

In the power of the Spirit and in Union with Christ,
let us pray to the Father.

We pray for the Church throughout the world.

Heavenly Father, we give thanks for the mystery of the Trinity in which three diverse persons exist in perfect unity and together express the richness that is our God. Help your Church likewise to see that to express the richness of God we must bring together people of all sorts in a unity of love.

We give thanks for the wideness of your mercy and ask forgiveness for the false limits we sometimes impose.

Help us to remember that in Christ there is no male or female, no gay or straight, no black or white, no rich or poor, no strong or weak, no broken or whole. Help us to see Christ in every person we meet, and to be aware that when we reject anyone we reject Christ himself. Help your Church to see that all are needed if it is to be truly the body of Christ.

We pray for the work of Inclusive Church, and Bob Callaghan and his team. We pray for the Anglican Church in the year ahead, for the new general Synod and for the meeting of Anglican primates that Archbishop Justin has arranged for next January to seek a new way forward for the Anglican communion.

We pray for our own diocese, its bishops, Peter, Keith and Libby and for our own parish of St Bridget's, for our clergy, John and David, all who assist them, and all who worship here. Help this diocese and this parish to be seen as open to all, and offering the love of our God to all. We pray also for the parish of Hale Barns, as it enters a vacancy .

Strengthen all your Church in the service of Christ, that all who confess your name may be united in your truth, live together in your love and show forth your glory in the world:

Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

We pray for the needs of the world.

Look mercifully, O Lord our God, upon the world of our day
and heal the sorrows and suffering that we see in so many places.

Help people to see their differences as an opportunity, not as threat, and that love of neighbour expands their horizons, whereas hatred diminishes them. Help them to want to live together in harmony and not in conflict, and to learn to serve you in the peace and freedom of your kingdom.

We pray for all the troubled places of the world, where suspicion of and hostility to what is different leads to tension, to conflict and to suffering.

Especially we pray for Syria and Iraq, and for all the troubled places in Africa. At this

time we bring before you the many thousands of migrants fleeing war, suffering and destitution. We pray that they may journey in safety, and that they receive a welcome when they arrive, so that they can rebuild their lives in a new home.

Give wisdom to all in authority, and direct this nation and every nation in the ways of justice and peace, that we may honour one another and seek the common good.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

We pray for the needs of our local community.

Here too, in the place where we live, let us recognise that only by accepting the differences between people can we develop the potential of the community in all its richness. Help us to move on from the comfort of mixing with people who are like us and to seek out diversity, and to accept and include all our neighbours.

We pray for those who live in our community but do not feel part of it, whether through age, through illness, or for any other reason. We pray for the lonely, the desperate and the excluded, that they, through us, may come to feel your love.

Give grace to us and to all our neighbours, that we may serve Christ in one another and love as he loves us.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

We pray for all those who suffer, in body, mind or spirit; Let us in a moment of silence bring before God those known to us personally who, for whatever reason, need his healing touch today.

[pause].

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit, give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Help us to recognise that we who are gathered together in this place, are but a tiny part of your people, and that we share our worship with all those who call upon you, wherever they may be, and with the cloud of witnesses who preceded us.

We commemorate the departed, especially today [RIP].
And especially those named in our book of remembrance .

Hear us as we remember those who have died in the faith of Christ. According to your promises, grant us with them a share in your eternal kingdom.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of Bridget and all your saints, we commend ourselves, all people, and the whole of creation to your unfailing love.

Merciful father, Accept these prayers
for the sake of your son, Our Saviour, Jesus Christ,
Amen.