

Intercessions

16th October 2016

Heavenly Father, we bring our prayers and petitions before you, in the sure faith that you will hear them, and answer them as appropriate to our needs.

We pray for the continuing witness of the Christian Church throughout the world, and in particular for this Church of England. Strengthen and guide, our Archbishop Justin, our Bishops Stephen and Colin, Archdeacon Judy, our clergy, Toby, Neil and Alastair, and all those who support your work.

“Lord, look in mercy on your Church, lest we shut the door against others, whom we find too different, too difficult, or too demanding.”

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

Heavenly Father, we pray for Elizabeth, our Queen and Governor, and at this party conference season, for members, ministers and peers in both Houses of her Parliament. We pray for all those who administer our *local* governments; and for the candidates standing for election as our next MP. Grant to them all, wisdom, patience and understanding, We *too*, need knowledge, patience and restraint, as we come to understand the implications of any proposed agendas, for ourselves, and the peoples in both, the countries of Europe, and the United States.

“Lord, we are part of the tension and injustice in the world. Forgive our selfishness, to which we contribute; heal the resentment between people, of which we are a part; and come into the world’s conflicts, in which we share, by being human.”

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

Heavenly Father, we pray for our families and friends around the world, keep them safe, and in the knowledge of your love.

We remember our neighbours worldwide, who are suffering privation, through accidents and natural disasters, through wars and acts of terrorism. Give *us* a true sense of charity, so that we may give of ourselves, our money, our time and our talents, without expectation of reward, or selfish feelings of well-being.

*“Dear Father in heaven, let us be peacemakers;
More ready to call people friends, than enemies,
More ready to trust, than to **mistrust**,
More ready to love, than to hate,
More ready to respect, than to despise,
More ready to serve, than to be served,
More ready to absorb evil, than to pass it on.
Dear Father in heaven, let us be more like your Son Jesus, the Christ.”*

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

Heavenly Father, we pray most earnestly for inner personal peace. Jesus commanded us to, *“love one another.”* But before we can truly love others, we need to learn to love ourselves, as we are, with all our imperfections and shortcomings, our desires and longings. Calm the troubled minds, which lead inevitably to dis-eased bodies.

We ask for your blessing on students away from home for the first time, for travellers, visitors, and holiday makers, keep them safe, and may they return to their homes, refreshed and invigorated.

As we celebrate St Luke the Physician on Tuesday, we pray that your healing hand may rest on the dis-eased and distressed, and on those who care for them, families, friends, carers and medical professionals. Particularly today, we ask for your blessing on:
Phil Platt, Albert Knowles, Karen, Denis, Sylvia and Joan.

*“Heavenly Father, Lord of the living **and** the dead, hold in your arms of love, all those who are sick and dying, give them the knowledge of your closeness, and the conviction, that nothing can separate them, from the love you showed us in Jesus Christ.”*

And as we remember today, the horrific martyrdom of Bishops Latimer and Ridley in Oxford in 1555, we pray for the souls of the dead, the 1000 killed as a result of Hurricane Matthew in Haiti and North Carolina. And those innocent people bombed in Syria, Yemen and Iraq.

(Here at home we remember:

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May they rest in peace, and rise in glory.

“Grant rest O Lord to the departed, where sorrow and pain are no more, but everlasting life.”

And in a moment’s silence, we bring before you our private prayers, for ourselves and our own personal problems, for our loved ones, for the work and peoples of this parish, and for the needs of your world.

*“Lord, grant us the faith of St Luke, and all your saints, that loving you above all, we may **be** what you would have us be, and **do** what you would have us do.”*

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