

INTERCESSIONS: PENTECOST 2021

As was written to the Romans, “The Spirit helps us in our weakness. He pleads for God’s people in God’s own way.” God our Father, grant us the help of your Spirit in our prayers for Church and world. We look for the power of your Spirit to guide us into all truth.

We thank you, Lord, for Holy Scripture, written as the Spirit moved. In the beginning, your Spirit swept over the face of the waters. Near the end, the Spirit and the Bride say “Come.” May your Spirit breath throughout the Word whenever it is read, explained, sung about or acted on.

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

By your reconciling Spirit, visit this troubled world. We pray especially for places where there is conflict, like Israel and Gaza, for places where there is hatred, like our own streets with their antisemitic outbursts, and for homes afflicted by domestic violence.

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

May your Spirit, blowing freely, energise the Church afresh. We pray for Archbishops Justin and Stephen and thank you for the insights of their “Thy kingdom come” initiative, especially these last ten days. We pray for Bishops Andrew and Jo and thank you for their leadership as we re-imagine Church and seek your transforming power to make us more effective witnesses. We pray for our leaders at this church, in this group of churches, in this deanery, and for the villages we serve, thinking of Surrey Hills primary school and head teacher Simon Coles. We seek your Spirit’s guidance in finding a new Chairman for Churches Together in Dorking now that Father Tony Milner is moving on. You entered Galilee in the power of the Spirit to spread your ministry. Show us where we have work to do.

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

Comforter Divine, we pray for the hungry and for all who are troubled in body, mind or their own spirit. Strengthen the bereaved. Hug the lonely. May the souls of the departed rest in peace.

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

Inspire, Lord, those who work for preservation of the natural world. May your propelling Spirit move us ever nearer to net zero and away from unnecessary use of plastic. Inspire, too, support of charities whose income has been reduced because street and house-to-house collections haven’t taken place during lockdown. And if we shouldn’t go on holiday where we want just yet, grant us contentment with what we have.

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

As was also written to the Romans, “We do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words.” So, in silence, think about someone you know, some situation you’re aware of, some hope that you hold. [Silence.]

And so, empowered by Pentecost, we pray together: Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.