

Intercessions on Sunday 4 October

by Chris Seward

Praise the Lord.....this morning let us begin our prayers with this simple invitation from our Psalm...let us praise the Lord for all the blessings he has given us : the natural world, the people we love, the skills and abilities that we offer, the unrealised and, maybe, unrecognised, potential we each possess. Praise the Lord for these things.

Lord, in Jesus you came to bring the Good News to all people, to bring liberty to those in captivity, to bring light to those in darkness. May we remember the command in our Gospel reading to go out, spread the word and bring healing to the sick. Our mission is to exercise our influence for good in the world, to serve others and to support the well-being of all: both in body and in soul.

And let us give thanks to all who dedicate their lives to you and, in particular today, all those who follow the order of St Francis.

Help and guide all of us to spread your message of healing, in whatever way we can....to those we love in our family life, to our neighbours, our local community and beyond, to the wider world. May we be agents of your love for us all.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

This week sees Mental Health Day when we have special reason to remember those who, in any way, live with challenges to their mental well-being. May we be part of a loving community that, each year, is gaining more awareness of the issues that are brought

about by damaged mental health.....Comfort and relieve those who are troubled in mind and spirit, bring them hope, peace and the consolation of a loving community.....grant patience and courage to the families and friends of those who are ill, increase their perseverance as they seek ways to aid the recovery of their loved ones.....and protect those living with mental illness from addiction and abuse.....may our mission to bring healing offer them hope and light.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We continue to pray for our young people, especially those away from home who are pursuing their studies or seeking worthwhile employment or a fresh start. As we pray, let us reflect on how we can contribute to them building their resilience so they can deal with the challenges of separation, uncertainty and, possibly, isolation.

And let us pray also for those young people whose faith is strong and who seek to serve you and spread your message of Good News...may they also be a source of reassurance and support to their peers.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

As we come to pray for the wider world this morning, we remember those countries for whom the pandemic is just one of many critical challenges that they face. Among these places, let us pray for the people of India where human rights are being challenged and from where Amnesty International is being expelled.....for those from Africa and the Middle East who take such risks to escape poverty and persecution and yet do not always receive the welcome that you

would wish us to extend to them.....and for those people in Belarussia and Hong Kong who risk their safety and liberty in order to protest against authorities who, to maintain their power, seek to break international laws and conventions....among all our many concerns, may we remember to support and to pray for our wider world.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

And now we remember those individuals known to us who are in need of prayer, healing and support.....In particular we pray for those within and around our church family who are ill:

Barbara, Connie, Julia, Terry, Barbara, Jean, Chrissy, Susan, Colin, Joe, Tim, Dorothy, Debbie, Bernard, Paul, Win, Mark, Chris, Maureen

May they, and those who care for them, feel the peace of your healing hand.

We pray also for those who have passed from this life. Those who recently are mourned:

Norman Hoyle, Dr Philip Lancaster

And those whose anniversaries fall at this time: Roy Dapp, Maureen Barratt, Herbert Bush, Wyn Carter, Ernest Ruffles.

With their names in our mind may we bring comfort to those in sorrow and light to those who walk in the shadows.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

So, Lord, send us out filled with your Holy Spirit, to live and to work to your praise and glory. Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.