

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 90

discipleship
vocation
evangelism

Our prayers this week & next focus on the work of the diocesan departments and teams. As 'People of Hope' we remain mindful of the implications of Covid-19, locally & globally.

Sunday 26th December:

We remember our friends in Malaysia; especially Kuala Lumpur and the Klang Valley, as they face the aftermath of severe flooding over the weekend of 18/19 December. We pray for St Mary's Cathedral in the heart of the old colonial city whose name means 'muddy swamp'; for the Dean, Andrew Cheah, and all his staff and congregation. Pray for Bishop Steven Abbarow and all Christians, Muslims and people of all faiths & heritage caught up in this crisis; for our dear friend Datuk Ng Moon Hing, former Bishop of West Malaysia who, in his role as Archbishop of S.E. Asia had the people of the Philippines under his care - pray for them too in the wake of a super-typhoon.

Monday 27th:

We pray for the chaplains in this diocese as they seek to serve those in prison; hospitals and hospices; schools, colleges, and universities; emergency services; the armed forces; workplaces, waterways, town centres and in every corner of this diocese.

We thank God for their willingness to bring Advent hope and Christmas light at this season to people who need to receive the good news in heart, mind, spirit, and body. We pray for strength in their vocation and steadfastness in their discipleship, and for their renewal and rest.

Tuesday 28th:

Heavenly Father we pray for the work of the Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education (LDBE); for the schools, communities, and families who we seek to serve. At this Christmas time we celebrate the gift of Jesus. But, amid the celebrations we think of those within our schools who are struggling to put food on the table. We think especially of those families who will find very little joy in this festive season. We pray that through the kindness of others and by your own generosity they may know you as provider. Amen. (<https://www.ldbe.co.uk/>)

Wednesday 29th: *(Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr, 1170)*

We remember the Bishops of the Anglican Communion around the world, facing the challenges of ministering in a divided and complex world. Pray for those preparing to attend the 2022 Lambeth Conference. With the theme of 'God's Church for God's World - walking, listening and witnessing together,' the conference will explore what it means for the Anglican Communion to be responsive to the needs of a 21st Century world. Pray for wisdom for those who are planning the pre-Lambeth hospitality in all the Dioceses, and especially our own, that we may be able to resolve all the complexities that have arisen in the context of Covid. (<https://www.lambethconference.org/>)

Thursday 30th:

We pray for all those communities and groups supported by Transforming Communities Together (TCT) over the Christmas period; for those who are struggling financially, for those who will fall into debt, for those who will not have had sufficient food or heating this festive period, for those who will feel isolated and lonely. May the work of TCT be strengthened to support those most vulnerable in society and may the TCT team be people of hope and light. We pray especially for Jon Miles as he prepares to take up the role of Senior Development Worker in January. (<https://tctogether.org.uk/>)

Friday 31st: *(John Wycliffe, Reformer, 1384)*

As Mothers' Union worldwide reaches the end of 2021, we also come to the end of a three-year term of office for trustees in the 84 countries where this life-changing organisation is active. We give thanks for the work done through projects such as *16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence*, Literacy, prison work, support for refugees, emergency grants and so much more: and particularly for the additional support given to families struggling during the pandemic. We pray for Sheran Harper as she begins her second term as Worldwide President, the new board of worldwide trustees and for Helen, Celia, Deb, Julia and Katherine, the trustees here in Lichfield Diocese; and all members everywhere. (<https://www.mothersunion.org/diocese/lichfield>)

Saturday 1st January: *(The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus)*

We continue to pray for Living in Love and Faith (LLF) – the national Church teaching and learning initiative about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage – which is being rolled out in our diocese. We pray for all the churches, parishes and deaneries who are running the course before the end of April 2022. May your grace flavour the discussions, and may people experience new life as they encounter those who see the world differently to themselves. (<https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/our-faith/living-in-love-and-faith>)

For further resources for praying for the worldwide church see the Anglican Cycle of prayer: <https://bit.ly/3anQUWG>