

Intercessions 18 August 2019

Readings 2 Timothy 4:1-8; Luke 12:49-56

Collect Gracious Father, revive your Church in our day, and make her holy, strong and faithful, for your glory's sake in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Paths feature throughout the Bible. The Psalmist wrote: *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (Psalm 119:105)* Jeremiah encouraged God's people to: *Stand at the crossroads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies, and walk in it, and find rest for your souls. (Jeremiah 6:16)*

Lord, show us our path to life; help us to choose and walk in the good way. Help us to clearly discern your voice from the cacophony of many other voices that surround us.

In the words of today's Collect, "*revive your Church in our day, and make her holy, strong and faithful*".

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

Last month, the Church of England published social media advice aimed at tackling offensive behaviour and misleading content and encouraging a positive atmosphere for online conversations. The Charter is centred on the 5 principles of truth, kindness, welcome, inspiration and togetherness.

This week, there have been vitriolic attacks on a 16 year old female Swedish environmentalist who lives with Asperger's as she sails across the Atlantic to speak at the United Nations in New York.

Also this week, politicians concerned about the UK's relationship with the EU have been accused of being 'collaborators', evoking wartime connotations of 'betrayal', and 'saboteurs'.

Lord, there can be a time for complaint and criticism, but keep us from vilifying individuals and groups, and help us to encourage and apply the 5 principles of truth, kindness, welcome, inspiration and togetherness in all aspects of our interaction with others, not just online.

Help your church to engage in a way which is shaped by the example of Jesus, and thereby

"encourage regular and not-so-regular churchgoers, sceptics and those who are surprised to find themselves interested, to be open to think and experience more of the Christian faith." (Archbishop Justin Welby 1 July 2019)

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

Jesus said that the kingdom of heaven doesn't just belong to adults: it belongs to children and young people too, and we should pay attention to them.

Lord, we thank you for the example of young people. Not all young people will have Greta Thunberg's high profile, inspiring action in response to climate change, or like Malala Yousafzai become the youngest Nobel peace Prize winner, but help us to express how important they all are to us.

Lead our young people on the path to life, help them to choose and walk in the good way, as they consider their future, or go away to university; or begin new schools and a new school year next month.

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

The ebola epidemic continues to spiral in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Thank you, Lord, for the clinical trial of two new drugs that has shown promise. May it be successful as it is rolled out on a larger scale, and may there be a swift end now to the outbreak. Comfort all those currently suffering.

The streets of Hong Kong have been scenes of protest against the proposed extradition law.

Millions of Kashmiris are being 'caged like animals' after the Indian Government's withdrawal of Kashmir's special status.

More than 50,000 people have been displaced by monsoon flooding across Myanmar.

There has been chaos in Zimbabwe as riot police violently disperse protesters.

Conflict continues to have a powerful, detrimental impact on the lives of people living in Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

Lord, protect those who have no shelter and no supporting infrastructure. Protect those who are working to build peace and restore houses, schools, healthcare, safe water and livelihoods.

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

Restore the joy of your salvation and sustain those who are unwell, in particular:

Comfort those who mourn the death of a relative or friend.

We remember those who have died:

We remember the anniversaries of:

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

As we have received Christ Jesus our Lord, may we live our lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, abounding in thanksgiving. (*Colossians 2:6-8*)

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

Amen