

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 335

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 20th September:

(John Coleridge Patteson, First Bishop of Melanesia, and his Companions, Martyrs, 1871)

Today we lift before you celebrations for Mission and Ministry old and new. We pray for today's [Heritage Open Day](#) at All Saints Sandon, as they celebrate 1000 years of worship just north-east of Stafford. Please bless them as head into their next millennium.

Today, we also pray for another All Saints Church in Hanley as they celebrate [Reopening for Worship](#) after six years without services. We lift before you the team there, and pray you may bless and guide them towards creative ways in engaging with their local community as they turn the page to a new future.

Monday 21st: *(Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist)*

On St Matthew's Day we pray for all the churches in the diocese dedicated to him, in Birches Head, Chilcote, Criftins, Derrington, Donnington Wood, Harlaston, Meerbrook, Tipton, Walsall, Wolverhampton. We pray for your hand of blessing to rest on each of these churches and the communities they serve.

Tuesday 22nd:

Lord, we pray for tonight and tomorrow's play from Lichfield Cathedral School in the neighbouring building of the cathedral itself. We pray that as ['What a Difference a Day Makes'](#) explores the impact of the war in Ukraine and the impact on ordinary lives as a result of it, it may grant fresh insight into what has happened and continues to happen. And Lord, we humbly pray again that you may soften hard hearts and guide a way to just and lasting peace.

Wednesday 23rd:

We pray for this afternoon's Diocesan Advisory Committee, please grant them wisdom in the decisions that they take today. Please guide each of us in creative ways that we can use your church buildings for your mission, and help us with the practicalities of how best to make it happen.

We also pray for tonight's Discipleship Enablers session as they explore developing a healthy discipleship environment. Lord, we pray that you may guide all of our churches in how they can help all in their congregations get to know you better.

Thursday 24th:

We lift before you today's [SIAMS training for Church School Leaders](#). We pray for all those serving in leadership in our church schools, that you may help them find balance in all their different responsibilities. Today we especially pray for all those trying to learn more about the process of SIAMS, and that its inspections may indeed help all of our church schools more strongly tie themselves to their Christian foundations.

Lord, we also pray for wisdom for today's gathering of the Assessors for Walsall Archdeaconry, for your wisdom and guidance over any decisions they take, and your compassion and inspiration in their dealings with all our churches.

Friday 25th: *(Lancelot Andrewes, Bishop of Winchester, Spiritual Writer, 1626. Sergei of Radonezh, Russian Monastic Reformer, Teacher of the Faith, 1392)*

A prayer of Lancelot Andrewes:

Open my eyes and I shall see, incline my heart and I shall desire, order my steps and I shall walk in the path of your commandments. O Lord God, be my God, and beside you let there be no other, none else, nothing else with you. Let me adore and worship you and serve you in truth of spirit, in reverence of body, in blessing of lips, in private and in public.

Saturday 26th: *(Wilson Carlile, Founder of the Church Army, 1942)*

We continue our prayers for Oswestry Deanery by praying for the churches currently in vacancy. We pray for the Border Parish churches of Llanyblodwel St Michael, Llanymynech St Agatha, Morton St Philip and St James, and Trefonen All Saints. We pray for Oswestry St Oswald and Rhydycroesau Christ Church. We pray for Whittington St John the Baptist, West Felton St Michael, and Haughton St Chad. Lord, we pray you will help all these churches currently without a vicar, and pray you may guide them how best they may prepare for a new one. We thank you for all those currently helping them to survive and thrive at this time. And we pray that you may help the people you want to be their next vicars start to feel the call towards them.

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