

## Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 243

discipleship  
vocation  
evangelism

We pray for the implementation of Deanery visions, developed during the [Shaping for Mission](#) process, and the resulting Strategic Framework 2024-2030, within the context of the varied roles and ministries across the Diocese. As 'People of Hope,' we remember those impacted by natural disasters; those in Ukraine suffering grievously along with the people & leaders of Russia; and for a lasting peace for the people of Palestine, Israel and the wider Middle East.

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December:

*A prayer from Andy Keulemans, Chaplain at Shrewsbury School;*

Prayers would be valued for all those involved in our confirmation preparation starting this January.

Also for the school as a whole entity.

It's one of the key employers in Shrewsbury and the recent budget has made things considerably more difficult at every level of the operation.

For all who are working to make the place a loving community that blesses those who are part of it and reaches out to those who are beyond its walls.

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>:

Lord, on the last day the diocesan office is open this year, we thank you for the departments that work there; for all the people working in Church Buildings and DAC, Communications, Education, Finance, Property, Registry, Safeguarding, Secretariat, Strengthening Communities and Mission, and Vocations and Training; that they may return refreshed and invigorated in the New Year.

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>:

Heavenly Father, we lift before you all those people coming as guests to special Christmas services at churches that they may not normally attend, that they may receive a warm welcome and positive enough experience that they may want to come back soon.

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>: *(Christmas Day)*

Lord, we thank you for coming to Earth in Bethlehem more than 2000 years ago. We thank you for your humility in living among us, and the hope that your death and resurrection gives us today. Happy Birthday Jesus!

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>: *(Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr)*

Heavenly Father, on St Stephen's day we pray for each of the churches dedicated to him in the diocese; those in Bentilee, Fradley, Great Haywood, Wolverhampton, and Willenhall. We pray for your hand of blessing to rest on each of those churches and communities.

Friday 27<sup>th</sup>: *(John, Apostle and Evangelist)*

Lord, today we lift before you all those numerous churches specifically dedicated to St John the Evangelist; those in Bishopswood, Colemere, Essington, Heath Hayes, Hollington, Knypersley, Lawley, Muxton, Oulton, Swindon, Tipton, and Trent Vale. May your hand of blessing to rest on each of those churches and communities, and also those dedicated more simply to St John; Abbey Hulton, Alsagers Bank, Barlaston, Berkhamstych, Chase Terrace, Cotton, Horninglow, Keele, Longton, Maesbrook, Marchington Woodlands, Pleck, Reapsmoor, Stretton, Walsall Wood, West Bromwich, Weston Rhyn, Whitgreave, and Wolverhampton.

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>: *(The Holy Innocents)*

*A prayer from the Revd Stephen Bentham, Team Leader of BCUIM (Black Country Urban Industrial Mission), who provide ministry in the workplace across the Black Country.*

Please pray for our Chaplains as they engage with people in the working community across a variety of settings. Pray for courage, opportunity and the right words in time and season and for all those we come alongside. We pray for the churches within the Diocese, that people would be inspired to think about ministry beyond the walls of the church and consider joining our Team.

We thank God that His work can be seen in so many areas of life.