

HT Intercessions
23rd June 2019

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

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Heavenly father, we live in worrying and disturbing times. With mistrust, tensions and conflicts between nations; uncertainty about the divisions, and future direction of our *own* country. The effects of climate change and global warming, and the damage we are unleashing on our planet. Help us to better inform ourselves about the facts, and to put aside complacency. What part can we play individually and collectively, to help allay the fears, and to alleviate the problems?

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for the continuing witness, of the many Christian communities around the world, and in particular for this Church of England. We ask you to bless all our clergy, particularly Hugh, leading our worship this morning.

Pour out your spirit on this Witney Benefice, so that our community grows in love and understanding, and the churches bring the good news to families, friends and neighbours.

“Lord, look in mercy on your church, lest we, who know you well, shut out those who are different, difficult or demanding.”

Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we pray for Queen Elizabeth and all her family; 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, at international, national, and local level, will put aside personal and party ambition, and concentrate their wills, for the good of all.

“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 all forms 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 forgiving love.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Heavenly Father, at the close of this World Refugee Week, we continue to pray for the estimated 6 million people around your world, who are caught up in *political* violence, religious hatred and persecution, those displaced from the homes, destitute, hungry and thirsty, and we pray for our peace-keepers, armed forces, and their families. Be with those at home, who are currently by flooding.

May your atoning love triumph, and people learn to live in peace with their neighbours.

Pour your Holy Spirit into the hearts of the aid agencies, and the medical teams, dedicated to support, and the alleviation of suffering.

*“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 sick and suffering, the elderly, the dependent, the mentally disturbed, the dis-eased, and the dis-abled.

Particularly today we pray for:

Natalie Andy Don Thomas Alastair and Val

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.”

We pray for the dying; and for the souls of the departed, whether or not they knew your love in their earthly lives. Particularly today we pray for:

Yvonne Townsend and Alan Crawford.

“Lord, wipe away every tear from their eyes; death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain, any more.”

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

Heavenly Father, we pray most earnestly for personal inner 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 desires and our longings. Calm the troubled minds, which lead inevitably to dis-eased bodies.

We keep a moment of silence, to offer our own personal pleadings to God.

“Lord, give us faith, to go out with a good courage, not knowing where we are going; only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us.”

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

Amen

