

HT Intercessions 15th October 2017

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

We pray for the continuing witness of Christians throughout the world, and for this Church of England. Strengthen and guide, our Archbishop Justin, our Bishops Stephen and Colin, our Archdeacon Judy, our clergy, Toby, Ness and Ross, and all those who support them.

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

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

Heavenly Father, we pray for Elizabeth, our Queen and Governor, and all the members of her family. At this party conference season, we pray for members, ministers and peers in both Houses of Parliament. We pray too, for those who administer our *local* governments. Grant to them all, wisdom, patience and understanding,

We *too*, need knowledge, patience and restraint, as we strive to understand the implications of any proposed agendas, for ourselves, the peoples in the countries of Europe, and all the countries around the world, with which we are involved.

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

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**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 think of our neighbours worldwide, who are suffering privation, through accidents, tornadoes, wild fires, floods, earthquakes and volcanos, and through wars and acts of terrorism. We pray for the vulnerable in society, those who are being taken advantage of, assaulted, abused and exploited. Help us to remember the very many who still suffer, long after they have disappeared from our screens. Give us a true sense of charity, so that we may offer our support, with our money, our time and our talents, without expectation of reward, or selfish feelings of well-being.

“St Paul said, ‘Love one another with mutual affection. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.’”

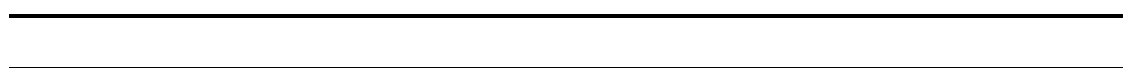
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**Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.**

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 faults, our longings and desires. Be with those who have mental health problems. Calm troubled minds, which lead inevitably to dis-eased bodies.

As we celebrate St Luke the Physician on Wednesday, we pray that your healing hand may rest on the dis-eased, the disturbed and the distressed, and on those who care for them, their families, friends, carers and medical professionals.

Particularly today, we ask for your blessing on:



“Heavenly Father, 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.”

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And as we remember tomorrow, the horrific martyrdom of Bishops Latimer and Ridley in Oxford in 1555, we pray for the souls of the dead: the victims of terror attacks around the world; those who have died in natural disasters; the innocent killed in wars; and those who have starved or succumbed to disease.

(Here at home we remember:

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

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

Lord, 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.

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*“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**