

Themed
SUNDAY
Intercessions

Rupert Bristow

kevin
mayhew

For Sarah, as always,
and in memory of Canon Bob Stroud

**kevin
mayhew**

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Contents

About the author	5
Foreword	6
Introduction	7
Festivals and Seasons	
Advent	10
Christmas Eve/Day	18
The Epiphany	22
The Baptism of Christ	24
The Presentation of Christ	30
Ash Wednesday	32
Lent	34
Mothering Sunday	38
Palm Sunday	40
Maundy Thursday	46
Good Friday	48
Easter Eve	50
Easter Day	52
Ascension Day	58
Day of Pentecost	60
Trinity Sunday	66
Bible Sunday	72
Dedication Festival	78
All Saints' Day and All Saints' Sunday	84
Christ the King	86
Harvest Festival	92
Prayers by Themes	
Creation	100
Discipleship	140
Family	162
Forgiveness/Repentance	174
Glory	192
Holy Spirit	208

THEMED SUNDAY INTERCESSIONS

Justice	214
Leaders/Leadership	228
Light	270
Mission	280
Oppression/Oppressed	326
Reconciliation/Mediation	348
Index of Topics	371

About the author

Rupert Bristow was Director of Education for Canterbury Diocese and a governor of Canterbury Christ Church University from 1995 until his retirement in 2008 and is active as a Reader in Trinity Benefice, Folkestone. He has worked in education – in schools, universities and administration – at home and overseas. He has also been a specialist adviser to a House of Commons select committee, edited and written for various educational publications and chaired Kent SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education). He is an Honorary Fellow of Canterbury Christ Church University.

Also available from Kevin Mayhew are the following titles by Rupert Bristow:

Prayers for Education (1501072)

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Sunday Intercessions (1501222)

Prayers for Parishes (1501256)

Prayers for Inclusion and Diversity (1501333)

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Foreword

Leading intercessory prayer in public worship presents challenges to newcomer and practised hand alike. Whether we are feeling daunted at taking on such a responsibility for the first time, or whether we are old stagers, tempted just to use the same, well-worn phrases and format we have used for years, this book has something special for us.

Over many years I was helped to reach out to God during the prayer slot, Sunday by Sunday, as Rupert Bristow led the prayers in the church which I then attended. As a member of our ministry team, his fresh wording greatly enriched the prayer life of that church. His words are those of someone who prays, not just someone who writes prayers.

So how good it is that Rupert's way with words and his hints about how to lead prayers can now reach a wider audience. This publication might well encourage more people to share in this ministry in our churches, as it gives a framework which can be used as it is, or adapted for specific local situations.

I commend this collection to you as an essential resource for busy ministers and lay intercessors; a teaching aid for those training new worship leaders or embarking on ministerial training themselves; and above all, a book which should be bought to put on the shelf in every vestry, especially for those mornings when the person on the rota to do the intercessions doesn't turn up!

May the Christian journey of both those who speak, and those who hear these prayers be greatly enriched.

Canon Gill Calver
Chaplain to the Queen

Introduction

It is a privilege to lead intercessions in church on a Sunday and at the great Christian festivals. It can also be daunting. Sometimes a request to lead prayers comes at the last moment. Usually there is plenty of time to prepare.

This book aims to provide a helpful resource for both experienced intercessors and newcomers to the role. The prayers can be used as they appear in the text (and CD-ROM) or can be adapted and supplemented to fit in with the context.

These prayers are in the form of sets of intercessions for use in the main morning services. The themes in the headings are picked up in the prayers, which also cover other subjects normally found in Sunday intercessions. The suggested endings are those recommended in Common Worship. If used in non-Eucharistic services, such as Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer, each prayer can simply end with a shared Amen and the prayers concluded with:

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore.
Amen.**

With some trepidation I offer a few tips on making the best use of the precious time of public intercessions, which are not original to this book, but which I have found of help in my own experience. It is surprising how some very basic alterations in practice can make a huge difference to this valuable component of public worship.

- Speak confidently and slowly with appropriate pauses, especially before the petition and response.

- Always remember you are leading others in their prayers, not putting on a performance or trying to outdo the preacher!
- Don't be afraid to change the wording on the page if your own wording seems more appropriate, or you want to reflect something special in the sermon.
- If you use a well-known prayer or one from another source, try to use the same ending and response as the other prayers.

I very much hope you will find this book to be of help and would encourage you to have some of the other excellent resource books to hand too, such as those written by David Adam and Susan Sayers. Variety helps to keep our worship fresh and relevant for congregations and, no doubt, for the God who always hears us when we pray in faith.

