

## HT INTERCESSIONS

Sunday 21st May 2017

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

**Heavenly Father**, we pray for the unity of your church worldwide. Bless Steven and Colin our bishops, Toby our Rector, our assistant priests, and all our spiritual leaders. We ask you to bless Alastair, as he prepares to leave the parish and join the Royal Navy as a Chaplain. We pray for Ross, as he prepares for his curacy here amongst us. Grant wisdom and guidance, to all involved in the appointment of a new Team Vicar. Bless the work of the Pastoral Team. Bestow on them all, patience and prayerfulness, as they bear witness in the community.

*“Draw your church together,  
Into one great company of disciples.”*

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

**Heavenly Father**, help us to comprehend, that your kingdom is here, now, and in our hearts and lives. Help us to *feel* it, help us to *demonstrate* it to all around us. Help us to *act it out* in our daily lives, not just here on Sunday. We pray that those acts of witness - the Acorns, Witney Churches Together, The Street Pastors, The Night Café, The Beer Festival, and the Food Festival, Christian Aid, and all the events organised by the churches, of all denominations, will strengthen the **unity** of your kingdom.

*“Your kingdom come O God, Your rule on earth begin.”*

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

**Heavenly Father**, support the leaders of this great nation. May they act in a true spirit of honesty and openness, for the benefit of *all*. But *we also*, need understanding, patience and restraint, lest we come to misinformed or selfish conclusions. Guide us as we prepare to cast our votes in the forthcoming election.

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 situation surrounding North Korea, and the ongoing humanitarian disaster in Syria. We pray for justice, peace and reconciliation.

*“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 natural disasters around the world; and to the 45,000 displaced persons, who have crossed the Mediterranean so far this year. We pray for those in our *own* community who are sick, sad, lonely, depressed or distressed; and for those who strive to support them. Particularly we pray for the thousands of *children* around the world who are orphaned, displaced, trafficked and abused.

Today, here, we pray for:

---

---

*“Heavenly Father, protect those whom we love, but who are separated from us. 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**, as we anticipate Christ's *glorious* ascension into heaven, we pray for the dead; for the 1,200 souls drowned, fleeing North Africa this year alone; for *all* those risen with you to new life, and for the *unity* of the souls of the departed.

Here, today, we remember:

---

And we ask for your comforting Holy Spirit, to envelop all those left behind, who remember their *earthly* unity, and mourn.

*“Lord, pour down on us all, the blessing of your wisdom,  
The patience of your strength,  
And the life of your spirit.”*

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