

Intercessions Sunday 30 July 2017

(Readings; Romans 8 v 36-30 and Matthew 13 v 13-33, 44-45, 51-53)

This weekend is the centenary of the beginning of the Battle of Passchendaele, also known as the third Battle of Ypres. The battle lasted until November 1917. Many Hertfordshire Regiment were killed at the Battle of St Julien.

We pray for peace in a volatile world. We pray for all those who live in this parish, each according to their needs.

We pray for our own government, its ministers and for Mark Prisk, our MP and indeed all politicians as they seek to discern what is right.

Here at home, as the school holiday season has begun and the days are longer, we give thanks for a time to reflect and ponder about the many challenges each one of us face, both individually and as part of a much wider world.

Lord in your mercy

As we reflect on our troubled world, our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Venezuela, facing elections, and massive inflation
-Pakistan, facing the appointment of a new Prime Minister, which may lead to unsettlement
-The tensions created by the recent missiles launched by North Korea against its many neighbours especially South Korea,
-The Middle East, especially in Jerusalem, where there are tensions between the Israelis, Palestinians and Muslim people
-And the United States of America, to whom many countries in the world have looked to for wise and stable leadership

Lord in your mercy

Especially we pray for refugees and asylum seekers wherever they are and of whatever nationality. In particular we give thanks for the Italian naval vessels and the work they continue to do to rescue migrants as well as aid workers and all who volunteer in any way.

We pray for wisdom and tolerance for all leaders and Governments.

Lord in your mercy

We pray for all those connected with the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower, for the survivors, for those missing and for those who have lost loved ones. We pray for those involved in re-housing and rebuilding lives.

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.

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

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.

We give thanks and pray for the forthcoming Holiday Club and all those who will be helping to run it.

Lord in your mercy

We pray those who work in the NHS, for our local GP surgeries, our hospital, local care homes, ambulance, fire and police services.

We also pray for those who work in shops and offices in St Andrew Street. Help us to know what small things we in this church and within our communities can do for our neighbours and the wider community.

Amongst those getting married this week are George Phipps and Margaret on Monday in Somerset and also Sarah and Louis and Kathryn and Michael who will be married here on Friday. May all who attend feel the presence of the Holy Spirit.

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)*

Two First World War soldiers

Private Stephen John Adolphus Hart, who died aged 20 on 31 July 1917 at Pilkem, whilst attacking the Langemarck Line from Steenbeck and

Private Frederick Johnson, who was killed in action at Ypres on 1 August 1917. He was aged 40. Both names are commemorated on the Menin Gate.

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 all may feel welcomed, supported and encouraged according to their needs.

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

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