

Sunday 19 July – Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Prayers written by Jenny Cass

Dear Lord and Heavenly Father, we join together in prayer for the needs of the church, the world, our communities and ourselves, trusting in your love and compassion.

Gracious God, we give thanks for the Church and for all who lead, serve and work in it. We pray today for Archbishop Sarah, Bishop Guli, Bishop Roger, Archdeacon Ruth. Bless our church here at St Luke's and the other churches in our Benefice. We give thanks for all who minister here, both ordained and lay and continue to pray that the post of Rector will soon be filled. We give thanks for the faithful service of those who keep our buildings open and well cared for, our graveyards tidy and those who offer hospitality and welcome to all. We pray for them all.

Lord in your mercy – Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we pray for our troubled world. We hold before you those nations severely affected by the on-going conflicts in the Middle East, Ukraine, Africa and Myanmar. We pray for all world leaders as they continue to seek solutions to bring wars to an end and relief to those who suffer as innocent casualties. Give wisdom to all in authority that they will work towards a better and peaceful world, one that values human lives and the world you created.

We continue to pray for the country of Venezuela after the devastating earthquakes. Comfort all those who have lost loved ones, their homes and businesses. We give thanks for all who are providing help and support through many aid agencies.

Lord in your mercy – hear our prayer.

As our schools and colleges begin their summer vacation, we pray it will be a time of rest and refreshment for all staff and students. We pray for those anxiously awaiting exam results next month and for the decisions that will be taken about their future.

We thank you for our community here in Tiptree and for all who serve us. We give thanks for the local food bank volunteers and the community hub. For all carers in our area, providing strength, patience and compassion to the sick, elderly and vulnerable.

Lord in your mercy- hear our prayer.

Loving God, we lift to you all who are troubled in body, mind or spirit, that you will meet them in their need, bringing comfort and healing. We pray for all who exercise care in our community as GP's, nurses, pharmacists, social and care workers. Bless them in all they do.

We pray today for those known to us, and on our hearts, especially remembering Jericho Hasieber, Sarah, Andy & Jean, Graham Chislett.

Lord in your mercy – hear our prayer.

We were saddened to hear of the tragic death of Ann Widdecombe. She was a committed Christian and worked hard for our country for many years.

From our Remembrance Book we give thanks for the lives of Frederick Boot, Harold Curtis and Gillian Cathcart.

We pray for all who mourn, may they experience the comfort of your Holy Spirit.

Lord in your mercy – hear our prayer

Finally, a prayer for ourselves: Heavenly Father, search our hearts today for we know that, within each of us, there is a mix of both seeds and weeds in our character. Forgive us for the times we have allowed doubt, worries, or selfish attitudes to grow within us. Help us to put aside all that hinders our faith, and, in their place, nurture the good seeds of love, joy and peace you have planted within us. Help us to grow, bear good fruit and yield a harvest that honours you.

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