

Intercessions on 30 August 2026

by Andrew Goodman

First Reading: Romans 12:9-21

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

Collect: Almighty God, you search us and know us: may we rely on you in strength and rest on your in weakness, now and in all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Lord, over the summer we have been officially in drought and witnessed destruction of buildings and landscapes through wildfires around the UK. This week, we have witnessed the destructive force of millions of cubic metres of water in Nepal and Tibet.

Lord, whether we are in denial or despair about the impact of climate change caused by human activity, help us to see how you are working in all of this to create us as your people.

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

Lord, help us to pray for millions of people whose lives are embroiled in destruction and devastation, whether through natural disaster as in Nepal and Tibet, or from violent, oppressive enemies as in Ukraine.

The psalmist was confident that in the darkest places, we need not fear because you are with us in it¹, and we need not fret about the wicked and wrongdoers because they will fade and wither².

We thank you, Lord, for every country, organisation and person who is supporting and bringing relief to these

¹ e.g. Psalm 23

² e.g. Psalm 37

situations. May this be an encouragement to those who have lost their homes and livelihoods, and family members and friends.

We thank you, Lord, that Tearfund has well established connections with NGO's and churches in Nepal. Help them to distribute donations to their emergency Nepal Floods Appeal to good effect.

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

When Jesus was questioned about his disciples not following the Pharisees' fasting traditions, he used the picture of new wine needing to go into new wineskins, rather than old, in order to retain both³.

Lord, we ask your blessing on new things and fresh starts that come about as we move into September, remembering:

- Pupils returning to St Andrew's School, Hertingfordbury Cowper School and Hertford Prep School, and the teachers who have new classes. We thank you for the contribution from all staff and governors - may they see much fruit from their input this year.
- Pupils starting at a new school.
- Junior church and the Deeper group restarting.
- Zoom service restarting in a couple of weeks' time - inspire Kath Oates and Nick Hoyle who lead this.
- The monthly Breathe prayer meeting.
- Soul Sunday restarting next Sunday evening.
- Bless Dave Shaw's time with us and St Mary's as he continues his lay reader training.

³ Matthew 9:17

- Mindfulness and Meditation restarting, both in church and at the Sele Community Hub.
- Bless David, Danielle and Millie next month as they mark a stage in their faith journey through baptism, and David, Danielle, Henry and Wendy marking another stage in confirmation.
- As Isabella is baptised later this morning, fill her family and friends with joy and thankfulness for her life.
- Lord, we remember your gift of creation and new life during Creationtide, which lasts throughout September and into October. May we be inspired to renew our commitment, as encouraged by the Church of England, to care for our one planet home.

Moving into September also marks MPs' return to Parliament, so Lord give wisdom to both those with ministerial responsibilities and those with responsibility to hold all MPs, not just decision makers, to account.

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

We thank you, Lord, that we can pray for ourselves or someone we are caring for who is suffering with ill-health: physically, mentally and emotionally. We commit to you those known to us who are unwell:

Restore them with the joy of your salvation.

We commit to you those known to us here who have died recently:

Lord, we thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to comfort us and give us peace. Bring comfort and reassurance to those who mourn that you are with them in their pain and sorrow.

We remember the anniversaries of:

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

Lord, as we move into a new week and a new month, we commit ourselves into your service. Keep us from being daunted by what Paul wrote to the Roman church, and what Jesus said about discipleship.

In our hesitation and doubt, and with the help of the Holy Spirit, may our love be sincere, may we hate evil and cling to what is good, may we be devoted to one another in love, honour one another above ourselves, be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer, sharing with one another and practicing hospitality.

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