

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 263

We pray for the implementation of our diocesan strategy 'Seeking the Kingdom', 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 for a lasting peace for the people of Palestine, Israel and the wider Middle East. We also pray for all those dealing with the ongoing relief effort after the earthquake in Myanmar.

discipleship
vocation
evangelism

Sunday 4th May: *(English Saints and Martyrs of the Reformation Era)*

Lord, today we especially pray for the new Archdeacons of Salop and Walsall respectively as Nick Watson and Liz Jackson are installed today at the Cathedral. May you bless them both with wisdom, discernment and patience for the challenges ahead in serving the diocese and working alongside their senior staff colleagues. So too we pray for Sharon Greensmith as she is commissioned today to serve in the Tettenhall Regis Team and especially the churches of Aldersley Christ the King and Bilbrook Holy Cross.

Monday 5th:

We continue our prayers for Eccleshall Deanery by praying for the Staffs Border Group of Churches, comprising of Adbaston St Michael, Gnosall St Lawrence, High Offley St Mary, Knightley Christ Church, Moreton St Mary, and Norbury St Peter. We lift before you all their local leaders as they advance into their vacancy, and pray you will hold their future in your hands both immediate and in the longer-term.

Tuesday 6th:

Lord, we pray for this morning's online session of bite-sized training on the key messages of dementia awareness. May we all indeed recognise that 'a little bit of dementia awareness goes a long way'. We also pray for the churches of Eccleshall Holy Trinity and Slindon St Chad, and their leaders including their vicar Phillip, associate clergy Barry and Stephen, and for their Children and Families Minister Cassie, and her leadership of their 'Next Generation' work. In praying for next generations, we pray for the new initiative of 'Flourish' in Bishop Lonsdale Primary School, for the band, all the young leaders, and all those who attend.

Wednesday 7th:

We lift before you the start of the on-site Difference Course, meeting at Emmanuel Church at Harlescott in Shrewsbury. Running in parallel with the online one that started last week, we pray that both courses may help people with embracing each other's differences and working together through them. So too we pray for 'different' things happening in Eccleshall and Slindon; including a new children's choir starting this autumn and all those contributing to the project; the imminent Community Arts Festival and specifically for their Arts and Faith lead Sarah Cartwright as she develops plans for it; and for a successful birth of their planned new 'Watershed' congregation focussed on creation and the environment.

Thursday 8th: *(Julian of Norwich, Spiritual Writer, c.1417)*

We also pray today for the LICC's (London Institute for Contemporary Christianity) Vision Tour as it visits Birmingham. May the question of how Jesus would live our life prove a fruitful one and inspire and provoke positive change.

Once again we pray for Eccleshall and Slindon and some of their more ongoing ministries; that their Bible Study Groups may continue to grow and flourish; for the major reordering at Holy Trinity and that it will inspire an influx in visitors. Finally Lord, we thank you for the numerical increase of all of their congregations and pray for that to continue as we develop their Mission and Evangelism plans.

Friday 9th:

We pray for another group of churches in Eccleshall Deanery that are currently in vacancy, made up of Chebsey All Saints, Ellenhall St Mary, Norton Bridge St Luke, Ranton All Saints, Seighford St Chad. Lord please hold these churches and their leaders in your loving hands, and guide them into the future you have planned for them.

Saturday 10th:

Lord we pray for the Greenhouse Morning taking place today at St Alkmund's Whitchurch. We lift before you the Shropshire Greenhouse Team of Chris Densham, Chris Precious, Di Woolridge, and Simon Mason; and for all those keen on exploring Pioneering and Fresh Expressions through Greenhouse or other avenues.