

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 99

discipleship
vocation
evangelism

This week we celebrate the 1,350th anniversary of the death of St Chad, called to be an evangelist and the first bishop of this diocese. Like him, may we recognise the interdependence of private and corporate prayer and be a channel of God's grace to all we meet.

Sunday 27th February: (*George Herbert, Priest, Poet, 1633*)

We give thanks for those who have pioneered the [Two Kingdoms Pilgrimage](#) and who will be reaching our diocese today; for safe travels so far, the hospitality received along the route and the fellowship shared. May all who have taken part, following the route trodden by St Chad as he left the familiarity of Lindisfarne in the ancient kingdom of Northumbria to bring the gospel into the kingdom of Mercia, be given grace to follow his peaceable nature, humble spirit and prayerful life, that they may truly commend to others the faith which they profess.

Monday 28th:

Chad forsook a privileged future for a life of prayer, ministry & mission. Pray for the 26 churches dedicated to St Chad, that they may share the wonderful story of God's love, His care for all, & the promise of His Kingdom. Chad crossed over from Lindisfarne to Ireland for further education and made himself available to God, becoming His instrument of transformation. Pray for the 4 schools dedicated to St Chad and for all members of the St Chad's Academies Trust, that they may provide the best possible education as well as spiritual care and guidance to all the children and young people in their care.

Tuesday 1st: *Community of St Chad Festal Evensong today at 5:30pm* <https://www.facebook.com/LichfieldCathedralDailyWorship/>

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the founding of [the Community of St Chad](#) we pray for all those who will renew their commitment to membership of the Community during the service at Lichfield Cathedral this evening. 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.

Wednesday 2nd: (*Ash Wednesday / Chad, Bishop of Lichfield, Missionary, 672*)

Our shared diocesan vision is being worked out in parishes, fresh expressions of church, schools and chaplaincies: "As we follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad, we pray that the two million people in our diocese encounter a church that is confident in the gospel, knows and loves its communities, and is excited to find God already at work in the world. We pray for a church that reflects the richness and variety of those communities. We pray for a church that partners with others in seeking the common good, working for justice as a people of hope."

Thursday 3rd: (*Matthias the Apostle*)

Father, we thank you for the continuing work of St. Chad's Retreat Centres: Shallowford and Dovedale Houses. Having been with us through recent difficult times, we see clear signs that people from various walks of life will return to the Houses, for rest, relaxation & spiritual growth. Give inspiration to our staff, volunteers and trustees as they plan for the future and welcome guests, seeking to do Your will and bring Your kingdom closer. Amen We pray also for continued peace and protection for all at St Chad's House, Leek, that the House will be able to continue to fulfil the ministry of peace, healing, and retreat and be a blessing to all.

Friday 4th:

Heavenly Father, we pray for Trentham Parish Church's 'Inspire' Women's Conference taking place tomorrow from 2-4pm. Bless participants, Julie Jones CEO/Diocesan Secretary, Dr Revd Megan Smith Archdeacon of Stoke-on-Trent and Rebecca Smith Radio Producer for United Christian Broadcasters. May the words they speak be filled with your wisdom to inspire the women attending. Anoint violinist Megan Potter, may she will be filled with your Holy Spirit as she plays over us. Bless the preparations of the 'Inspire' team. We pray your divine covering and protection over the 'Inspire' Conference. Amen.

Pray for all [World Day of Prayer](#) events today that they may encourage 'informed prayer and powerful action.'

Saturday 5th:

Heavenly Lord, we pray for the newly ordained Bishop of Qu'Appelle, the Very Revd Helen Kennedy, that she will lead with faith, grace and mercy, always sustained and supported by the love of God; for all leaders across the Diocese, that they may know your love and guidance to be true disciples of Christ, to follow in His footsteps and grow in the knowledge and understanding of a just, fair and humble faith. Living Lord, grant to us in our Diocese the energy and conviction to pray every day for our brothers and sisters across the church, here in the UK and across the rest of the world, that we can be at one, in unity with our Lord, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen.

Diocesan 24-hour Day of Prayer, 8th/ 9th April, [click here for further details and to sign up to lead a session.](#)

For prayer resources for the worldwide church see the Anglican Cycle of prayer: anglicancommunion.org/resources/prayer.aspx