

Intercessions Sunday 28th February

We pray that the Church may follow the way of the Cross. May the Church lead the way in helping us to understand that to save is to lose and to lose is to find, and that to give all is to gain all in the power of the risen Christ.

At a time when so many families face a bleak future with regard to secure rented homes, we give thanks for the Church of England initiative this week which seeks new principles in supporting those in such need by promoting the policy of using some church land to support social housing rather than maximise profits.

May the Church worldwide speak out for the poor, the marginalised, for justice and for peace.

Lord, meet us in the silence: **and hear our prayer.**

We pray for the leaders of the nations at this time of so many challenges. May those countries that have much, promote a fair distribution not only of the vaccine but of support for the many developing countries whose economies have been devastated.

We pray for the families in some countries where girls will never return to school and may be forced into marriages to ease financial pressures. We acknowledge the courage of those who protest on the streets of Myanmar, who face dangers to their lives in their standing up for justice.

Lord, meet us in the silence: **and hear our prayer.**

We pray for our families, friends and neighbours that we may grow in wisdom to follow you. We pray for those living in Cissbury Drive and Cissbury Avenue. We thank you for the work of the medical researchers, manufacturers, the NHS and volunteers who are working together to distribute the vaccines that will enable us all to return to a more normal way of life in the future. Help us to encourage and support one another during the next period of time while we wait expectedly for a time when restrictions will ease.

Lord, meet us in the silence: **and hear our prayer.**

Comfort those who find the burdens of this time heavy to bear. We pray for those who have lost loved ones, for those who have a family member in a care home who no longer recognises them after such a long period of separation or families where the stresses of lockdown have led to domestic violence and great desperation. Draw near to all who suffer and encircle them with your love.

Merciful Father.....