

HT INTERCESSIONS

Sunday 18th February 2018

The response to: *Lord of Lent,* is *Renew our lives*

*Lord of Lent,
Renew our lives*

Heavenly Father, at the beginning of this Lenten-tide, help us to focus on those aspects of our individual and collective lives, which we **know**, need to be addressed.

We pray for this Church of England, with all its problems and divisions: its relevance and standing; its gender and sexuality issues; its connections and conversations with other denominations; and its dialogue with other religions.

Lord, forgive us all, our fears, our anxieties, our prejudices, our preoccupations, and our misunderstandings. Strengthen our common bonds, and deepen our resolve to promote the *unity*, of your church. Give guidance to our clergy, as they seek to help and support us.

“Lord, grant to us, your church, courage and compassion.”

**Lord of Lent,
Renew our lives.**

Heavenly Father, at the beginning of this 40 days of Lent, with its opportunities for personal cleansing, renewal, and new beginnings, bless the babies who will be born at this time. Be with the families into which they will be born. Support the work of the Acorns group, and the Sunday School here at Holy Trinity.

Grant to the staff and governors of Witney Community School and pre-school, wisdom and patience, that the children in their charge, may learn in a safe and encouraging environment.

We pray for *all* children in the World, especially those who are unloved, abused, starving, bullied, orphaned, or afraid.

Lord, give us the courage to speak out, to show understanding, and to assure them of your love for them.

**Lord, of Lent,
Renew our lives.**

Heavenly Father, at this Lenten-season, we pray for the leaders of the nations of the world, and the organisations which cooperate to keep the peace. Help those on all sides of the conflicts, to learn that the only way forward, is diplomacy, debate, dialogue, and compromise, not threatening rhetoric and aggression. May peaceful solutions be found for all the world's troubles.

*“Lord, you have shown us what is good, now enable **everyone**, to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with you our God.”*

**Lord of Lent,
Renew our lives.**

Heavenly Father, at this Lenten-tide, we remember those who are the innocent victims of war, terrorism and violence; the abused and the exploited, the starving and the homeless; and those who have no work, no money, and no prospects.

Lord, forgive our complacency, when we see the problems of the world on our screens, and do nothing. Help us to contemplate and to comprehend, the enormity of human suffering around the World. Grant to us a more generous nature, that we might be more proactive in support.

“Lord, grant that we may never pass by the poor, the bewildered, the sick, the sorrowing, or the struggling; but may respond with generous hearts, to the cry of the helpless, whose cry is your own.”

**Lord of Lent,
Renew our Lives**

Heavenly Father, during Lent, we ask what **we** can do, to support the needy in our *own* local community: those individuals and families, who are affected by financial problems; those who depend on food banks and the charity of others; those who have lost their jobs, or cannot find work; those whose lives have been turned upside down by disasters, the sick, in body, mind or spirit.

Today we remember particularly: _____

Grant to them all, relieve of their suffering, and peace of mind.

Heavenly Father, we commend into your loving keeping, the souls of the school children shot in Florida this week; and of :

Grant to their eternal spirits, your light, your peace and your love; and comfort those who mourn their passing.

And as we keep a moment of silence, let us remember those known to us individually, who need *our* prayers and support, and *your* love.

Lord, of Lent
Renew our lives

Heavenly Father, throughout this period of Lent:

“Control in us, whatever is contrary to your holy will, so that we may better know how to please you. Grant us patience in our troubles, and strong wills in the face of temptation. Grant us sorrow for our sins, thankfulness for all your gifts, love of your mercies, and mindfulness of your continued presence in our lives, now and for ever.”

Merciful Father,
Accept these prayers,
For the sake of your Son,
Our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen