

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 93

discipleship
vocation
evangelism

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.

Sunday 16th January:

Dear Father, Lord of the Universe, as the Commonwealth Games Baton prepares to leave the Indian continent and move east to Singapore and then Malaysia, we are reminded that your Church and your Faith took the same route over 200 years ago. From the see of Calcutta a church was established in Penang from where the Good News has spread throughout S.E. Asia. We pray for Your people in these dioceses, especially our dear friends in West Malaysia and Kuching. May they be strengthened by your power and supported in your love during the year ahead. We pray also for Joanna Farnworth as she is licenced today as Rector of Telford and Associate Archdeacon of the Salop Episcopal Area.

Monday 17th: *(Charles Gore, Bishop, Founder of the Community of the Resurrection, 1932)*

We pray for Stoke Deanery, for Area Dean, Revd Shaun Morris, Assistants Revd Tommy Merry and Revd Dave Street, Lay Chair, Mike Whittaker; that they would be discerning and faithful in their leadership. We pray that people would return to church, grow in their discipleship, and have a gospel heart for their friends and neighbours. We pray that PCCs make wise decisions in respect of stewardship, engage in bold activities in their parishes, and have a focus on making Christ known across the City.

Tuesday 18th: *(Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18-25 January <https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2022/>)*

Lord, you led us out of darkness to hope in Jesus. Unite us in our commitment to establish your reign of love, justice and peace, bringing light to those living in the darkness of despair and disillusionment. Shine your light upon us and surround us with the warmth of your love. Lift us up to you, so that our lives may glorify you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Wednesday 19th: *(Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester, 1095)*

We pray for Kingsland C of E Academy, Bucknall, that all in the school community may continue to be inspired to walk in the light with Jesus. We give grateful thanks for opportunities for the children to share light and hope; and pray that this community engagement continues throughout the parish; and for support of our Blessings Box and that those who use it may know God's love surrounding them in their time of need. We pray for families and the challenging times they are facing; may they be supported and guided to draw closer to Jesus. Amen.

Thursday 20th: *(Richard Rolle of Hampole, Spiritual Writer, 1349)*

We pray for Stone Deanery, for Rural Dean Revd Preb Ian Cardinal and Lay Chair, Paul Graetz; as this small deanery thinks about the challenges of "Shaping for Mission" and the optimal use of ordained and lay leaders. Give thanks for Revd John Beswick Pallister, in his first incumbency, and pray for the work of bringing the parishes of Standon, Swynnerton and Tittensor closer together after two years in vacancy with the churchless Yarnfield as being the largest village. We pray also for Hilderstone and Fulford as they search for a minister to lead their two small rural parishes.

Friday 21st: *(submitted by Chaplain, Rob Goddard <http://www.kingslandceacademy.co.uk/community>)*

We pray for Stafford Deanery, for Area Dean Revd Richard Grigson and Lay Chair, John Clark; giving thanks for the range of gifts God has given them for the service of those in the deanery, and we pray for clear discernment to use them wisely. We pray for all those who share in the ministry of the twenty-five parishes that comprise this deanery.

We pray for the work of Churches Together in England (<https://cte.org.uk/>) and for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service to be held today at St. Chad's Church, Lichfield 7:00pm

Saturday 22nd: *(Vincent of Saragossa, Deacon, first Martyr of Spain, 304)*

We pray for Katharine House Hospice in Stafford, giving thanks for those who work together with grace, humility and reverence: Doctors who bring skilled hands, warm hearts, gentle care and attentiveness; Administration, Maintenance and Housekeeping staff whose planning, diligent care of buildings and lovingly prepare food often goes unnoticed. Volunteers: giving time, skills, energy, and love to support the Hospice services in bereavement care, shops, as trustees and beyond; Patients: experiencing respite care, support at home, symptom control and for the final earthly journey; Family members and friends and those we see no longer, but who live on in our memories and hearts; and for former patients and staff.

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