

Intercessions: Easter Sunday 2021 – Chris Seward

Jesus Christ is risen, indeed-hallelujah! Heavenly Father, on this Easter morning we celebrate the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ. We bring with us palm crosses with which we remember his death by crucifixion and we offer spring flowers, a signal of new life and new hope. Just as winter turns to spring, may our own lives now become fuller with you and may we grow in love, in spirit and in faith.

We pray for all those who do feel their faith grow stronger and who come to know you better. We include those being baptised this Easter Day especially Beth Emsley, a member of TMM who is being baptised at her Baptist church. May she, and all our young people, feel safe and loved, and may they experience your growing presence in their lives.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We rejoice that your church today celebrates the good news of the resurrection-multiple nations singing hymns of praise in multiple languages. We pray that your followers, wherever they may be, are kept safe from persecution and, where they face danger, are strengthened in their faith.

And at this time of global pandemic, we mourn all who we have lost in the past year, both within our own community and in the wider world. But we also give thanks for the deliverance offered to us by the science of vaccinations and pray that people of all faiths and backgrounds will have access to vaccines and to medical care. We remember that we all belong to you, Creator God.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Let us pray now for our own country with its divisions and concerns. May all those who lead, be it in local communities, in national institutions, in government and within our Royal Family recognise the needs of people to live fairly, to be adequately supported and to feel confidence that they are treated with justice and respect. And we give thanks for all people of faith who, through their support of the vulnerable, bear witness to your commandment to “love one another”.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Here, at our churches of St Andrew and St Mary, we pray for our clergy....their wisdom, their prayers and their compassion. We also give thanks for the wonderful work of many others, for Tracy and those who support our young people, those who look after our church buildings and the grounds around them, those who enrich our worship through music and the use of technology, those who offer practical support to others and those who hold us all so deeply in their prayers. May they all feel encouraged and may we all seek to follow their example of service to you, our Lord.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

And now we pray for those who are ill, be it in body or in mind, be they known to us personally or part of a group for whom we have particular concern.

We pray for *Dean, Susan, Alma, Susan, Tim, Imogen, Lilla, Claire, Phil, Yvonne, Paul, Douglas, Jo, Bernard, Julie, Barbara, Andree, Laurel, Darci*

May they, and those who care for them, experience your grace and your comforting presence.

We pray, also, for those who have recently died. *For Ian Mulligan, Rose Elliott, Terry Miles, Allan Sellers*

And we remember in Years' Mind those whose anniversaries fall at this time: *Ephrain Ruskin, Paul McCormick, Jim O'Smotherly, Jim Birtwhistle, Ruth Salthouse, Frederick Octavius Trump, Derek Babb, David Scholar.*

We pray that those who mourn on this Easter Day confidently take comfort in the good news of eternal life for all who seek and who believe.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

So, Heavenly Father, on this Day of Resurrection, may we see new light to guide us, find new spirit to inspire us and feel new hope to restore us. Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.