your love for them.

Heavenly Father, at this Advent-tide, we pray for your healing spirit, to fall on those who are in any way dis-eased, whether in body, or mind or spirit; Particularly today, we pray for the injured in the Glasgow crash: for Joy Jones, Martin, Muriel Greenway, Don Laws, Zac Durkin, Seb, Win Carr, Alison Potter, Barbara Williams, and for all those known to us personally, who need *our* prayers, *our* support, and *your* blessing.

Heavenly Father, grant final peace to those who have died. Particularly today, we pray for Ewart Chitty; and for those who *died* in the Glasgow crash. May their souls rest in peace, *and rise in glory*.
And grant peace to those left behind, who mourn for a loved one, but rejoice for a life.

(Silence)

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

At this beginning of Advent, let us re-dedicate ourselves afresh, to the unification of the Kingdom of God here on Earth, and its witness to the people in this community.

*“Heavenly Father, we pray that when your Son, our Lord comes,
He may find us prepared, and ready to receive Him.”*

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