

## HT INTERCESSIONS

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2016

**Heavenly Father**, we believe that you hear our prayers, and will be faithful to your promise to answer them.

Bless and guide, Queen Elizabeth, the supreme Governor of this Church of England. Bless our archbishops and bishops, our clergy, and their assistants. Especially we pray for Bishop Steven Croft, as he prepares for his ministry here amongst us. And we ask for your blessing on *us*, as members of this congregation.

Help us *all* to put aside, our fears, our anxieties, our prejudices, and our misunderstandings. Strengthen our common bonds, and deepen our resolve to promote *unity*, in your church.

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

**Heavenly Father**, at the beginning of a new academic year, we pray for all our children and young people, setting out on a new adventure. Little ones starting school for the first time. Some moving from primary to secondary school. Many who have received their exam results, and are moving on to further or higher education. Some will be starting, or still looking for work. Grant to them all, peace of mind, calm their anxieties, and help them to realise that there is always support available to them. Bless their parents and teachers, as they *too*, learn to adapt to their new situations.

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

**Heavenly Father**, we live in a deeply divided world, where selfish, unthinking people take what they want, for their own ends, despite the devastating effects on the innocent.

Soften the hearts of the oppressors, in the troubled countries of the World, and be with those displaced from their homes, who are risking their lives, fighting and fleeing their poverty and oppression, or drifting in boats, not knowing where they are heading, or what they will find. As we witness the unfolding struggles on our screens, we ask you to bless the international efforts to bring about peaceful settlements of hostilities; and a true humanitarian solution to the problem of migration. Grant *us* a spirit of understanding, of tolerance, of empathy, and of perspective, with those on *all* sides involved in the troubles.

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

**Heavenly Father**, we pray that your love may be felt by people in their darkest hours. We think of the children who have lost their parents, and who are denied an education; the lonely; the depressed; the oppressed; the exploited and abused; the homeless and those sleeping rough; the hungry and thirsty; the sick in mind, body and spirit; prisoners of conscience; and the victims of earthquakes, hurricanes, fires, floods and famines, around the world.

We remember with deep gratitude, the charities, the aid agencies, the food banks, and the medical teams, who seek to bring relief and alleviation of suffering. Help *us*, to remember that, even at this time of restraint, without *our* active support, *they* cannot carry on their humanitarian work. Let us not pass by on the other side.

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

**Heavenly Father**, we ask you to pour out your love on *our* families and friends, here and abroad, and on the members of our *own* community: those individuals and families, affected by financial problems, faced with loans and debts. We pray for the members of our local Councils, who have to balance their finances, and manage our services, grant them wisdom and patience, and a willingness to listen to those they represent.

We remember; think about, and pray for all our neighbours who are in any way distressed: especially:

Phil Platt

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Grant to them all, alleviation of their suffering, peace of mind, and a knowledge of your love for them.

**Heavenly Father**, we give thanks for the lives and witness of all those who have died; family members, those killed in accidents and by mans' folly, and those overcome by natural disasters.

(Especially today, we pray for the soul (s) of

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Grant to their eternal spirits, your light, your peace and your love; and comfort and strengthen those who are left behind, mourning their passing.

And as we keep a moment of silence, we remember our families and friends, and those whom we have met, or seen, who need our love, our support, and our prayers.

*Pause*

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

*Heavenly Father, as the colours of autumn begin to unfold once again, help us today and every day, to realise that you are **with** us, and **speaking** to us through the **events** of the day, through **people**, through **things**, through **all** your creation. Give us eyes, ears and hearts, to perceive you, however veiled your presence may be.*

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