

Our prayers last week and this are for the many varied roles and ministries across the Diocese.

Sunday 31st December: *We pray today for the work of Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education (LDBE):*

Praise God for very positive judgements on schools in SIAMs inspections so far with schools talking enthusiastically about the support we provide; pray for the ongoing work of our team, continuing to productively progress issues of strategy, under the leadership of Mark Davis, new Director of Education, to provide appropriate support to schools. Pray for Christian Distinctiveness Advisors often acting as sounding boards; for God's provision of more skilled Christian individuals to work in school governance at school and trust level; and for guidance and discernment in representing the views and interests of church schools (20% of the children, staff & parents currently in education.) Pray for school leaders, under a great amount of stress, that this Christmas holiday may be a time of rest.

Monday 1st January: *(The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus)*

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God. Amen.

Tuesday 2nd: *We pray today for the Bishop's Staff Team:*

We are thankful that some members of senior Staff (Bishop Sarah and Terry Bloor) were able to visit our link Diocese in the Nordkirche recently. Give thanks for the contribution that Daniel Munday made in his temporary administrative support for Bishop Michaels office and pray that he will flourish in his future career. We are thankful for all the PA's and administrative support offered within all our Bishop offices and Archdeaconries, and we pray that they will be strengthened and remain encouraged in all their daily tasks.

Wednesday 3rd: *We pray today for our sisters and brothers called to the ministry of chaplaincy across the Diocese:*

For those moved by compassion for the imprisoned, the young, the unwell, the dying, the overwhelmed, and those troubled by their mental health:

For those seeking the flourishing of the next generation and all in education:

For those whose ministry takes them today into places of confusion, conflict, trouble and danger:

For those who step into closed and hidden places in order to walk with others:

For those in workplaces, streets, shops, markets, canals, theatres, farms, sports places and centres of entertainment:

For those encountering people of other faiths, to be open & positive while being confident in the faith of Christ:

For those working at collaboration, partnership, relationship and healing; any questioning their own faith, identity, or practice; those for whom energy and stamina seem to be running low: those today seeking accountability or support; and that all would recognise in the ministry of chaplaincy its discipleship, vocation and evangelism:

Lord of all the world, we commend to you the ministry of chaplaincy in your church and across your creation. We praise you for its diversity and richness, its courage and openness, and the way that chaplaincy expresses faith, hope and love to those around. We bless you for all in chaplaincy, lay and ordained, who seek to serve you by following your spirit into your creation to show and tell your good news. Amen

Thursday 4th: *We pray today for the people of Ukraine:*

God of peace and justice, we pray for peace & the laying down of weapons; for all who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

Friday 5th: *We pray today for Strengthening Communities Together:*

Dear God, thank you for the opportunity to work alongside our local communities:

For over 180 safe places in our Diocese where people can connect, belong and contribute, as part of the Places of Welcome network of hospitality - help us to equip and support them in creating accessible communities.

For churches and schools willing to make often small but significant changes to support those living with dementia; for those who share their lived experiences with us to shape positive change; for the opportunity to share the good news of hope and transformation from grassroots community engagement. Lord, we ask that you continue to bless us in these areas of work as we bring together people from different backgrounds with different abilities to strengthen our communities and make them welcoming and inclusive. Amen

Saturday 6th: *(The Epiphany)*

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**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**