

## INTERCESSIONS

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2011**

In the power of the Holy Spirit, and in union with Christ, we pray to you O Heavenly Father, knowing that you will hear our petitions.

We pray for our Church, for our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth, our Archbishops, our bishops and clergy, but particularly we ask your Holy Spirit to guide *our* clergy, Bob and Haynes, and their lay assistants.

As this world-wide Anglican church, teeters on the brink of schism, we pray for those who cannot accept the idea of women bishops; and we pray for those who find the issues of gay priests and same-sex marriages painful and confusing. We ask for tolerance and understanding, in discussing the implications for ourselves, and for your Church.

**Heavenly Father**, you have called us to be one, in the family of the Church; give us grace to break down the barriers which keep us apart; that accepting our differences, we may grow in love for one another, and glory in your name.

Lord grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change. The courage to change the things we *can*, and the wisdom to know the difference.

**Lord, hear us.**

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

**Heavenly Father**, on this Bible Sunday, we remember the impact of the King James Bible on our language and culture; the 47 Church of England scholars who worked for seven years to translate it; and for the many alternative versions which speak to different people, in different ways, and in different generations.

The Bible, is filled with stories of people who have encountered *You* our God. Those people are *our* people. Their stories are *our* stories. We read them and remember who *You* are, who *we* are, and what we *believe*, so that we will know how to live today, and everyday.

Grant that we may continue to *read* the Bible, and to *interpret* what we read, with understanding, and relevance to our individual and corporate lives.

We bring before you O Lord, the mission of the Bible Society, to give people new encounters with the Bible, using the arts and the media, and we pray for places around the world where the *work* of the Bible Society is transforming young minds and lives.

We pray for those who are completing and updating Bible translations into many of the almost 4,000 languages which still wait for a translation.

Make *us*, a community of readers, ready to stand up, to listen, to understand, to change, and to act.

**Lord, hear us.**

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

**Heavenly Father**, we continue to pray for peaceful outcomes, to seemingly intractable problems in your world. Give wisdom and understanding, diplomacy, tolerance and skill, to our leaders and negotiators. Without compromise on all sides, there *is* no possibility of lasting peace.

We think of the *ordinary* people in war-torn countries, who live in terror of oppressive regimes, who have lost their homes and livelihoods, who have no food and water, and no hope. Particularly we think of the people of Libya, who can now start to build a new life, for themselves and for their Country. And we pray for the charities, aid agencies and medical teams, who, with *our* financial support, seek to alleviate their troubles.

Particularly also at this time, we pray for positive & constructive outcomes, of the Summit of European leaders meeting to address the financial crisis which affects us all.

The Book of Proverbs tells us that “*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.*” Help us all to realise, that everything we do, should be based on the two commands of Jesus, to love You our God, and to love our neighbour as ourselves.

**Lord, hear us.**

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

**Heavenly Father**, we pray for *our* families, here and in other parts of your world. For our friends and neighbours, and for all those people upon whom we depend, day by day. No-one is an island. Help us, regardless of our own problems, to help others.

We pray for those in our own Countries, who are affected by the worlds' economic problems, the unemployed, the destitute, those carrying crippling debts and cannot see a way out; the depressed and suicidal, the sick in body, mind or spirit, and for those who seek to care for them.

*(Particularly today we think of.....  
.....)*

Grant them peace of mind, and a knowledge of your everlasting love.

We pray for the dead and dying,

*(Remembering the soul of.....  
.....)*

and for all their loved ones left behind to morn their passing.

We keep a moment of silence, and remember those known to each one of us individually, who need *our* support, *our* prayers, and a knowledge of *your* love.

**Heavenly Father**, you hear those who pray in the name of your Son, grant that what we have *asked* for in faith, we may *obtain*, according to your will.

Govern and direct your holy Church; fill it, and us, with love and truth; and grant it that unity, which is *your* will.

**Merciful Father,**  
**accept these prayers,**  
**for the sake of your son**  
**our Saviour, Jesus Christ.                      Amen**