

INTERCESSIONS 4 FEBRUARY 2018-02-03

Let's be quite still for a few moments and think of the fact that we are with the God who created the whole world, the beauty that surrounds us and the peace of this church

Lord, surround us with your spirit
Remove from our minds all distractions, inattention and coldness
Open our eyes to see you; our ears to hear you
Help us to be still in your presence

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

The Lord said 'Let there be Light' and there was light
Christ said 'I am the Light'

In the darkness of oppression and poverty	Christ be our light
In the darkness of war and conflict	Christ be our light
In the darkness of trauma and brutality	Christ be our light
In the darkness of corruption and egotism	Christ be our light
In the darkness of troubled hearts and minds, broken hearts and relationships	Christ be our light

Lord, bring into our lives the lights of understanding, willingness and determination so that your will may be done.

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

Mighty God, we pray for the worldwide Christian Church in all its diversity.

We pray especially for those churches who meet together in difficult and dangerous circumstances. May they feel your abiding presence to uphold their courage and strengthen their faith.

We bring before you all those who lead and inspire our worship locally and nationally.

We ask for your blessing on the St Andrew's Staff team and their initiative in compiling and arranging the bible study course to start later this month.

We pray especially this weekend for Street Pastors, particularly those from Hertford and Ware who are so in need of our support at this time.

We give thanks for their sharing of your love with others and for the good passed to those whose lives they have touched.

We give thanks for their courage, their wisdom and their faith.

Lord we further ask that you give them protection and encouragement

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

Creator God we pray for your world and its peoples with all their needs, questions and longings.

So often we struggle to understand the reasons behind the many acts of terrorism that have occurred over recent months and years; and yet we know that in the midst of such events, your love is shown in the acts of bravery, selflessness and compassion which follow.

We pray for all who suffer in such dreadful circumstances and for those who are tasked with rescue, providing medical and community support and in the long term task of reconstruction.

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

Loving God we pray for those in need in our own community,

the sick and the lonely, the elderly, the housebound

those in care homes, hospitals and hospices

and for the work and devotion of those who care for them.

We thank you for the nurses, doctors and Carers whose love and compassion bring both material and spiritual comfort at times of need. We raise before you now those known to us for whom prayer has been asked

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

Merciful God, be close to those who feel the pain of grief at the loss of a loved one, whether recent or as each anniversary passes.

Help us to support all those who mourn with our prayers, with words of comfort and with practical help as they struggle to come to terms with their loss.

We especially pray for.....

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

Send us out into the coming week to know and live your Good News. Give us the will each day to live in life eternal

Merciful father:

Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen