

HT INTERCESSIONS

Harvest Sunday 7/10/18

The Earth is the Lord's, and all the good things in it.

Heavenly Father, at this harvest time, we pray for the church worldwide, which is *one* in the greatness of *your* love, but *divided* by the smallness of *our own*. Help us to be less occupied with the things that divide us, and more with those things which unite us.

Lord, bless Steven and Colin our bishops, and Toby, Ness and Ross our priests. Grant to them, their assistants, and members of their councils, wisdom and patience, as they seek to heal the disunity, to bear witness in the community, and to spread the good news of the gospel.

Help each one of *us*, to *question* our faith, and our witness, and how they could be expanded and extended, both personally and collectively.

We pray that those acts of witness, the Team Benefice, the Acorns, Witney Churches Together, The Street Pastors, and all who strengthen the unity of your Kingdom.

"Thy kingdom come O God, Thy rule on earth begin."

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

Heavenly Father, at this harvest time, we ask for your blessing on all those, who labour to bring food to our tables; farmers, growers, manufacturers, transporters, and sellers.

And as we give thanks for the blessings of your abundant creation, make us conscious of our neighbours who are dependent upon food banks, and the millions around the world, who are starving and dying through lack of food and clean water. Encourage us to be less wasteful, and more generous with our blessings.

Lord, grant that we may never pass by the poor, but may respond with generous hearts to the voice of the helpless, whose cry is your own.

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

Heavenly Father, we ask you to support our politicians at this conference season. May they be bold and more united in setting out an agenda for our nation's future. But *we* also need patience and restraint, as we come to understand the implications of any agenda. Grant to us all, a true spirit of dialogue and diplomacy.

We ask you to bless the leaders of the Countries of the European Union, and the continued work of NATO and the United Nations.

“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, we pray for the peoples of Indonesia and Japan devastated by the latest natural disasters; shattered lives, families torn apart, and homes destroyed.

In *our* community we pray for those who are sick, sad, lonely, and distressed; and for those who support them, the medical teams and social workers, the charities and the aid agencies. Grant to them, and to us all, the love that gives, without expectation of a response or a reward.

Today we remember:

Father, we think of the thousands who have died this week, from natural disasters, accidents, and criminal acts; we pray too for the soul(s) of:

Be with the Kemp family, and all those left behind, mourning the loss of a loved one.

“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.**

As we pause; we pray for ourselves, our families, and all those whom we know, who are in need of your blessing.

*“Heavenly Father, send 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**