

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 172

Our prayers this week are focused on Lichfield Cathedral. As 'People of Hope,' we remain mindful of the implications of Covid-19, locally & globally; we remember those impacted by natural disasters; those in Ukraine suffering grievously, for all who take decisions around the world, and for the people & leaders of Russia.

Sunday 6th August: *(The Transfiguration of Our Lord)*

Lichfield is the furthest from the sea of all the English Cathedrals. Following last summer's success, for the last fortnight and the coming four weeks, families and friends have been enjoying our own Beach, with real sand, decking, deck chairs, children's activities and refreshments.

Pray that all our visitors, including all those enjoying a holiday at home, will be energised by their experience, finding ways to have fun and create happy memories of time spent around the cathedral. Pray that many will also enter the cathedral itself and sense the presence of God. Click [here](#) for further details.

Monday 7th: *(John Mason Neale, Priest, Hymn Writer, 1866)*

Bringing together its experience as a Partner in Action with A Rocha, and its endeavours working towards the Eco Church Gold Award, the Cathedral is writing its Environmental Policy. Pray for practical wisdom and for an overview that honours the Anglican Communion's fifth mark of mission (to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth). Pray for courage as the Cathedral partners with others in response to the General Synod's commitment to be Carbon Net Zero by 2030.

Tuesday 8th: *(Dominic, Priest, Founder of the Order of Preachers, 1221)*

Last week and this week, children are part of a Summer School based around the Cathedral and staffed by volunteers. Today's activities include Pizza Chef, Designer, Sportsman, Actor. Pray for all churches across the diocese running summer programmes for children, that together we may discover the wonder of creation and the gift of faith. May we learn from each other of God's love for each and may all be kept safe.

Wednesday 9th: *(Mary Sumner, Founder of the Mothers' Union, 1921)* The Mothers' Union Prayer:

Loving Lord, we thank you for your love so freely given to us all. We pray for families around the world. Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life. Empowered by your spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship, and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Pray for the Interim Dean, Bishop Jan McFarlane; Canon Andrew Stead and all members of the Music Foundation; Canon Gregory Platten, Canon David Primrose; Simon Warburton and the staff team; Cathedral volunteers and all who assist with the mission and ministry of the Cathedral. In the holiday season, when the Cathedral is busier than ever, please pray for stamina, wisdom, and opportunities to share the Gospel with all who come our way.

Thursday 10th: *(Laurence, Deacon at Rome, Martyr, 258)*

The Library at Lichfield Cathedral, as we know it today, started in 1674 with a gift of over 400 books from William Seymour's private collection. The story is told through an exhibition running till the beginning of September. See [here](#) for further details.

Thank God that so many people who enter our historic churches and cathedrals experience something of awe and mystery, and value the opportunity to pray. May the welcome they receive be generous, and the encounters they experience be transformative.

Friday 11th: *(Clare of Assisi, Founder of the Minoresses (Poor Clares), 1253)*

The Cathedral is half-way through a three-month trial of 'Dog-Friendly Fridays', where visitors will be able to bring their dogs into the building with them. Dogs are expected to be well-behaved, on a short lead, accompanied at all times, and not to disturb other visitors.

Thank God for companionship which so many dogs provide; and pray for a deeper sense of well-being to be the experience of all.

Saturday 12th:

The Cathedral has renewed its commitment to be a [dementia-friendly church](#). Actions for the coming year include increasing the Cathedral's profile as a dementia friendly church, mainstreaming dementia friendly training, and hosting a dementia focused musical event.

May we all be blessed as we open our churches to those living with dementia.

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