

HT Intercessions
05th February 2017

Heavenly Father, we come to you in humility and faith, asking you to hear our prayers, and to answer them.

We pray for the continuing witness, of the many Christian communities around the world, and in particular, for this Church of England. Strengthen and guide our Bishop, Steven, our rector, Toby, and Neil and Alastair, as they prepare for a new direction in their vocations. And give guidance and strength, to all the people who support them.

We ask that your Holy Spirit, will support Becky and Jack, who were married here yesterday, and Dan and Martina, who are being confirmed at St. Mary's this morning.

'Lord, look in mercy on your church, that it may be a light to all in the community, and in the Country.'

Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, in these uncertain, unsettling and disturbing times, we pray for our Queen, Elizabeth, as she celebrates 65 years on the throne; for her peers and ministers in both Houses of her Parliament, and for all those who administer our *local* governments. We ask that those who have elected responsibility, in every country, and at whatever level, will put aside personal ambition, and concentrate their wills for the good of *all* people.

'Lord, grant them regard for your laws, and respect for human rights, that they may lead us in the paths of truth, freedom and peace.'

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 pray for the victims of crime, the families and 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 unfailing and forgiving love.

But help *us* Lord, to recognise the *good* that is in the World, particularly the unselfish and unstinting support of carers, volunteers, neighbours and charities.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Heavenly Father, we continue to pray for all those people, in so many parts of your world, who are caught up in political and territorial violence, and we pray for our security and armed forces, and for their families:

*“Lord, it is your will, to hold heaven and earth in a single peace.
Grant peace in our lands, our homes and 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.

Grant *us* patience, tolerance, and understanding of the needs of others: the cold and lonely, the sick and suffering, the elderly, the dependent, the mentally disturbed, the frightened and the despairing, the dis-eased, the dis-abled, and the dying.

Particularly today, we pray for Karen.

“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. Particularly today we pray for the soul of Maurice Edwards, and ask for your blessing to support Cordie and her family, left here to mourn his passing.

*“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.”*

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, just as we are, with all our imperfections and shortcomings, our longings and our regrets.

(Silence)

*“Lord, give us **faith**, to leave this place 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