Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 280



**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, Iran, Israel and the wider Middle East.**

Sunday 31st August:

*(Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne, Missionary, 651)*

Lord, we lift before you today the two churches in the diocese dedicated to St Aidan; Chadsmoor in Rugeley Deanery and Penn Fields in Trysull. We pray for your hand of blessing to rest on both of these churches and each of the communities they serve. We especially pray for Penn Fields as they are currently in vacancy, that at the right time you may place your call upon the right person to serve there.

Monday 1st September:

*(Giles of Provence, Hermit, c.710)*

Lord, today we lift before you all those churches in the diocese dedicated to St Giles; in Badger, Canwell, Cheadle, Croxden, Haughton, Newcastle, Shrewsbury, Whittington, and Willenhall. We pray for your hand of blessing to rest on all of these churches and all of the places they serve.

Tuesday 2nd:

*(The Martyrs of Papua New Guinea, 1901 and 1942)*

We pray for Gareth Manser as today he is commissioned to serve as the new vicar of St Peter's Walsall. We pray for good relationships to be built and strengthened with both the congregation present and future, and the surrounding community. Lord, please rest your hand rest upon that part of Walsall.

We also pray for wisdom for the Shrewsbury Area Mission and Pastoral Committee as they meet today.

Wednesday 3rd:

*(Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, Teacher of the Faith, 604)*

We lift before you all those children and young people returning to school today or this week, and those going for the first time. Please let welcomes be offered, friendships formed, and fears be allayed. Thank you for the hard work of all those who work and volunteer in schools around the diocese, and also those who serve in the diocese's Education Team.

We also think of the Diocesan and Cathedral Staff as they share fellowship on a staff day today, to build closer and more productive relationships in the future.

Thursday 4th:

*(Birinus, Bishop of Dorchester (Oxon), Apostle of Wessex, 650)*

Lord, we continue to pray for Newcastle deanery, and today for the churches closest to the town centre. We pray for St George's, it's vicar Martin Ball, and all those who serve and worship there. We pray for Josh Penduck, St Giles', and its sister church of St Thomas' Butterton. So too we pray for St Michael's Cross Heath, Fr Simon Maddison, and the church of St Paul's Newcastle as they continue to explore the future.

As we think of St Paul's and their future, we also pray for wisdom for the Wolverhampton Area Mission and Pastoral Committee as they meet today.

Friday 5th:

Our continuing prayers for Newcastle deanery take us to Clayton and the church of St James. We pray for all those who serve that place or are served by it. We especially pray for their vicar Julia Babb, remember her dual role serving as Chaplain at Harplands Hospital, and lift before you all those people serving as healthcare chaplains. We pray too for Holy Trinity in Chesterton, their vicar Jay Rosie, and all those the church encounters.

Saturday 6th:

*(Allen Gardiner, Missionary, Founder of the South American Mission Society, 1851)*

Lord, we conclude our prayers for Newcastle by lifting before you the churches of All Saints in Madeley and St Margaret's in Betley. We thank you for their pioneering spirit and pray for continuing enthusiasm to think outside the box in trying to help more people to come to know you. We pray for their vicar Tim Watson; their Children, Youth, and Families Minister Ruth Fish; and Pioneers and Young People's Workers around the diocese and beyond.