

Prayer for Living Churchyards

The Earth is the Lord's – and all the goodness that is therein

Creator God, we come before you today as human beings and Christians of faith

- Part of your whole Creation
- Participants in an interwoven web of life
- People with a duty to pass on to future generations the beauty and bounty of this your fragile planet Earth

The world belongs to you and it is holy. May we remember to treat it as sacred.

Where we have responsibilities for the land – whether garden, field, churchyard or woodland, may we exercise good stewardship.

May we not be troubled by burdens but seek opportunities; turning problems into possibilities; to change our churchyards into beacons of living, loveliness and learning; to transform places of death into spaces of life.

May we open our hearts to be hospitable and open our cemeteries to be centres for community life.

And may we use our resources to the benefit of all, seeking that which makes for peace through justice, and building up the common good.

Guide us this day in our discussions, deliberations and decisions as small steps to building your kingdom on earth as in heaven.

In your name – Maker, Redeemer and Sustainer - Father, Son and Spirit. Amen.

Martyn Goss, May 2017