

**Eccleshall Parish**

**Intercessions**

**23 January 2022**

**The Third Sunday of Epiphany**

*Pause for reflection as you offer the day to God.*

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and forever.

**Amen.**



Intercessions for this Sunday  
received with thanks from Judith Norton:

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of  
you is a part of it.

And in the church God has appointed first of all  
apostles, second prophets,  
third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those  
having gifts of healing,  
those able to help others, those with gifts of  
administration,  
and those speaking in different kinds of tongues.  
1 Corinthians 12:27-28

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Christians are called 'the body of Christ'; we do the  
Lord's work for him here on earth acting as his eyes,  
mouth, hands, etc. and we are all given spiritual  
gifts to enable us to do this work. And just like a  
human body which has many parts doing different

functions, so it is with the body of Christ. Though  
some spiritual gifts may sound more important than  
others, all our spiritual gifts are vital to the Lord's  
work. Lord, please help us to recognise our gifts and  
use them for the benefit of our church and  
Community.

Lord, we ask you to bless this community; people  
who run businesses here or work for others, those  
who live here and commute elsewhere for work,  
and those who are retired, particularly the sick and  
the elderly. We want to make this church as  
relevant and welcoming as it needs to be to  
persuade people in our community to come and  
join us and make this church or St. Chad's their  
spiritual home. Lord, we ask that some of them will  
join us when we meet to pray about the future  
direction of our Church so that we can learn what  
their views are and what their expectations are  
from their local church.

And Lord, we pray for Arlo on his special baptism  
day, and ask you to bless him and all his family, his  
Godparents and friends, and we pray that Arlo will  
discover what his spiritual gifts are so that he can  
develop them as he grows up and use them for the  
Lord.

**Lord, in your mercy, Hear our Prayer**

Lord, in these turbulent times, when both the  
Government and the Monarchy are going through  
periods of crisis, we ask you to overrule in both  
cases so that the right decisions are made to  
resolve these matters with minimum harm to the  
institutions and the individuals involved, as well as  
the general public, who can only watch and wait.

**Lord, in your mercy, Hear our Prayer**

Lord, we pray about the Pandemic, and give thanks  
that Omicron has been milder than previous  
variants in many cases, as predicted, but the  
numbers are still high. We thank you that the  
vaccines are making a difference and that more

people are having them. We pray that wise decisions will be made by the Government about when and how to lift restrictions, bearing in mind the advice of the Health and Scientific advisers. Lord, we also pray that the vaccines will be shared more equitably with poorer countries, where the majority have had no vaccines at all. We ask for healing for those who are currently sick with COVID-19, and ask for your protection for all those involved in caring for them. We commend those who have died from it to you, and we ask you to comfort all those who have lost a loved-one to it.

**Lord, in your mercy, Hear our Prayer**

Lord, we pray about the evolving situation in Ukraine, and ask for wisdom for all parties involved or likely to become involved.

**Lord, in your mercy, Hear our Prayer**

Lord, we thank you for giving us this wonderful planet, which gives us so much more than we need in every way. Our food would serve its purpose even if it did not look nice or taste good, but we thank you that it does both. And Lord, we thank you that many of the beautiful flowers and shrubs that we love and plant in our gardens come back year after year to give us pleasure. Please help us to remember to be grateful for all your goodness to us, and to be mindful of the fragility of our planet and of our need to do everything we can to protect it.

**Lord, in your mercy, Hear our Prayer**

Gracious Lord, we bring before you those known to us or in our community who are sick, and pray for healing. We commend to you those who have died recently, and we ask you to bless and comfort their families and friends.

**Lord God,  
Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our  
Saviour, Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

