

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

Sunday 10th September:

Loving Father – we pray for all learning communities in our diocese, especially remembering those facing unexpected issues concerning the safety of their buildings, and the disruption this may cause. At the start of a new year please grant them all your peace, wisdom and joy. Encourage teachers in the role you have called them to. May they learn to find strength in you, as they support their students, playing to strengths, helping with struggles and motivating them to truly flourish. Restore and protect those living under shadows of unhappiness, abuse, pain or fear. May our schools be places of refuge where your love & grace may be found. Please pour out Your blessings upon all in our school communities. In Jesus name. Amen

Monday 11th:

In this busy time at Keele University with a new academic year beginning next weekend (16th), pray for all students returning to, or beginning, their studies; and the various welcome events organised by the chaplaincy team, to connect with new students and encourage some to join Sunday worship and Student Chapel Fellowship. Pray for the chaplaincy team, James Pritchard, Co-ordinating and Free Church chaplain, switching to part-time working at Keele as he transitions to a new role next Summer, Anglican Chaplain Stephanie Couvela, Lay Catholic Chaplain Niall Hammond, Muslim chaplain Rukia Bi, and new Volunteer Chaplaincy Assistant Jem Parker - as we manage this significant change and recruit James' successor.

Tuesday 12th: *Prayer provided by Lucinda Burns, chaplain to Adcote School*

Give thanks for the girls' hard work to produce good results across the board. Thank God for the outgoing Head, praying for a good retirement and pray for new Head Victoria Taylor, a committed Catholic. She is encouraging the introduction of 'staff prayers' and a retreat for the girls. Pray that staff catch the new vision Victoria wants to impart and will learn to support her. Pray for pupils, old & new, that they will quickly settle into a routine and feel at home in the school. Pray for the chaplain that she may be bigger and bolder...

Pray for the institution of Revd Julia Cody today as Team Rector of the Smestow Vale Team.

Wednesday 13th: *Prayer provided by Revd Liz Jones, chaplain to JCB Academy*

Thank God for a new school year and pray for all new staff and learners as they settle into JCB Academy in Rocester, which has many learners from a large geographical area & so do not know each other in the same way as most schools. Thank God for all involved in the induction & pastoral care of learners; pray they will continue to provide a good environment for everyone to flourish as the year progresses. Pray for Liz, giving a few hours of chaplaincy each week, that she will have encounters that will bless the whole community.

Thursday 14th: *Prayer provided by Revd Sarah Schofield, Lead Chaplain to Wolverhampton University*

Please keep in your prayers the plans for the coming semester and the graduation ceremonies beginning today. Give thanks for the hard work of over 3000 graduating students, and pray that they experience the guiding of the Holy Spirit as they discern the right path for their life. In particular we ask your prayers for a new partnership with Anglican and Methodist churches and our collection of pre-loved kitchenware which helps so many international students feel welcomed and at home.

Friday 15th: *Prayer provided by Deborah Walton, chaplain to Thomas Adams School Wem/Sir John Talbot School Whitchurch*

Loving God, we lift before you those who return to their place of education, having experienced loss or trauma during the summer holidays. Draw close to them as others share stories of happy, family times, or great adventures. Hear their cries in the anger, loneliness and isolation they feel. Surround them with understanding and supportive friends. Enable them to find safe people with whom they can be honest. Enfold them in your everlasting arms of love and fill their hearts with Your peace, for Jesus' sake. Amen

Saturday 16th: *(Edward Bouverie Pusey, Priest, Tractarian, 1882)*

Pray for Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education; for new Director, Mark Davis, and his team as they support school leaders and staff in church schools to ensure that every child, young person and adult within the diocesan family receives every opportunity to flourish and fulfil their God given potential.

Go to LDBE [website](#) for resources and training. Click [here](#) to find out more about dementia friendly schools.

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