

Intercessions for Safeguarding Sunday, 16th November.

Gracious God, as we gather here in your presence and mark Safeguarding Sunday, renew our commitment to care for one another.

As we seek to love and care for one another in your name, remind us of our shared responsibility to safeguard the vulnerable. Give us your compassion, wisdom and courage to continue to build a positive culture of safeguarding so that all our spaces are safe for everybody. ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.***

God of compassion, we pray for all who are vulnerable, the children, young people and adults who are at risk, of harm, abuse and exploitation. May your love surround them, your justice protect them, and your Church be a place of welcome and safety. Lord, often the voices of the vulnerable are not heard. May we be a secure place for them to speak of their pain, open to listening so that we might offer love and support in your name as we journey alongside them.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Healing God, We lift before you those who carry the mental and physical wounds of abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Bring comfort to their hearts, strength to their spirits, and hope for their journey.

Help us to listen, believe, and respond with love, care and integrity.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of wisdom, we give thanks for those who lead safeguarding work in our churches and communities. Grant them courage, discernment, and compassion in all they do. May they be guided by your Spirit as they lead the support for the vulnerable.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Holy God, may your Church be a beacon of light in dark places. A refuge for the hurting, and a voice for justice. Help us to live out our calling to "See it, Hear it, Report it," So that all may flourish in your love. ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.***

God of all comfort, we pray for those that we know who are sick or in need of healing. We lift before you **xxxxxx** May they know your presence, your comfort, and your healing touch. ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.***

God of peace, we pray for those who mourn, and for all who are bereaved. We especially hold in our hearts the families and friends of **xxxxx**, who have recently died. May they be comforted by your love and strengthened by your peace.

We now take a moment of quiet to remember and pray for those close to us personally and whose names are known to us, who may need the outreach of your love and support during their difficult times. ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.***

Visionary God, we pray that as we step forward into the week ahead, let our faith be our guide and strength for whatever we may face. Help us to be guardians of the vulnerable, watchful, wise, and willing to act. May our churches be places where all feel safe, seen, heard and supported. Where silence is broken, truth is spoken, and healing begins.

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