

# **Intercessions Sunday 19 December 2021**

## **by Charles Ledsam**

Let us pray for the Church and for the world, and let us thank God for his goodness.

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, you promised through your son Jesus Christ to hear us when we pray in faith.

Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent, a time when we have been waiting and preparing for Christmas. This is a time when we ask God for guidance as to how we can best serve him and the church.

We give thanks to all involved in yesterday's Beer and Carols event, especially the musicians and singers. We pray for all those who attended the event, that they received a feeling of warmth and of God's love.

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

We pray for peace, tolerance and understanding in a volatile and troubled world,

We pray for a spirit of working together to find solutions to the continuing tensions with our brothers and sisters in Europe. We pray for wisdom and a desire for reconciliation and finding solutions.

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

Our thoughts and prayers are with those preparing to celebrate Christmas in different ways this year, at home on Zoom or similar and possibly without the family celebrations we have enjoyed in the past.

We remember those we love from whom we will be separated this Christmas. We ask for your strength to handle our disappointment and frustration. Be with all those who find Christmas time difficult.

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

We pray for the Queen and all the Royal Family and give thanks for the way they serve our country and our local communities. Bless them all richly.

We pray for our government and indeed all politicians as they seek to discern what is right. We pray for Hertford Town Council and all who serve the town, for our teachers, police, fire-fighters and food bank volunteers.

*O Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer*

We give thanks for Alan Stewart and our team including Bill, Melanie, Geoff, Forbes and Maria and for all they contribute to our churches and communities.

Thank you for our team of churchwardens, Jane, Shirley and Chris, and all who serve here in any way, especially Phil and Carol, Rosemary, Tracy and all who help at Sunday School and do valued Youth work. We also remember the Zoom team of Nick, Geoff and Kath.

We also pray for those who work in shops and offices in St Andrew Street and in our wider town. Help us to support them and show our appreciation in these difficult times.

We give thanks for all the voluntary groups, all doing amazing work in the most difficult conditions.

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

This is a difficult time for us all as we struggle to face unsettling times. We are in your hands in this period of lockdowns and vaccinations, we know we need to trust in you, Lord,

We give thanks for all those involved in the vaccination effort, especially those working in the St Andrew's Centre. The team works hard and requires commitment, patience, dedication to the job in hand.

We pray for all doctors, nurses and carers of those who are ill, especially those in the front line of Covid-19.

*We pray for all those who are unwell including:*

Julie, Yvonne, Susan, Phoebe, Carol, Barbara, Imogen, Forbes Senior and Kamala (and family)

We remember those who have died, especially those known to us, including: David Mort and Mavis Curnock

Give those who have been left behind strength and courage to cope.... and we remember those whose anniversaries fall at this time....

*Grace Maud Wrangles, John Lambert, Ernie Race, Annie Ruskin, Stella Frost, and Matthew Risby.*

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

Finally we pray for ourselves and for any others known to us, that all may feel welcomed, supported and encouraged according to their needs.

Give all of us wisdom, patience, energy and cheerfulness as we seek to serve the common good.

Give us the ability to know our story, enable us to tell our story and to live our story. May we have a faith that renews our lives. May we be Messengers of Hope.

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy  
Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick,

And lift up all those who are brought low; that they may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love.  
In Christ our Lord, Amen

We rejoice in the fellowship of St Andrew and all your saints and commend ourselves and all people to your unfailing love.

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