

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 330

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.



Seeking the
Kingdom

Sunday 23rd August:

Continuing our season of prayers from Lichfield Deanery, we echo the prayers of their neighbours in praying for our Cathedral, particularly in a time of transition as they too prepare for the retirement of Bishop Michael. As we advance into this period of discernment for our next Bishop, help us to wait prayerfully; and please guide all those working through the process, and those that support them.

Monday 24th: *(Bartholomew the Apostle)*

On the day we remember St Bartholomew we pray for the various churches in the diocese dedicated to him, in Blurton, Butterton, Farewell, Hints, Longdon-upon-Tern, Longnor, Moreton Corbet, Norton-le-Moors, Penn, Tong, Waterfall, and Wednesbury. We pray for your hand of blessing to rest on each of these churches, and the communities they serve.

Today we also pray for Kay Rogers, as she is licensed at St Mary's Kinnerley to serve as Interim Minister both there and at the neighbouring churches of St John's Maesbrook, St John the Baptist Maesbury, St Mary's Knockin, and St Peter's Molverley. Please bless growing relationships between her and her new churches, as they get to know each other better and work together to serve their local communities.

Finally Lord, we pray for tonight's online '[Introduction to the Diocese of Lichfield Strategy](#)' session. We lift before you Nick Smeeton, leading the session, and his role in the implementation of the Strategy itself. Lord, please guide and support Nick and all of us in trying to shape this place ever more closely to how you want it to be.

Tuesday 25th:

We continue our prayers for Lichfield Deanery by thanking you for the new incumbents coming into post in recent weeks, for Jonathan Nicholas at Alrewas and Fradley, for Matt Mason at Little Aston, and for Simon Foster at Lichfield Christ Church and Longdon. Please bless each of them with blossoming relationships in their new settings, and guide them along your paths.

Wednesday 26th:

Lord, we continue our prayers for Lichfield by lifting before you the one church in that deanery currently in vacancy, that of St Anne's Chasetown. We pray for the congregation and wider community in that place, that this period may prove more satisfying than challenging, and please guide those involved in the process towards appointing the right vicar at the right time.

Thursday 27th: *(Monica, mother of Augustine of Hippo, 387)*

We conclude our prayers for Lichfield deanery with their gracious prayer for those in 'Diocese HQ';

For the team at St Mary's House who guide us all, and for ourselves, for strength and guidance as we work together to grow the kingdom of God.

Friday 28th: *(Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, Teacher of the Faith, 430)*

A 'prayer to the Holy Spirit' from Augustine of Hippo;

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy.

Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy.

Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy.

Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy.

Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy. **Amen.**

Saturday 29th: *(The Beheading of John the Baptist)*

On the day we remember St John the Baptist, we pray for all the churches in the diocese dedicated to him, in Albrighton, Armitage, Ashley, Bolas Magna, Elkstone, Hammerwich, Ightfield, Kingstone, Lichfield, Maesbury, Mayfield, Ruyton-XI-Towns, Shenstone, Slitting Mill, Stafford, Stowe-by-Chartley, Tixall, Wall, Wetley Rocks, Whittington, and Withington. We pray for your hand of blessing to rest on all of these churches, and the communities they serve.