Rupert Bristow

Mothering Sunday

We pray for mothers everywhere and for the gift of mothering,
which is shared amongst us all.

On this day, let us celebrate with you, Lord,
the joy and the pain experienced by mothers.

We are all sons or daughters and owe our lives and upbringing
to those who brought us into the world, as part of your creation.

May the love that your Son showed his mother Mary
shine in our lives too.

And may our duty of care to our mothers be transfused with love,
affection and gratitude.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

May the Mother Church in which we have grown in faith
be blessed with the care and affection we show to our parents.

May authority be mixed with nurture
and teaching mixed with learning

so that we can become mature Christians in your presence, Lord.

Help us shape the environment in which we worship
so that our lives can show the benefits of a growing spirituality,
walking closely with our God.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

We know that nothing is plain sailing in this world, Lord.

But we also know that whatever we do,
if it is done in the name of the Lord Jesus,
and if we give you thanks through him,
all will be well in the end.

Send us out to listen to your people and spread your word
in the knowledge that you will be alongside us
in every difficulty as well as every delight.

Help us to make a difference in your world
in prayer and action, word and deed.
At this time we pray especially for the people of . . .

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

In our own community we pray for . . .

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Show compassion, Lord, on all who are sick.
Bring relief to those who feel pain
and hope to those who face treatment.
We pray especially for . . .

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

We ask that those who have died are now at peace with you.
We remember . . . and those whose memory is especially dear
to us on Mothering Sunday.
Bring comfort to family and friends
and may they know your love.

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

Index of Topics

Most sets of prayers will contain prayers for and about the Church, clergy and readers, ministry and ministry teams, the World, love and peace, caring for and healing the sick in mind, body and spirit, the deceased and bereaved: these subjects are not directly included in this index. The seasons of the Church Year are not listed either, as the sets of prayers for the main festivals and seasons are set out chronologically in the first section of the book.

THEMED SUNDAY INTERCESSIONS

Abuse	88, 132, 218, 298	273, 275, 295, 299, 303-304, 307,
Baptism	26, 44, 172, 184, 190, 356	317, 319, 327, 331, 337-338, 350,
Bible	32, 72, 74-75, 134	365, 367
Blindness	326	Fear
Bread of Life	126, 128, 184, 258,	22, 26, 28, 53, 84, 158, 196,
	280, 367	222, 296, 321, 336, 350
Children	66, 68, 112, 126, 156,	Fire
	172, 282, 293, 342	30, 60, 252, 268, 342
Confirmation	172, 184, 190	Flood
Conservation	66, 104, 167	30, 81, 103, 108, 135, 318,
Consumerism	210	348, 356, 364
Creation	16, 26, 30, 38, 45, 48, 52,	Food
	58, 62, 64, 66, 80, 85, 90, 94, 100,	18, 106, 145, 184, 316, 357
	102, 104, 106, 108, 110-116, 118,	Forgiveness
	120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132,	24, 32, 44, 90, 158,
	134, 136, 138-139, 142, 146, 160,	174, 176, 178, 180-182, 184, 186,
	166, 168, 186, 196, 200, 204, 211,	188, 190, 243, 317, 326, 330, 352
	216, 219-220, 224, 228, 234, 242,	Freedom
	248, 250, 252, 258, 274, 281-282,	63, 89, 92, 96, 110, 144,
	288, 296, 302, 306, 310, 324, 328,	174, 178, 192, 214, 340, 342
	337, 344, 346, 348, 364, 368	Garden
Debt	190	52, 130
Depression	312	Glory
Disability	195, 325	15-16, 42, 52, 57-58, 68, 70,
Disciples/Discipleship	28, 44, 46,	84, 92, 94, 109, 111-112, 121, 146,
	58, 60, 62, 64, 70, 74, 86, 96, 104,	166, 186, 192, 194, 196-198, 200,
	130, 132, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148,	202, 204, 206-207, 219, 234, 236,
	150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 174,	243, 250, 252, 266, 278, 290-291,
	190, 200, 226, 228, 232, 260, 262,	312, 314, 330, 349
	284, 286, 290, 296, 302, 310, 312,	Holy Spirit
	314, 324, 332, 350, 352, 358	7, 12, 24, 26, 28-29,
Doubt	42, 54, 62, 84, 143, 184,	37, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 79,
	284, 352	85, 88, 112, 114, 116, 120, 122, 131,
Drought	103, 135, 165, 318, 357	134, 148, 150, 166, 172, 176, 180,
Earthquake	135, 268, 318, 342	182, 192, 196, 200, 202, 208, 210-
Ecumenical	62, 128	212, 232, 240, 246, 260, 266, 274,
Emergency services	12, 18, 332	279, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 316,
Family	12, 15, 20, 25, 27, 31-32,	318, 330, 334, 336, 338, 352, 356,
	39, 43, 47, 65, 77, 83, 90, 101, 105,	366, 368
	124, 129, 131, 147, 155, 161-166,	Homeless
	168, 170-173, 189, 229, 231, 235,	19, 88, 151, 293
	237, 249, 255, 257, 263, 269, 271,	Hospice
		155
		Hunger
		28, 222, 241, 268, 270,
		272, 366
		Injustice/Justice
		18, 24, 42, 52, 55,
		60, 66, 77, 81, 86, 88, 124, 137-138,
		142, 158, 162, 168, 182-183, 186,
		212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224,
		226, 241, 259, 262, 281, 284, 286,
		288, 322, 326, 328, 332, 340, 356
		Law
		323
		Leaders/Leadership
		14, 16, 22,
		26, 28, 46, 52, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 82,

