

HT INTERCESSIONS

Harvest Sunday 06/10/19

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*.

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 bear witness in the community, and spread the good news of the gospel.

Particularly today we ask for your continued blessing on Claire Titcom, as she celebrates 20 years since her ordination into the priesthood of this Church of England, following her witness as a lay reader, and her tireless work for this church and parish, together with Roy, her husband. Grant to her and to her family, health and peace.

We pray that those acts of witness, the Team Benefice, Witney Churches Together, the Sunday Schools, the Acorns, and The Street Pastors, will all help to 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, fishermen, manufacturers, transporters, and sellers.

And as we give thanks for the blessings of your abundant creation, make us ever 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.

Help us to be less complacent, and more active in looking for ways, to help in the fight against global warming and climate change. Encourage us to be less wasteful, and more generous with our *own* 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 time of national crisis. May they be more united in setting out an acceptable agenda for our nation's future, and less focussed on parties politics and personal ambitions. But *we* also need patience and restraint, as we try to understand the implications of any agenda. Grant to us all, a true spirit of dialogue and diplomacy.

“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 people devastated by the recent natural disasters; shattered lives, families torn apart, and homes destroyed. We pray particularly for the people caught up in the problems in the Middle East, and in Hong Kong and China.

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

Today we ask you to bless:

Heavenly Father, we think of the thousands who have died this week, from natural disasters, accidents, wars, and criminal acts. Today we pray particularly for the soul(s) of:

Receive them *all* into your infinite light and peace. And support those left to mourn, grant them your blessing and your peace.

**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**