

Sunday 31 July - Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Prayers written by Ruth Le Poidevin

Lord, awaken in us our need of you and make us hungry and thirsty for you, both as individuals and as your church here. Let no other issues sidetrack us from seeking you, and increase our love and compassion so that we long to serve out your love to the world around us.

We thank you for all who have helped us to pray and to grasp something of your great love and power. We ask your blessing and empowering for all who teach and minister in your name, thinking especially of Anne-Marie and all who, along with her, lead worship in our various churches. We ask, as we meet together each week, that our worship may be an overflowing of our daily walk with you and an expression of our deepening love.

We come thanking you for the diversity and beauty of the natural world - so much for us to value. But at this time when we have witnessed the devastation because of our inconsiderate use of resources we need your guidance. As the world awakens to the dangers we ask for wisdom and unselfishness not only for great leaders in grand conferences but for each of us in our daily lives. May we listen to the weak as well as to the strident, to the poor as well as the affluent and the powerful.

We narrow our thoughts down to our own country and acknowledge that at this difficult time we are in great need of your direction and help. We bring before you all living with financial problems, who struggle to maintain a good standard of living, to put food on the table, to keep homes safe and well-maintained.

We bring before you all who are worried about our extreme weather conditions, our farmers, small business owners, for all in the service industries who have to deal with the shocking results which this weather brings. And we pray for the health service under such huge pressure. We bring before you, too, our government. We ask that out of what seems to us to be a rather shambolic series of events, a right leader may emerge who will be led to appoint true advisers.

May we always come thankfully to you for the answers to our prayers. As ever, there are so many who need your comfort and healing, especially those in faraway war-torn situations, but we bring before you many nearer to home,

including: Phil Bryers, Scott Green, Jan Banks, Ken Cathcart, Dorothy Lawrence, Hazel Chapman, John Leaworthy, Ellen Vigar who are always in our thoughts.

We call to mind all those we have known and loved who lived among us and now have died, asking that they may know your mercy and everlasting peace, This morning we remember: Val Merrick, John Martin, Derek Pennick, Jane Porter, Muriel Loveridge, Brenda Housden and ask that those who will miss them most will know your comfort.

From our memorial book we give thanks for the life of: Kane Seaman.

We thank you for the joy of fellowship. We remember now any absent from us this morning because they are on holiday. We pray that they may travel safely and return refreshed. May we, having met with you this morning, go out with joy and thankfulness to share your love with those we meet.

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