

HT INTERCESSIONS

Sunday 29th May 2016

Let us keep a moment of silence, as we focus our thoughts on the problems of the World, our Country, our community, and our families.

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. Bless and guide Elizabeth, our Queen and Governor, as she celebrates 64 years on the throne this week.

Bless Bishop Colin, as he shoulders the responsibilities of the diocese; Steven, our Bishop nominate, as he prepares for his work amongst us, and our Archdeacon Judy. Bless too, our clergy; and in their 150th year, the work of the Licenced Lay Ministry. Grant to them all, and to the members of their councils, wisdom and patience, as they seek to heal the disunity, to nurture our faith, 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 comprehend, 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, Christian Aid, and all the events organised by the churches of all denominations - will strengthen the unity of your kingdom, and spread the Good News.

“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; and our councillors, whose responsibilities are to provide our local services. May they all 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, blaming anyone but ourselves. Guide us as we prepare to cast our votes in the forthcoming Referendum. Save us from selfish short-term decisions, and help to listen and debate, what is in the best interest of the individual, the community and the Country, our children and our children's children.

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 many stand-offs, disputes, conflicts and wars. We see and hear about them, daily reported in the media; people displaced from their homes and lands, those who have lost family members, those who are starving, those who are being used and abused; the numbers involved are beyond our comprehension.

“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 disasters around the world; the families and friends of those missing after the disappearance of the Egyptair aircraft, and the victims of fires and floods and earthquakes. Support them all in their time of need.

We pray for the 4 million people in *this* Country, who are in poverty; those in our *own* community who are unemployed, depressed, addicted, disturbed, sick, sad, lonely, in pain, or dying. And we ask for your blessing, to strengthen the resolve, of those individuals and organisations, who are there to help and support them, the Street Pastors, the Food Banks, carers and charities... Show us how *we* can do *our* bit, by more generous donations of time, talents, food and money.

Today particularly, we remember our own: Tony Eggington

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And we pray for the souls of Joan Potter and Hilda
recently died, and of the victims of the air disaster, and the drowned
migrants. Be with those who mourn, in their particular time of need.

*“Heavenly Father, protect all those we love. 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, we pray for ourselves, with all our concerns and
problems, our fears and anxieties. As we pray, here and *now*, help us to
feel your loving and supporting arms, enfolding and uplifting us. Help us
to live in the present moment, putting aside past problems and future
fears.

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

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