

**HT Intercessions**  
**3rd July 2016**

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

At this troubling time for the status of our nation, grant to us all, despite our personal feelings, a spirit of patience and tolerance, of understanding and unselfishness, as we learn to work together for a re-United Kingdom. Help us to put aside our prejudices, and backward looking, and to work together for the good of all.

Guide our politicians, and heal their divisions. Give wisdom and guidance to all those whose responsibility it will be to forge new relationships with the countries of Europe, and around the world.

*“Lord, grant that we may solve our problems effectively, enhance the well-being of our nation, and achieve together a fairer and more unified society.”*

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

**Heavenly Father**, we pray for the continuing witness, of the many Christian communities in our Country, and in particular for this Church of England. Strengthen and guide our Archbishops, our Bishops, and our own team clergy. Bless Paul, Simon and Joy, who are being ordained this weekend. Pour the gift of your Holy Spirit into all their lives, as they strive to spread the Good News of Jesus, to work for unity in your Church, and to support the needy in the community.

*“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**, 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 think of the outrages perpetrated at Istanbul airport, and in Bangladesh; the killed and the wounded. We pray for the victims of all crimes, the families and the

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.

We continue to pray for all those people around your world, who are caught up in political violence, and we pray for our armed forces, dedicated to the maintenance of peace.

We think particularly of the current conflict in Syria and Turkey: but also between Jews and Arabs, Christians and Muslims, Shi'ites and Sunnies, between Israel and Palestine, North and South Korea ... indeed between the oppressor and the oppressed everywhere.

Pour your Holy Spirit into the hearts 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, in our homes, and in 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*.

We pray for the sick and the suffering, the elderly, the depressed, the dependent, the mentally disturbed, the dis-eased, the dis-abled, and the dying.

Particularly today we pray for the one-year-old shot in the head in Bristol, and for ..... Grant to them all, relief from their suffering, peace of mind, and a knowledge of your sustaining love.

*“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 remember the tens of thousands of young men, who gave their lives on

the Somme, 100 years ago this weekend. We also pray for those who lost their innocent lives in Istanbul, and for ....., that their souls may rest in peace, and that their loved ones find serenity in their mourning, and the knowledge of your presence in their lives.

*“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.”*

(In a moment of quiet, let us bring our own personal and individual petitions before our God.)

*“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 is supporting us.”*

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

**Amen**