

Intercessions Sunday 17 December 2017

May we have a faith that renews our lives.

As we prepare for Christmas, we pray for peace in a volatile and troubled world. We pray for all those who live in this parish, each according to their needs.

O Lord hear our prayer

As we reflect on our troubled world, our thoughts and prayers are with the people of South Africa, Zimbabwe, Syria, Palestine, Israel and many parts of the Middle East, where there is tension. Also in the Congo, Myanmar and Yemen, where there is terrible starvation issues.

We give thanks for all the voluntary groups such as Save the Children, UNICEF, Medecins Sans Frontiere, all doing amazing work in the most difficult conditions.

We pray for refugees and asylum seekers wherever they are and of whatever nationality. We also remember and pray for all prisoners.

O Lord hear our prayer

We pray for all those connected with the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower, for the survivors, many of whom are still in temporary accommodation. We give thanks for the moving service at St Paul's Cathedral which sought to help survivors, rescuers to come to terms with this tragedy.

O Lord hear our prayer

We pray for the Royal Family and for the way they serve our country and our local communities. Bless them all richly.

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.

We pray Hertford Town Council and all who serve the town, for our police, fire-fighters and ambulance staff, especially those who are at work today, serving our community.

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

O Lord hear our prayer

We ask for your blessing on the Hertford Team Ministry, remembering, Jo Loveridge at All Saints, Nick Sharp and Hertford Heath, Robert Thompson at Bengeo and Alan, our own Rector. We give thanks for all our lay readers including Bill, Jim, Melanie and Colin.

Thank you for our church wardens, Penny and Brian, and all who serve here in any way, especially Tracy and her teams who help at Messy Church, Youth work. We also give thanks for the Friday Lunch Club teams.

We pray for local organisations such as Street Pastors and Future Hope.

O Lord hear our prayer

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.

We pray for all those who find Christmas a stressful and sad time.

We remember all who are receiving medical treatment at this time, whether at home or in hospital. We pray for all doctors, nurses and carers of 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....**

Second Lieutenant Cecil Cooper of the Bedford Regiment. Born in 1892 in Hertford, he worked as an apprentice ironmonger until he enlisted in Bedford in 1915. He died of wounds in a field hospital near Poperinge on 12 December 1917 aged twenty five.

Private David Arthur Hornby of the Bedford Regiment. Born on 28 October 1879. Was a painter. Died in service in France on 11 December 1915. He was thirty-six.

Despatch Rider James Mead of Royal Field Artillery, B Battery 270th Brigade. Died in Palestine on 16 December 1917. Buried at Ramleh War Cemetery. He was aged twenty.

O Lord hear our prayer

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.

May we have a faith that renews our lives. May we be Messengers of Hope.

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