

# **Intercessions 21 June 2026**

**by Forbes Mutch, Lay Leader of Worship**

Let us pray for the Church and for the world and let us thank God for his goodness.

I'm sorry Lord, but there are so many issues and problems in the world and society and humanity at the moment, sometimes it's difficult to know where to start our conversation. I suppose the beginning is the best place but help us to be positive and trust in your protection.

We pray for the Church throughout the world. In every country and culture, strengthen all who follow Christ and seek to share his love. Where the Church faces persecution, division or discouragement, we ask that you bring courage, unity and hope. Let us not forget that there are people everywhere who reflect the compassion, justice and mercy of Jesus – help them Lord as they triumph to bring peace and truth to your kingdom on earth.

In our own parish, we pray for our priests Alan, Bill and Scott, for our lay readers and lay leaders; for all those

who work tirelessly behind the scenes in this church, playing their part to make this a caring and compassionate community.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

In the modern world, it's very easy to get depressed about technological advances that we don't understand; to be feel intimidated by the internet and artificial intelligence and the dangers of scams and fake news. But, hey, let's not forget the advances that the digital age has brought to science, medicine and communication... how it's easier to spread your Word, as we heard in Alan's sermon this morning, how our own Zoom service on a Sunday morning brings your presence into the homes of people who otherwise would be outside our community.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Creator God, on this weekend of the summer solstice, we give thanks for the beauty and abundance of your creation: for sunlight, growing crops, gardens, parks and open spaces, and for all that brings joy and refreshment. We do recognise the challenges facing our planet and we pray for communities affected by climate

change, extreme weather, rising seas, drought and wildfire. But there's a lot happening out there that drives positive change, so please continue Lord to inspires world leaders and each one of us to make wise choices that protect the earth and safeguard its future.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Wednesday this week is the International Day of Prayer for the Emergency Services. We pray for the police, the fire brigade, the ambulance service and all who work to keep our communities safe. Give them wisdom when faced with difficult decisions, patience when tensions are high and integrity in all they do.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for His Majesty King Charles III, for the Government, local councils and all who hold positions of responsibility and leadership throughout the world. At a time when many difficult decisions affect the lives of millions, grant our leaders wisdom, honesty and a commitment to the common good. We pray for all those places torn apart by conflict, remembering especially Ukraine, Lebanon and Israel and Sudan

But in the conflicts, we thank you Lord for moments of light and hope. We thank you particularly that when we prayed a few weeks ago for seven members of a Christian group in Nigeria who our friend and colleague Femi said had been kidnapped, you answered our prayers and the prayers of others, so that those seven are now safely reunited with their friends and families. Alleluia.

We pray for all who are ill, anxious or in need at this time, especially in our own community, we pray for: James, John-Pierre, Jill, Georgina, Trevor, Pauline, Chris, Matthew, Jean, Roger, Dino, Geoff, Phoebe and Sienna. May they feel your presence alongside them in every challenge they face. Give strength to those receiving treatment, courage to those awaiting news, and strength to all those who care for them.

We pray for those who have recently passed away, including David Fitzjohn. And at this Years' Mind, we remember: Phoebe Carter, Knapp Harms and Graham Edwards. We remember all those whose lives have been changed by loss or bereavement. Lord, surround them with your love and bring them peace.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

God of hope, receive these prayers and help us not only to pray for your world, but to play our part in building it into a place of greater justice, compassion and peace.

Lord, I didn't know where to start this morning but, having spoken to you now, I feel better, realising that there are so many good people doing good things in your kingdom on earth, at this church, in Hertford, the folks at Future Hope. We pray for them all. Thank you Lord for always hearing the prayers we say out loud, the prayers that we say silently in our minds but, most of all, that you hear the prayers that we don't say at all but which you know need answering.

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