

Intercessions, 9/7/17

Lord, You have given us so many gifts and opportunities. Help us to recognise the wisdom of St Paul's words and to understand the power of knowing You as our Father. Be close to those who are adopting or have adopted children: help them to find the patience and strength they need throughout this exceptional journey. We praise you for the gift of parenthood in all its forms and for the capacity for love - and reserves of energy - that enable parents to fulfil their vital role.

Lord, hear us...*Lord graciously hear us.*

As the world around us is filled with so much discord and unhappiness, help us to find peace and hope in our faith and the strength to share this with others.

Reach into the hearts of those whose leadership influences many people – politicians and statesmen, church and other religious leaders, managers and business leaders, heads of aid agencies - whose voices and actions *can* and *do* make a difference. Inspire all who lead to do so for the benefit of *all* they represent and give them the humility to listen to the views and aspirations of others.

Be close to the people of Afghanistan at this time of terror and uncertainty.

Give strength to all who are working to help and support them and those who are continuing with the immense challenge of supporting deprived communities in India beset by the Covid pandemic. This task is not over yet.

Lord, hear us...*Lord graciously hear us.*

Lord, bless the Queen and the work she does to bring hope and joy to so many people. We pray for the Church throughout the world and, at a time when the national church is looking seriously and radically at its future, give our Church leaders the insight, self-knowledge and strength to truly *lead* the church through change.

We pray for all who were confirmed at the inspiring and beautiful service here recently. Give them the strength of Your love and wisdom as they continue, confident in Your power, on their journeys of faith.

We give you thanks for the commitment and energy that David brings to the leadership of our Church community here in Holmbury and for Martha's gifts as our Reader, bringing so much to our spiritual lives.

Lord, hear us...*Lord graciously hear us.*

Lord, we thank you for the privilege of living in a place of such natural beauty. Help us to keep our footprint small – maintaining a sustainable balance between the resources we *need* to use and the capacity of the natural systems for growth and renewal. Enable us to see the lessons that are visible in the patterns of nature that help us to work with it rather than against it and to recognise the impact of our actions, understanding the signs when we are approaching the natural world's limits for renewal.

Lord, hear us...*Lord graciously hear us.*

Bring courage and hope to all who suffer at this time – to those who are sick and those who mourn. This morning we particularly hold in our prayers all who are suffering from long Covid.

And in a moment of silence we hold in our prayers those known personally to us. [PAUSE]

Lord, hear us...*Lord graciously hear us.*

We pray for all young people who have been assessed or have taken significant exams and for those who will be leaving school soon. Help them to make this time of transition one of hope and joy and filled with confidence in Your love.

Lord, be with those who are travelling and away on holiday – we pray that, in their time of relaxation we find more time to be aware of You at work within us and in our beautiful world.

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