

Lord, this has been a week with a lot of news and comment about children. The victims of the tornado in Oklahoma are in the forefront of our minds as also are those that have been the victims of sexual grooming. We are grateful for the millions of children in the world that have good parenting, good teachers and good guidance. We give thanks for all the positive work that is done here in Willingham and at churches all across the world to provide teaching and support for young people. We ask for your help in guiding the minority that suffer from horrific crimes, war and natural disasters to find strength and solace in you, your church and your love.

Lord in your mercy.....

Lord there is much to be thankful for in our world and much about which we have concerns. Let us spend a few moments now thinking about some of those who may be less fortunate than ourselves and pause briefly to reflect on anyone who is close to us or that we know just slightly that is in:

- **Physical pain** including all those who are sick or weak
- **Mental torment** including all those who face daily challenges
- **Danger** including all those who protect us here and overseas
- **Distress** including all those who are abused and ill treated
- **Despair** including all those who are friendless and unloved
- **Destitution** including all those who today have no shelter or food
- **Denial** including all those who have not been able to find your comfort

Lord we know that these are your children as much as we are your children. Help those who are unable to help themselves and give us the patience and commitment to help them too.

Lord in your mercy.....

Finally Lord in a week when we have seen the death of a young brave soldier we offer our thoughts and prayers to his family and friends. We recognise that it is easy to condemn this awful and brutal murder and much less easy to forgive. Perhaps we should remember what Jesus himself said on the cross, *forgive them father for they know not what they do*. Help us Lord to be measured in our response and not to blame the many for the deeds of a few. Give us

tolerance and grace so that we may serve Christ in one another and love him as he loves us.

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

Written by Intercessor Phil King