

Intercessions Sunday 22 January 2017

As we welcome warmly the Mayor, Councillors of Hertford and all those who work for the good of our Town to this Civic Service, let us collect our thoughts and give thanks to God for all the good things in our lives in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

This week we seek unity and peace in a highly unsettled world, where there is wealth and massive poverty, good health and incurable diseases. We take so much for granted but can no longer assume stability in our country or the wider world.

Lord in your mercy

We pray for the people of America at this time of massive change following the inauguration of President Trump. At a time of massive unhappiness, frustration, disappointment and anxiety, we ask you God to give him as one of the World's leaders wisdom and patience as he seeks to make the changes to which he is committed. We pray that he may not be impetuous and remember the Christian commandment to love ones neighbour as oneself.

Lord in your mercy

We pray for other parts of the world where there are tensions, war and unrest. Especially we pray for refugees and asylum seekers wherever they are and of whatever nationality.

The weather is cold and unpredictable. Many are hungry, exhausted, frightened and desperate. Many are very young people with little hope for the future.

We give thanks and pray for our European neighbours and all those working to help and support the refugees. We pray that a wider vision may provide solutions to this most difficult problem.

We pray for our neighbours in the European Union, especially the aid workers in Italy trying to rescue those caught in the recent avalanche.

Lord in your mercy

We pray for the people of Northern Ireland, that the breakdown of parliament will not lead to further unrest and that the appointment of new leaders and their forthcoming election may provide stability again.

Lord in your mercy

We pray for Teresa May, our Prime Minister, our government and for Mark Prisk, our MP.

We pray Hertford Town Council and all who serve the town and local community, whether as Town Councillors, many of whom are here today, or working and serving in the community.

We also give thanks to all who volunteer in any way. Help us to know what small things we in this church and within our communities can do.

Give those in authority wisdom and understanding, the ability to listen and to seek practical solutions for the good of all.

Lord in your mercy

In this Week of Christian Unity, we give thanks for all the churches and the way they work together. Especially we give thanks for the Hertford Team Ministry, remembering, Alan, our Rector, Bill, Jim, Melanie and Colin, our church wardens, Penny and Brian, and all who serve here in any way, especially Tracey and the Sunday school team.

Lord in your mercy

We give thanks for the St Andrew's Centre, for the organisations which use the Centre, the many opportunities it brings for outreach, as a place of welcome and healing. May it be used widely and fill many community and well-being needs,

We pray for all those who live in this parish, each according to their needs. We pray for all those who have to work today, many of whom would prefer to be with their families.

Lord in your mercy

We pray especially for our GP surgeries, our hospital, local care homes, ambulance, fire and police services. We also pray for the shopkeepers and offices in St Andrew St.

Give all of them wisdom, patience, energy and cheerfulness as they seek to serve the common good.

Lord in your mercy

We remember all who are receiving medical treatment at this time, whether at home or in hospital. We pray for all those who are ill.

(Read out list of sick)

We remember those who have died including

(Read out list)

Give those who have been left behind strength and courage to cope.... and we remember those whose anniversaries fall at this time....

Lord in your mercy

Finally we pray for ourselves and for any visitors, that they may feel welcomed, supported and encouraged according to their needs.

We rejoice in the fellowship of St Andrew and all your saints and commend ourselves and all people to your unfailing love.

Give us the ability to know our story, enable us to tell our story and to live our story.

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