

### Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2020 - Intercessions

Most merciful and loving Father, we come together now in your presence and ask you to graciously hear our prayers.

On this the last Sunday in August, we look back at the confusion, changed plans and different restrictions of the past bewildering month. We pray that those who have been away have returned refreshed and re-energised and those staying at home have enjoyed new opportunities and freedoms. Be very present, Lord, in areas where lockdown is re-established and with those who have to quarantine after a time away or because of a positive Covid test. May all who are able to return to work do so with renewed confidence and optimism.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord of Light and Love, you bless us with so many skilled and talented people in our midst who willingly use their gifts to serve our church family and the wider community. We give you thanks and praise especially today for Maureen Phillips, our retiring Churchwarden. For the dedicated and committed way she has dealt with the many challenges, responsibilities and demands of the role and also for the love, care and understanding she has shown to us all. Bless her with a time of rest and refreshment and the joyful satisfaction of a task completed and a job well done in your name.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Most gracious Lord, we look forward with eager anticipation to meeting together to worship you in our church next Sunday at morning and evening services. We praise and bless you for all who have worked so hard to make this possible especially our AV team who have upgraded the technology, our inspirational ministerial team and the admin team. As we continue to “live stream” our services, we celebrate the fact that a wider community can now share in our acts of worship and pray your blessing on all we do to promote and extend this growth.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Father God, many of the children and young people we know will be returning to school soon. Bless the little ones starting school for the first time, those returning after a gap of five months or more and those moving on to secondary education. We pray for their safety and well-being asking that Covid protection measures in place may be effective and manageable. Draw close to those who are fearful or anxious in any way. We ask that all pupils will be able to concentrate and focus and make the most of the opportunities they are given. Guide us as teachers, parents, grandparents and close friends to find ways to nurture, support and encourage them in all they do.

We ask, Lord, for your comforting reassurance for all young people whose futures are uncertain because of confusion and delay over grades and results. Stay close, Lord, as they re-evaluate their position, make difficult decisions and consider new opportunities.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We are only too aware Lord that the pandemic and associated lockdown has brought great suffering to so many. We lift to you all who are lonely and isolated, those who are finding it hard to return to normal life and those who are struggling financially, practically, mentally and emotionally. Please draw close to those on our minds and in our hearts who are ill or awaiting surgery. Thank you for the tireless work of those devoted to caring for others and show us all ways in which we can help.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord, we are in danger of overlooking a very important day – today. This is our place and our time for living and loving. Lord, let us live each day as the abundant and beautiful gift it is.

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