

Intercessions 6th March 2022

Lord of lent, come to your church and ask us your hard questions. Are we faithfully proclaiming your Gospel? Are we demonstrating in our life together the justice of your kingdom? Have we welcomed the weak and given prominence to the poor? Come to your church to spring-clean our ways of life, our structures, our priorities and allow us not to be tempted. Point out to us the cobwebs, the dirt, the extravagance, and the waste. Create in us a clean heart, oh God, and renew a right spirit within us. Clear us of all temptation.

Lord of lent renew our lives and allow us not to be tempted.

Lord of lent, come to the nations and challenge our worship, spring clean the sordid cupboard of this worlds false gods. Sweep out the false pride, the self seeking and the deceit. May the kingdoms of this earth seek the justice, peace and the integrity of creation. May we look beyond immediate advantages to seek the common good, and be drawn to it. I'm going to take this next line from a famous poem, Goblin Market by Christina Rossetti. "you must not look at Goblin Men, you must not buy their fruits, who knows upon what soil they fed, those hungry thirsty fruits" Allow us not to look at Goblin Men and be tempted by their offering, give us the strength to say no. Especially we ask for your cleaning hand in the situation in Ukraine, we ask that your hand and prayer will allow a peaceful settlement to be reached. We ask for your cleaning hand in our own disputes, within our communities, families, friends and churches across our Deanery. Please allow us to hold your hand and guide us through the situations we may face.

Lord of lent renew our lives and allow us not to be tempted.

Lord of lent, look with compassion on those who's minds are full of anxiety and bewilderment. We think of those people who are suffering, homeless and lonely. Assure us when you spring clean our hearts and minds, that you know what you are doing as you too have been tempted like us. Allow us to see your beacon of hope that will lead us away from temptation and not deliver us to evil. Remind us that we have the strength to overcome difficult situations. Have the strength to forgive us, give us instructions that will prevent us from making the same mistake again.

Lord of lent renew our lives and allow us not to be tempted.

Lord of lent, turn your healing love towards those who are sick and in pain today. We have in our hearts some known to us, some known through the church and some known only through the news. We bring those to mind now. May your healing touch still have its ancient power.

Lord of lent renew our lives and allow us not to be tempted.

For ourselves lord, we pray that your spring clean would be thorough and true this lent. Show us clearly those effortless sins we no longer even notice, and help us to address the sins which sit on our shoulders every day, our constant companions. Give us the power not to crumble to temptation. Whether it may be to take that last biscuit, jump that gap or prevent us from buying that last item on Amazon. Give us your wisdom and guidance. Provide us with both discipline in dealing with some faults and gentleness in dealing with others. Help us to know the difference. Create in us a clean heart, oh god, and renew a right spirit within us.

Lord of lent renew our lives and allow us not to be tempted.

Renew our church, renew our world, renew our hearts, our cleansing lord of lent.

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