

Intercessions, 14/05/23

Lord, as we rejoice in the gift of your spirit and the joy of your resurrection, inspire us to show that You are alive, in the way we talk and live, so that we can share Your gifts with those around us. Give us insight and courage to find new ways to help others to find the relevance of Christ in their lives.

Lord in Your mercy...*hear our prayer*

This continues to be a restless world, where men, women and children are caught up in the darkness of war, famine, poverty and natural disaster. Give your strength to the leaders of nations, and those who work for peace. We pray especially today for the people of Ukraine, living with the fear and uncertainty created by war, and the people of both Israel and Palestine who are facing the escalation of violence. We pray, too, for the many thousands of people in Khartoum who are besieged by the bitter conflict that has erupted in Sudan, and for those fleeing their homes in the hope of escape.

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

We hold in our prayers today the new PCC, elected at the APCM a few weeks ago. Guide and inspire them to develop priorities and make decisions that will maintain and strengthen the life of Your church in this place. Help us all to listen to and understand the spiritual needs of the community we serve. Lord, support us in developing a church that engages with the people who need us here, now and in the future.

In the words of Thomas Ken: 'Make the door of this house wide enough to receive all who need love and fellowship, narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and strife. God, make the door of this house the gateway to thine eternal kingdom'.

We pray for the Church throughout the world; give our Church leaders the strength to truly *lead* the church in the 21st century. We give you thanks for the inspiration that David, Judith, Martha, Hugh and Virginia bring to our worship here.

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

Bring courage and hope to all who suffer – to those who are sick and those who mourn.

We ask you to give them your strength; be close to them and be known to them. In a moment of quiet, we pray for those known personally to us who are suffering at this time. [PAUSE]

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

We thank you, Lord, for the beauty in the world around us and, as we rejoice in spring here in rural Surrey where the birdsong and new growth after the long winter speak of hope and of your love, help us to assert our voices and strengthen our actions to protect the environment so that it will be there for all time to support life itself. Help us to ensure that our own footprints are small and insignificant in this Garden of Eden which you have entrusted to our care.

God of love, turn our hearts to Your ways; and give us peace.

Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.