

## **“Serve” – Intercessions for mission and service**

Father, we come to you today with a concern for your world and your people, remembering that you are interested not simply in collecting Christians, but in renewing the whole of your creation.

Lord, give to your church, we pray, a profound concern for the well-being of the world you made. Guide our church leaders into judgements that are just and compassionate. Give them words which are wise and incisive. As they speak for the Church on so many different and difficult issues, give them time to ponder, experts to provide sound advice, and the insight which comes from you alone; and grant us unity in love and in action together.

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Lord, give to us also, we pray, here in our churches in this area, a full and rounded gospel, so that we may engage fully with our locality and not just seem to preach at it. Give us a concern for our community life, for the well-being of our schools and teachers, for our local councillors, and for the treatment of our weak and marginalised members. We pray for your blessing on all we do together – in particular for Foodbank, Street Pastors and cornerstone, for their Trustees and volunteers, and on all they meet and help.

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Lord, we know that it is so much easier to relate our faith to our interior life, and our home and church life. But your vision is so much bigger. What use is a cosy church, if society around us is in despair? Open our minds and hearts to confront the darkness with justice, and to embrace the broken with love. Grant peace in those places in the world where there is conflict, and justice where there is oppression. In our own area we hold in our imagination so many people in need:

- A man who's lost his job, seen his family evicted and is now on the streets
- A girl who, in the wrong company, has become a drug user and addict
- An ex-soldier, discharged from the army and unable to settle into civilian life
- A refugee family from Syria, trying to understand how to live in Wiltshire.

Lord we pray that you will give to the gospel we proclaim the radical edge that we see in the words and actions of Jesus, who came not to be served but to serve, and not to save his life but to give it up in the cause of the Kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Lord we pray for all who are sick or in distress; those known to us, and those for whom our prayers are requested (named). We remember before you those who have gone ahead of us into your light (named) and pray for all who mourn.

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