**Intercessions for Candlemas**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you promised through your Son Jesus Christ to hear us when we ask in faith.

We thank you for the Ministry of your Son, and we remember the

common faith which binds us all together, and our common mission to

bring your peace to all the nations of the world. We pray for all churches

everywhere, and for all those who serve them. We pray for the whole

Anglican Communion, for the Archbishop of Canterbury, for all

primates and bishops, and particularly for the Episcopal Anglican Church

of Brazil and their primate Naudal Alves Gomes. We ask your blessing

for Sarah our bishop, for Richard our archdeacon, and for our own

ministers David, Paulette and Jane.

**Lord in your mercy – hear our prayer**

We pray for the world and for all peoples. As we see a more positive future thanks to the work of scientists and health experts, and to the acceptance of more rational thinking and less game playing by political leaders, help us to remember that you teach us to love our neighbours as ourselves, and that the health needs of the poor anywhere should not be trampled by the demands of the rich. Remind us that vaccines will not cure the moral and spiritual ills affecting the world, the greed and selfishness that are destroying our children’s futures and the future of your whole creation through climate change, the death wish that still enriches the arms manufacturers through ever more pointless weapons, the so-called patriotism which sets people against people when we need more than ever to work together.

**Lord in your mercy – hear our prayer**

We pray for our families, friends and community. We ask particularly for your support for all those who live and work in Benbow Road, Brackenbury Gardens, Brackenbury Road and Vinery Way. We ask for your comfort for all those who are mourning the loss of relatives and friends, whether at the start of life or towards the end, recognising that all are of equal value in your sight. Help us to help them to see that there is a future, that alone does not have to mean lonely, and that all are members of your family.

As the Government moves slowly to ensure that there will be no recurrence of the Grenfell Fire help us never to forget those victims still looking for justice, and to support their continuing efforts to expose those whose actions or inactions led to so many people burning to death. The greater tragedy we are currently living through must not be allowed to obscure the ruthless crimes of the past.

**Lord in your mercy – hear our prayer**

We ask you Lord to comfort and heal all those who suffer in mind, body or spirit, and give your grace to all those who work for them. Support all those whose loved ones are in distress, and help us to give them strength and comfort.

**Lord in your mercy – hear our prayer**

Hear us as we remember those who have died in the faith of Christ, and according to your promises, grant us with them a share in your eternal kingdom.

Rest eternal grant to them O Lord

**And let light perpetual shine upon them.**

May they rest in peace

**And rise to glory.**

We pray with Mary

**Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.**