Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 265



**We pray for the implementation of our diocesan strategy ‘Seeking the Kingdom’, within the context of the varied roles and ministries across the Diocese. As ‘People of Hope,’ we remember those impacted by natural disasters; those in Ukraine suffering grievously and we pray for the people & leaders of Russia; and for a lasting peace for the people of Palestine, Israel and the wider Middle East.**

Sunday 18th May:

As we prepare to turn the focus of our prayers to the deanery of Lichfield, we think of those people regularly working in St Mary's House which is surrounded by it. We lift before you all those who have the privilege of serving you and our churches in this part of the diocese and pray you will watch over them and grant energy, grace and inspiration to all those employees in whichever role they serve. Lord, please help all those in St Mary's House find joy and opportunity in supporting our churches as best they can.

Monday 19th: *(Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, Restorer of Monastic Life, 988)*

*At the start of the Dementia Action Week, we use the opening prayer from the recent '*[*Book of Prayers'*](https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/news/book-of-prayers-through-dementia)*, as contributed by a pupil from St Paul's Primary in Longton;*

Please help those suffering with dementia, watch over them and keep them safe.

Help the people who care for them, giving them peace and patience. Amen.

Tuesday 20th: *(Alcuin of York, Deacon, Abbot of Tours, 804)*

Lord, we lift before you all of the Church Schools in Lichfield Deanery, for the primary schools of Christ Church, St Chad's, and St Michael's in the city. So too we pray for those in serving communities surrounding Lichfield; in Alrewas, in Clayhanger, in Kings Bromley, in Longdon, in Stonnall, and in Yoxall. Please may your hand rest upon the staff and volunteers who work there, both teaching and supporting; and for all the children and their families who are part of them.

Wednesday 21st: *(Helena, Protector of the Holy Places, 330)*

*On the day we remember St Helena and her role in the shaping of today's Jerusalem and identifying the location of some of its holiest sites, may we pray the following from Psalm 122;*

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

Thursday 22nd:

We pray for today's ['Bats and Church Buildings'](https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/calendar/907) afternoon at St Andrew's Weston under Lizard. We hope for an informative session from which all attending may leave better informed and inspired. Lord, we pray that all those using our church buildings find them a welcoming home, whether or not they may possess wings or fur.

Friday 23rd:

Lord, we bring before you those churches in Lichfield that are currently in vacancy. Especially we pray for the church and community of St Peter's Little Aston after the sudden passing of their former incumbent at the end of last year. We lift before you the churches of All Saints Alrewas and St Stephen's Fradley; Christ Church Lichfield and St James Longdon; and the historic St John's Hospital in the centre. Lord, please let all those serving in these churches know your presence in demanding times, and bring forward the right long-term leadership for each of them.

Saturday 24th: *(John and Charles Wesley, Evangelists, Hymn Writers, 1791 and 1788)*

*On 'Wesley Day', a prayer from the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District's Ministry and Mission Adviser Jo Yair;*

Loving God

Thank you for connections.

Thank you for our ecumenical friends, partnerships and the people that join us on our journey.

Thank you for the communities that we serve, we pray for stronger and deeper relationships.

Thank you for opportunities, we ask for your blessing on the merger of the Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury and Birmingham districts.

May we love and serve your people well, and in your name. Amen