

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 253

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 and we pray for the people & leaders of Russia; and that the ceasefire holds in full and for a lasting peace for the people of Palestine, Israel and the wider Middle East.

discipleship
vocation
evangelism

Sunday 23rd February: (*Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, Martyr, c.155*)

Lord, on St Milburga's Day we pray for the one church in the diocese dedicated to her, in Beckbury in Edgmond and Shifnal Deanery. We pray for your hand of blessing to rest on this church and community. But in remembering one of Shropshire's great past servants, on what is also 'Shropshire Day' we remember all those that serve it today, may your hand of blessing rest on all those people that work so hard to serve their communities and make them stronger.

Monday 24th:

To conclude our prayers for Stoke on Trent Deanery, we pray for all those churches and communities in the city that we haven't specifically prayed for in this last fortnight; those in Abbey Hulton, Bentilee, Blurton, Burslem, Chell and Chell Heath, Hanford, Longton, Longton Hall, Meir, Meir Heath and Normacot, Mow Cop, Smallthorne, Sneyd, Sneyd Green, Trentham, and Tunstall. Lord, may you hold these places especially close in your heart.

Tuesday 25th:

Today we pray for a number of events taking place or at least starting today; firstly we pray for the start of the 3-day '[Developing Ministry](#)' course, that those church leaders completing it will leave with a greater confidence in their leadership in changing times; we pray for the Strengthening Communities Team's webinar on '[Connecting Communities with Places of Welcome](#)'; and finally we pray for the College of Preacher's webinar on '[Preaching the Story of Holy Week](#)', and for clarity in the message we share by whatever means.

Wednesday 26th:

We start our prayers for Stone Deanery by praying for each of its Church Schools in Stone Deanery, for the First Schools in each of Barlaston, Oulton, Standon, Stone (St Michael's), and Tittensor. We also pray for the two academies in Stone, both attached to Christ Church, for both the Primary and Nursery Academy, and also Christ Church Academy. Please may your hand rest upon the staff and volunteers who work there, both teaching and supporting roles; and for all the children and their families who are part of them.

Thursday 27th: (*George Herbert, Priest, Poet, 1633*)

Lord, we thank you for the world you created for us and all that it brings us, please inspire us afresh to care for that world with just a fraction of the love that you have bestowed upon it and us. Today we especially lift before you the Diocesan Green Team and their study day of '[Mortal, can these Bones live?](#)', exploring creation care in the season of resurrection.

Friday 28th:

We continue our prayers for Stone Deanery praying for the two churches in it that are currently in Vacancy, those of St Saviour's in Aston-by-Stone, and St Michael and St Wulfad's in Stone itself. We thank you for all of those local leaders working to help those churches both survive and thrive, and pray that the right person will soon be found to lead the churches into the future.

Saturday 1st March: (*David, Bishop of Menevia, Patron of Wales, c.601*)

On St David's Day, and the day before that of St Chad's, we thank you for the ministry of both Saints and what they still teach and inspire today. We especially pray for today's [St David and St Chad Retreat](#) taking place at St Chad's House in Leek, that all those who attend may leave inspired and encouraged. We pray too for the ongoing ministry of St Chad's House, that it may continue to bless all those who visit it.