

HT INTERCESSIONS

Sunday 2nd September 2018

Heavenly Father, hear our prayers, and let our pleas come unto you.

We pray for the witness of the Church in this place, and worldwide. Humble it to acknowledge its failings. Empower it to welcome strangers. Enrich it with new-comers. And expand its outreach, to embrace and welcome, children and young people.

*Lord bless **this** church. Here may your faithful ones be blessed, your doubting ones find faith, and your despairing ones, hope.*

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

Heavenly Father, at the beginning of a new academic year, we pray for all children and young people, who are setting out on a new adventure. Little ones starting school for the first time at West Witney primary school and pre-school. Those moving from primary to secondary school. Those who have recently received their exam results, and who are moving on to further or higher education. Some will be starting, or still looking for apprenticeships and 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, teachers and assistants, as they *too*, learn to adapt to their new situations. Bless the work and witness of The Acorns and our Sunday school, those recently baptised, and those preparing for baptism.

Lord bless us all together as a learning and teaching community. Make us wise, perceptive and generous, in a world of greed and selfishness.

**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.

We pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict.
Those who have been displaced from their lands; refugees and immigrants.
Those who are hungry, thirsty, sick and maimed.
Those who are humiliated, tortured and imprisoned.

Bless the many 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.

Grant that we who dwell secure, in this insecure world, may be generous in understanding, and in giving of our time, talents and money, as appropriate.

**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, or who have been separated from them, and those who are denied an education; the sick in mind, body and spirit; 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.

We remember and pray for our families, friends and neighbours, here at home, who are in any way distressed: especially:

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, victims of wars, those killed in accidents, and those overcome by natural disasters.

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

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, let us remember all those who we know, 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 seem.*

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