

Intercessions on Sunday 30 August 2020

by Chris Seward

Dear Lord, we pray to you this morning faithful and thankful for all the blessings that we enjoy. As we see the beauty that your creation brings to us may we find our own ways to conserve and enhance what is around us. In our own community of Hertford, we celebrate that the future of Beane Marshes is now secured under the ownership of the local Wildlife Trust and we give thanks for the efforts of all involved in achieving this goal.

We reflect on our gospel reading and see, in the person of the disciple Peter, how we must make a journey of faith that, on occasions, finds its expression in words of doubt and in feelings of disbelief. However, we know also the Bible tells us that Peter's commitment to you was to grow and his understanding to deepen through all that he was to experience-may we be encouraged by this as we follow our own different paths.

LORD, IN YOUR MERCY.....HEAR OUR PRAYER

We meet at the start of an important week when schools re-open and when so many families are affected by transitions in daily routine and patterns of work. We pray for those who feel anxious about these changes-may we reach out to each other, recognise these worries in others and do all we can to ally them.

Also, we pray for all those involved in the nation's schools and especially for the children, staff, parents and carers at our own primary schools of St Andrew's and Hertingfordbury Cowper. We thank you for the work that has gone on there in recent months to support the most vulnerable and we pray that the Headteachers and all involved in management and decision making will feel secure, supported and touched by your presence.

LORD, IN YOUR MERCY...HEAR OUR PRAYER

Lord, your people have always lived in a divided world. However, at this time, not least because of the global pandemic, what divides us appears more obvious and is highlighted more regularly, more clearly. Therefore, Lord, as we seek leadership and opportunities that remind us of what we share, of our common humanity, of our oneness as children of your creation, we pray that we might each find ways to reach out to others, to embrace diversity and in real, practical ways, begin to heal some of these divisions.

LORD, IN YOUR MERCY....HEAR OUR PRAYER

We pray for all those involved in leadership within the church in Hertford as well as in the wider Christian community. We pray that Alan and our staff team be sustained through the coming weeks as we look forward to the next stages of re-opening. May our journey through this re-opening take account of those who are waiting for the invitation, the opportunity to engage with you and to express their commitment and faith. Lord, let us remember that our churches are open to all who seek your presence.

LORD, IN YOUR MERCY...HEAR OUR PRAYER

Now let us pray for all in our world who are sick and in need of healing as well as for those who care for them. We remember those countries where new cases and deaths from Covid 19 continue to rise at an alarming rate and we pray that all involved in the research for preventative medicines will be sustained in their difficult and challenging work.

We pray for those known to us personally who are in ill health..... and those for whom we are asked to pray:

Mark, Colin, Julia, Debbie, Jean, Win, Barbara, Bernard, Norman, Paul, Tim, Dorothy, Connie, Chris, Joe, Andy, Susan, Chrissy

And we pray for those who have recently passed on from this life:

Ellen Cook, Geoff Mutch

And for those whose anniversaries fall at this time:

Winifred Kemp, Jill Scott-Houghton, Walter Simpson, Nell Lloyd

Lord, may all who carry the pain of sickness and suffering be comforted by the secure knowledge of your presence with them.

LORD, IN YOUR MERCY....HEAR YOUR PRAYER

So, Lord, we give thanks that we are able to meet freely and to reflect on your love for us. In the coming days, may we respond to your care and your sacrifice by modelling this in our work with others.

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