

## HT INTERCESSIONS

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2014

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

**Heavenly Father**, we pray for your church worldwide, which is *united* in the greatness of *your* love, but *divided* by the smallness of *our own*, and as we celebrate 20 years of ordained women priests, help us to be less occupied with the things that divide us, and more with those which unite us.

Lord, bless John and Colin our bishops, Toby, Sally, and Alistair our priests, and all our spiritual leaders. We ask you to bless Neil as he prepares to join us as Team Vicar next month. Grant to them all, and to the members of their councils, wisdom and patience, as they 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 gathering here on Sunday?

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

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

**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, lest we come to misinformed and selfish conclusions. Guide us as we prepare to cast our votes in the forthcoming elections.

We ask you to bless the leaders of the Countries seeking peaceful solutions to the world's problems, may their discussions and decisions prove to be of lasting benefit to all their peoples. We think particularly of those caught up in the disputes, between Russia and the Ukraine, and between Israel and Palestine, and the continuing unrest in Syria and Afghanistan.

*“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 lasting personal problems caused by the winter's storms; those who lost loved ones, in the Malaysian Air crash, the sinking of the South Korean ferry, and the families of the 200 girls abducted in Nigeria. Support them all in their time of need.

We pray for those in our *own* community who are sick, sad, lonely, or distressed; and for those who are there for them.

Today we remember Joy Jones, Martin, Muriel Greenway, Zac Durkin, Seb, Alison Potter, Tony, Kate, Brian Hole, Eric Jamieson, and Alf Knowles.

*“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.*

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

**Heavenly Father**, as we anticipate Christ's *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 Father, we pray especially for the soul of Lionel Revell who died two years ago, for the five victims of the fire in Sheffield, for the teacher stabbed to death at the school in Leeds, for those buried in the Afghanistan landslide, and for *all* our departed loved ones.

Be with Jill and her family, and all those who mourn the loss of their loved ones. And we pray that the memory of those brave young people, who have fought and died for our freedom in all conflicts, may never dim.

*“Lord, pour down on us all, 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**