

## Intercessions Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Jan 2019

As we enter the season of Epiphany, we thank you for the lesson of the wise men and their gifts, ask you to be our guiding light, and pray for your blessing on the gifts we offer.

Creator of the heavens,  
who led the Magi by a star  
to worship the Christ-child:  
guide and sustain us,  
that we may find our journey's end  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Lord, we know that we do not appreciate each other enough, and are sorry. We thank you for the gifts of our beautiful church, the friendly local community, and the work of all those involved in our worship here.

Help us to be a Christ-like church in our service to others. With that in mind we pray for the success of our community outreach, including 3G, the St Lawrence Café, concerts and so on. We thank you for all the volunteers who help in these activities, and in the life of the church generally, whether they are members of the congregation or not – church cleaners, sidesmen & vergers, readers, chalice bearers, flower arrangers, coffee rota, bellringers, and musicians.

Lord in Your Mercy

Lord, we are sorry that we allow so much conflict in the world. Although wars and conflicts seem huge and remote, and political divisions seem intractable, help us to see that we can make a difference by the way in which our small individual actions add up. Help us to treat each other kindly, to stand up for what is right, to speak your truth to those in power, and to support political leaders whose policies reflect your teachings.

Lord in Your Mercy

Closer to home, we are sorry that we sometimes ignore the wellbeing of our neighbours. We bring before you now all those known to us who are in special need at the moment, including:

- Those who have been bereaved or who are remembering their loved-ones' anniversaries
- Those with long-term illnesses
- Those awaiting operations or recovering from them
- Those who find their social life is limited and feel isolated

Help us to be more Christ-like in actively looking for those in need and making the time to do what we can for them... and to do all these things quietly, without seeking reward or admiration.

Lastly, we pray for ourselves and our own needs.

We live in a world that praises self-sufficiency and personal happiness over the common good; one where "neediness" is considered a grave fault. Help us to express our needs honestly but without being a burden, and to see answers to many of our own questions in serving the needs of others, and in serving you.

Merciful Father