Intercessions on Wednesday 21 October by Melanie Seward

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

Lord God, we thank you that we can gather online this morning ... able to hear your word and to praise you. We thank you for the fellowship we enjoy together and the encouragement we are able to offer one another.

We pray for those who make the technology work for us, we thank you for Phil and Rachel overseeing our websites, for those who email, WhatsApp and phone to keep us all connected with one another.

And we ask that we should continue to grow as Your church and to understand that our mission is to reach those who may not be part of our fellowship at this time but who seek to find the living water.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we pray for the work with our young people. Remembering Tracy, our Youth Worker and all those who are part of her supporting team. Especially we give thanks for the Woodland Worship for the young people and their families and the encouragement and spiritual food it has given. We pray for those who work in education – that you may keep them safe and grant them healing rest this coming half-term.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Let us then pray also for all those charged with leadership in the Christian church - whatever their denomination or practice - may they find a balance where they offer both inspiration and service thus modelling the humanity of your son, Jesus Christ. Within our own church we pray for our Archbishops: Justin Welby and newly appointed Steven Cottrell and our Bishops - particularly Bishop Alan of St Albans and his Creating A Buzz in Nepal Appeal to set up the farming of honey bees and for Bishop Michael of Hertford and, at St Andrew's, we pray for Alan, Bill and Wendy and give thanks for their presence amongst us.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer

We pray for those who are unwell. Firstly, we take a moment to pray for those known only to ourselves......

And together we hold in our hearts and pray for strength and hope for:

The Lubi Family, Colin, Susan, Julia, Imogen, Jean, Connie, Joe, Julia, Bernard, Dorothy, Win, Mark, Barbara, Margaret, Paul, Terry, Chris, Barbara, Tim, Debbie

Chrissy gives thanks to Almighty God for the measure of recovery granted to her

We pray for those who have died recently: Evelyn Kellett, Charles Lule, Afolabi Euba

Send angels to mourn with their family and friends and may they know that they are loved and be aware of your presence.

We remember in Years' Mind those whose anniversaries fall at this time:

Ray Buck, Betty Hill, Stephen Rew, Lily McCracken, Horace Woollard

We thank you for these lives and all they bought to the world.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

We pray for our country – that our leaders at community, local and national levels will work together to combat Covid, support people and their livelihoods and care for the carers.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we call to mind the stories from around the world of the different nations. We pray for one of the richest nations- the United States as its people undergo a period of challenge with Covid 19, extreme weather, the uncertainty of the Elections and unrest over racial inequality and how to heal it. We pray that the churches and people of good will work together for the good of all.

And we remember Nigeria in our prayers, and the events in the News today.... We pray for Nigeria, a country of many different ethnic groups with tensions over culture, religion and politics. Especially we pray for those protesting peacefully against brutality and illegal detention. Heavenly Father send love and support to the families of those shot and to those who have been injured in the massacre by the army and police in the last few hours. We pray for wisdom in leaders who will bring unity by peaceful means.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Give us O God Thoughts which turn into prayer, Prayer which turns into love, Love which turns into deeds.

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