- 92-93, 96, 102, 104, 106, 112, 120,
 122, 132, 136, 142, 150, 154, 160,
 162, 168, 180, 182, 190, 198, 200,
 202, 212-214, 218, 226, 228, 230,
 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244,
 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258,
 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 294, 296,
 304, 306, 314, 316, 326, 336, 350,
 352, 355-356, 358
- Light 10, 14, 16, 18, 22, 26, 30, 38,
 50, 77, 92, 105, 121-122, 157, 168,
 172, 186, 194, 198, 200, 226, 228,
 235, 240, 244, 250, 270, 272, 274,
 276-278, 316, 326
- Loneliness 33, 87, 133, 309, 313
- Lost 87, 120, 137, 212, 298, 345
- Marginalised 191, 292
- Materialism 236
- Medical 31, 65, 79, 105, 247, 251,
 253, 332, 341
- Mission/Missionaries 14, 28, 30,
 32, 44, 48, 60, 62, 66, 70, 76, 86, 90,
 112, 118, 122, 132, 142, 146, 162,
 164, 168, 176, 182, 198, 225, 228,
 234, 236, 240, 246, 248, 264, 266,
 270, 272, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288,
 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302,
 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316,
 318, 320, 322, 324-325, 328, 352,
 360, 362
- Mothers 38
- Neglect 36, 66, 115, 198, 224, 338
- Nurses 12, 79
- Oppression/Oppressed 22, 33,
 40, 46, 52, 63, 76, 103, 106, 131, 200,
 213-214, 219, 239, 259, 269, 283-
 284, 288, 292, 308, 312, 326, 328,
 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342,
 344, 346, 355, 357
- Other faiths 204, 302, 334
- Parents 38, 172, 246
- Persecution 84, 150, 212
- Police 13, 19
- Poor/Poverty 22, 28, 55-56, 64,
 68, 76, 87, 116, 120, 151, 177, 214,
 222, 244, 256, 268, 276, 281, 286,
 292, 308, 330, 334, 345
- Prison 87, 312
- Reconciliation 18, 24, 48, 108, 168,
 181, 221, 228, 232, 262, 269, 274,
 308, 330, 340, 348, 350, 352-354,
 356-360, 362, 364, 366, 368-369
- Refugees 293
- Relief organisations 87-88, 135,
 230, 268, 293, 319
- Renewal 80, 178, 180, 276, 334
- Repentance 90, 102, 174, 176, 178,
 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 214,
 228, 238, 317, 326
- Royalty 86
- Schools 16, 72, 112, 188, 272
- Science 300
- Shelter 184, 293, 324
- Slavery 158
- Stress 107, 141, 153
- Study 21, 32, 76, 118, 134, 146, 204
- Thirst 28, 106, 270, 272, 366
- Trinity 66, 68, 70
- Trust 16, 36, 56, 60, 64, 92, 102,
 112, 118-119, 124, 132, 142, 148,
 150, 156, 162, 164, 186, 188, 190,
 200, 204, 206, 222-223, 234-235,
 254, 256, 276, 282, 284, 294, 298,
 308, 350
- United Nations 319
- Victims 77, 213, 362
- Violence 171, 221, 232, 320,
 326, 360
- War 24, 158, 213, 316, 330, 353,
 360, 363
- Waste 172, 262, 272
- Water 26, 46, 106, 140, 145, 152,
 184, 218, 282, 316, 366
- Young people/Youth 161, 246, 266