

**St Paul's Letchworth
Intercessions - 27th July**

Lord, as we gather together today we ask that you calm our minds and quieten our thoughts, to draw our attention to you.

Father it is too easy to get distracted, too easy to let the time we have for you get lost to trivial things, we pray that you'll help us find discipline and focus, that we lock our hearts, thoughts and words on you.

Lord our healer, we pray that as we fully enter into the summer holidays that you will give each of us time for rest. To help us to breathe and recharge and reconnect with you.

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Father, we are truly blessed by our community. By the network of compassion and gentleness that is knitted across this congregation and spread throughout our town.

We thank you for their generosity, in those times of trouble where a word or a prayer lifts us. Or in those times of need where a donation or a blessing provides for us.

Lord, we pray for those times this summer when our community will come together. For New Wine later this week - we pray that you will bless all that are travelling and refresh all of those attending.

For holiday club next month, we pray that you will rest your guiding hand on all the preparations, to provide volunteers and make bold believers out of all the children attending.

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Lord the world is not gentle, but we can be. Teach us to do different, to counter toxicity with love, with kindness, with gentleness. Show us how a calm, loving demeanour can stare down hate and replace those feelings of disquiet and pain.

Lord, we look on in horror at the death and starvation that has taken grip in so many places, of people running for food only to be met by bullets. This world needs gentleness now more than ever for compassion to silence guns, for the samaritan to help the stranger and for aid and support to flow freely to all.

Father, we pray for your lessons to influence the actions of leaders, for them to be sympathetic, to love others, to be compassionate and to be humble. We pray that their first instinct isn't war or division, that it is consideration and unity.

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Father, as we go out this week, as we live and move in your world, we pray that we will be reminded of your teachings of gentleness. To see it in all aspects of life and to practice it in the way that we are.

And Lord, we pray for the Lionesses. As they walk out for the final of the Euros, to give them courage and strength as they inspire the next generation of footballers and bring communities together.

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