

Our prayers this week are focused on the work and mission of 'Strengthening Communities' as they support parishes across the diocese. 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 and leaders of Russia.

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September:** *This week we pray for 'Strengthening Communities':*

Pray for the Communications and Engagement work, especially for Emma Smith as she looks after the internal communications within our team, arranges meetings and is a pivotal contact for us all; for her work in promoting SC through external communications on our website, social media and newsletters and in community engagement, visiting our churches and community organisations, gathering stories from grassroots to evidence the good news happening in our local communities as a result of the team's initiatives. ([emma.smith@lichfield.anglican.org](mailto:emma.smith@lichfield.anglican.org))

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup>:** *We continue to pray for 'Strengthening Communities' focusing today on Places of Welcome:*

Pray for Lesley Bovington and Carrie Blount and their work facilitating Places of Welcome across the Lichfield Diocese. For the continued growth of this network of hospitality, aiming for each neighbourhood to have safe places where people belong, connect and contribute to their local community. For these free, weekly, accessible coffee mornings and drop-ins where people actively listen to one and other, are offered local information and signposted to support, and talents and skills are encouraged to be shared with others. ([Lesley.bovington@tctogether.org.uk](mailto:Lesley.bovington@tctogether.org.uk) and [carrie.blount@lichfield.anglican.org](mailto:carrie.blount@lichfield.anglican.org))

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>:** *We continue to pray for 'Strengthening Communities' focusing today on Enabling All:*

Pray for Revd Zoe Heming and Su Parker as they aim to support churches and their communities in welcoming all, by equipping and supporting them to make small and inexpensive changes that can make a huge difference to the experience of accessing and belonging to a church community. For the advice, resources and training that they provide and the sharing of lived experiences that shape positive change. For those living with disability & their loved ones, for their equal access, empowerment & inclusion within our communities. ([enabling.all@lichfield.anglican.org](mailto:enabling.all@lichfield.anglican.org))

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup>:** *We continue to pray for 'Strengthening Communities' focusing on Dementia Friendly Churches:*

Pray for Sarah Thorpe our Dementia-Friendly Church Enabler, as she aims to increase dementia awareness, support churches and schools in making often small but significant changes to support those living with dementia and those around them, encourages the sharing of resources & ideas and the making of dementia-friendly connections across the community. For those living with dementia and their families and friends, that they make connections, find support, love and hope along their journey with this condition. ([sarah.thorpe@lichfield.anglican.org](mailto:sarah.thorpe@lichfield.anglican.org))

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>:** *We continue to pray for 'Strengthening Communities' focusing on organisations that support them:*

Pray for community organisations that support our network and that we signpost people to for help, organisations that partner with us to seek the common good, working for justice as people of hope, so that communities thrive and flourish; such as community associations, libraries, emergency services, local councils, GP services & hospitals, social prescribers & social landlords, local voluntary sector organisations and numerous charities.

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup>:** *We continue to pray for 'Strengthening Communities' focusing today on Volunteers:*

Pray for all the many volunteers in our churches and community organisations that welcome and support people within their communities, coming alongside people whatever their stage of life and whatever circumstances they find themselves in, to be a listening ear, to provide companionship and kindness, and to help people find extra help and guidance, when needed; for those who encourage, energise and empathise.

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup>:** *We continue to pray for 'Strengthening Communities' focusing today on Communities:*

Pray for all the people who attend and participate in activities, for those who are vulnerable, isolated and disadvantaged, that they are able to enjoy life in its fullness; that they may be encouraged, supported and championed within their communities.

Pray for the bringing together and understanding of people from different backgrounds, and with different abilities, to strengthen our communities by making them welcoming and inclusive; for safe spaces, for good transport links, for ample resources, for increased opportunities, for effective healthcare, for excellent education, for social integration, community resilience and hope.

**Diocesan 24-hour Day of Prayer, 25<sup>th</sup>/ 26<sup>th</sup> October, [click here for further details and to sign up to lead a session.](#)**

**To get these prayer points delivered to your mobile automatically via the free PrayerMate app on iOS & Android [click here](#)**

**For prayer resources for the worldwide church see the Anglican Cycle of prayer: [anglicancommunion.org/resources/prayer.aspx](http://anglicancommunion.org/resources/prayer.aspx)**