

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 325



Seeking the
Kingdom

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, Iran and the wider Middle East.

Sunday 12th July:

Lord, we conclude our prayers for Ellesmere Deanery by praying for its future shape. We thank you for the growing relationship with the neighbouring Oswestry Deanery, and pray that you will guide leaders in both places towards an ever more productive relationship. We lift before you the churches in vacancy in both deaneries, and pray you will guide the right people to step forward to work with them very soon.

Monday 13th:

On the day we remember St Mildred we pray for the one church in the diocese dedicated to her, in the village of Whiston in the Staffordshire Moorlands. We pray for St Mildred's and for her four sister churches, Holy Trinity Oakamoor, St John's Cotton, St Mark's Foxt, and St Werburgh's Kingsley. We pray for your hand of blessing to rest on all of these churches, and the communities they serve; and as they are currently in vacancy, for the right person to join them to soon be found.

Tuesday 14th: *(John Keble, Priest, Tractarian, Poet, 1866)*

We pray for this evening's [consultation in Walsall Archdeaconry](#) for the forthcoming Vacancy in See, and we join with the prayer for the 100th Bishop of Lichfield;

Eternal Father, You have provided faithful pastors in every age to watch over your people and lead them in your ways: as you chose your servant Chad to be the first bishop of your church in Lichfield, so raise up for us, who follow Christ in your footsteps today, a shepherd to lead your people in the joy and steadfastness of the Holy Spirit, that all may know the abundant life which you give us in Jesus Christ your Son. **Amen.**

Wednesday 15th: *(Swithun, Bishop of Winchester, c.862. Bonaventure, Friar, Bishop, Teacher of the Faith, 1274)*

On the day we remember St Swithun we pray for the one church in the diocese dedicated to him, in Cheswardine in Hodnet Deanery. So too we pray for the two churches dedicated to St Editha, at Church Eaton near Stafford, and in central Tamworth. We pray for your hand of blessing to rest on each of these churches, and the communities they serve.

We pray for this afternoon's meeting of the Diocesan Advisory Committee, for your guidance and wisdom for the decisions that need to be made. So too we pray for this evening's Discipleship Enablers gathering, as they specifically explore '[Understanding how we Grow as Disciples](#)'. We humbly pray that you will show us all ways to grow as we walk with you. Tonight we also especially pray for John Itumu as he is licensed to serve as the new vicar of Heath Town Holy Trinity. Please bless growing relationships between him and his new church, as they get to know each other better and work together to serve the local community.

Thursday 16th: *(Osmund, Bishop of Salisbury, 1099)*

Lord, today we again join with the Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship in [Praying for the 34,000](#), and we pray that you may guide many more people towards the joy of starting their walk with you, and that you may open our hearts to support people on their way. We pray for the '[Preaching on Poverty](#)' webinar from Church Action on Poverty, that you will provoke each of us as to how we can make a positive difference to those who may be struggling. And tonight we pray for this evening's Bishop's Council, for wisdom, inspiration, and courage.

Friday 17th:

Lord, we lift before you today's gathering of the [Multi Parish Benefice Clergy Network](#) at Shallowford House, and we pray for all those juggling different responsibilities in different locations, that you may guide them all towards finding a place of balance. Tonight we pray for John Underhill as he is licensed at Holy Trinity Ettingshall to serve there and at St Stephen's Wolverhampton. Please bless growing relationships between him and his new churches, as they get to know each other better and work together to serve the local community.

Saturday 18th: *(Elizabeth Ferard, first Deaconess of the Church of England, Founder of the Community of St Andrew, 1883)*

Lord, we start a series of prayers for Tamworth Deanery by lifting before you each of its church primary schools; for Mary Howard Edingale, St Andrew's Clifton Campville, and St Leonard's Wigginton. Please may your hand rest upon the staff and volunteers who work in any of these schools in whatever role; and for all the children and their families who are part of them.

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