

## INTERCESSIONS 26.11.17

Lord, we give you thanks today for so many things, a thousand miracles we take for granted every day. Thank you for the vitality and the diversity of the natural world. Thank you for the way the body goes on functioning with such remarkable ingenuity. Train our hearts to be thankful so that we live daily out of a deep sense of gratitude and humility.

Thank you for your body on earth, the church. Help us to recognise you in each other, and to look for you in unexpected places and unlikely people.

We pray for your church here at St Andrew's, and give thanks for Alan and Bill and for so many people who give their time and energy. Give us joyful and generous hearts which allow you to work through us to bring meaning and beauty into your world. We pray for Messy Church this afternoon, and especially for our young people on their weekend away. Bless each one of them and their leaders, protect them and draw them closer to you.

In this month of prayer for the persecuted church, I'm going to use the Open Doors prayer: Father God, as one church, united under your holy headship, and knowing that we are all one family in Christ; we pray for those who suffer in your name all over the world - our brothers and sisters, who share in that same gift of salvation, through your Son, but who face injustice, oppression and even death because of their faith in you. We want to walk with them as they journey through the valley of darkness. We pray that you will grant them strength, courage and protection from those who seek to harm them because they follow you, guidance and wisdom for when their path seems impossible to tread, and hope for a future where they have the freedom to worship you without fear. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

We pray for a world which struggles to live justly and in peace.

We remember today particularly the people of Egypt and Zimbabwe. Grant wisdom to those in power as they try to bring stability to their country and their people.

We pray for all who bear responsibility today in the world of politics, in the media, in the classroom, in the courts, in the workplace. May your blessing and power, your wisdom and compassion, your clarity and vision guide and enlighten.

Lord in your mercy

We pray for those who are going through times of trouble, some perhaps in our families, some in our church, some in our wider circle of friends. We know you to be both Lord and Healer of your broken world, and we ask you to touch with your generous love all those who are on our hearts today because of their special need. We remember specially .....

My your love flood their lives with hope and healing, in spirit mind and body.

Lord in your mercy

We remember before you the families and friends of those who have died this week

And those remembering anniversaries at this time...

May they know your comfort and peace

Lord in your mercy

We pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation as we come to know him, so that, with the eyes of our heart enlightened, we may know what is the hope to which he has called us, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.