

# **Intercessions on Sunday 4 February 2024**

## **Second Sunday before Lent (Creation Sunday)**

### **by Charles Ledsam**

Today, Geoff talked about Christ's role in creation and gave us an image of a family workshop where Father and Son create together and repair together, with a lifetime (and longer?) warranty on all they do.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world, and let us thank God for his goodness.

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, you promised through your son Jesus Christ to hear us when we pray in faith.

We pray that those who confess your name may be united in your truth, live together in your love and reveal your glory to the world.

*Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer*

We pray for peace in the world, for a time to pause and reflect on how lives and property are damaged and its implications on our world.

We pray for all those affected by the tragedies in the Middle East including Israel, Gaza and Syria. We also continue to pray for the end of conflicts in Russia and Ukraine.

We give thanks for all those trying to provide medical and humanitarian aid in extremely dangerous conditions.

At a time of wars and unsettlement across the world, economic, bi-diverse and environmental challenges and financial hardship, direct this and every nation in the ways of justice and of peace, that we may honour one another and seek the common good.

*Lord in your mercy*

Bless and guide our King; give wisdom to all in authority, especially in a year of elections for the leaders of the nations throughout the world.

*Lord in your mercy*

Strengthen our Bishops and all your church, including Alan, Bill, Melanie, Geoff, Forbes, Kath and Maria, and all who serve here at St Andrew's and St Mary's.

We give thanks for our wardens, Shirley, Rosemary and Chris, for our choir and the music they bring every week, for our servers, helpers and administrators.

*Lord in your mercy*

Today we welcome and give thanks for our Mayor, Vicky Smith, Town and District councillors as they seek to provide services, balance budgets and meet the needs of our community in these tough and challenging times. Give them wisdom, vision, energy and understanding of the needs of our community.

We pray for our Town and surrounding villages, for the businesses and people who live and work here, remembering all our schools (including St Andrews' school) and all our public services. We pray for and welcome any visitors today.

*Lord in your mercy*

Bless those who work in our hospitals and surgeries, especially GP's, and medical staff as they plan for the future, thinking particularly of the forthcoming move of Wallace House to a new surgery in the Town centre. We also pray for all working in the caring professions.

*Lord in your mercy*

We pray for those suffering from stress, depression and anxiety and all the sick, together with those who love and care for them. Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit especially Barbara, Audrey, Robert, Ivy, Colin, Debbie, Paul, John, Oliver, Francesco, Trevor and Dino.

Give them courage and hope in their trouble and bring them the joy of your salvation.

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer*

Hear us as we remember those who have died, including:  
Kate Gladden, Jack Mann.

Give those who have been left behind strength and courage to cope in their time of grief.

We remember those whose anniversaries fall at this time:  
Lillian Allen, Nellie Dickins, Doreen Robinson, Douglas Wench

*Lord in your mercy*

May we create "Neighbourhoods of Hope" and ensure that we keep a watchful eye on one another, especially in these Winter months.

May we offer words of encouragement and hope to those whom we meet and to whom we speak.

We rejoice in the fellowship of St Andrew and all your saints and commend ourselves and all people to your unfailing love.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

