

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 91

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

discipleship
vocation
evangelism

Sunday 2nd January: *Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishops, Teachers of the Faith, 379 and 389*

In an age of conflict and conspiracy theories, we pray for good and kind communication across our diocese. We ask for God's blessing on the work of our diocesan Communications Team – Simon and Pete – and pray that He will help us all to be gracious in the language we use and the attitudes we exhibit, as we seek to love one another in word and deed.

Monday 3rd January: *Vedanayagam Samuel Azariah, Bishop in South India, Evangelist, 1945*

We pray for the work of United Society Partners in the Gospel (USPG); for their worldwide work with local Christian communities, supporting them in challenging injustice and inequality, strengthening education and medical care, especially in remote areas, and developing sustainable living in poor communities. Pray especially for the Advent Project - *A Cup Full of Hope* - working, with their Partner Church in Ceylon's Plantation Community Development Programme, with local communities to improve the well-being of those living in the tea plantations of Sri Lanka, by providing education, especially for women, supporting pregnant mothers and advocating human rights. (<https://www.uspg.org.uk/>)

Tuesday 4th:

We pray for the work of the Diocesan Property Team: Julie Jones, Charlie Glenn, Simon Ray, Mandy Hulse and Emma Dyke. Proverbs 24 tells us '*By wisdom a house is built and by understanding it is established*'. So may this team have wisdom & understanding in abundance as they manage and maintain all the property under their responsibility. Also, may they exercise care & patience for those clergy, their families, and others for whom the houses are their home, whilst juggling finances, addressing legislative requirements & initiatives such as *Carbon Net Zero*.

Wednesday 5th:

We pray for the members of the Finance Teams spread across the diocesan offices, giving thanks for the work of the Director of Finance, Jonathan and his Deputy, Jess, and all the Finance support teams, working throughout the diocese, with our parishes and in our schools.

We ask God's blessing on our volunteers whose vocation is in finance; our Parish Assessors, our Treasurers and Wardens, and all those who seek to build up the financial and spiritual prosperity of our churches in this diocese.

Thursday 6th:

We give thanks for the Community of St Chad (<https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/our-faith/community-st-chad/>): Loving and eternal God, as we give thanks for the birth of your Son, we give grateful thanks for the gifts and talents of the members of our community, and for those who will join us in 2022, as together we pray... *be with us, Lord, as we seek to follow in the footsteps of your servant Chad, whose humility and prayerfulness attracted so many to your kingdom. Let our lives, like his, reflect the light of Christ and the hope of faith. in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen*

Friday 7th: *(The Epiphany)*

Loving God, as we follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad, help us to inhabit his passion for mission and pastoral care, in our vocation and ministry. As we respond to God's call on our lives, we pray that we may embody a deep love for Christ and his people, such as St Chad manifested in his life of holiness and peace. May we always remain humble and faithful in our vocation and ministry; we ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Saturday 8th:

We remember today the continued work of the St Chad's Trust in the world-wide mission of the Church. Pray for the right time to re-start the St Chad's Volunteer programme, halted by Covid and the ensuing travel restrictions, so that we might, once again, facilitate the placement of young adults from the Lichfield Diocese into churches in companion link Dioceses overseas, and welcome young adults from overseas into placements in our local churches. Pray for the opening of placement opportunities, safe travel and for new directions and focus for the St Chad's Volunteer programme.

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