

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 295

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.

discipleship
vocation
evangelism

Sunday 14th December: *(John of the Cross, Poet, Teacher of the Faith, 1591)*

On the day dedicated to John of the Cross, a prayer dedicated to him but relevant to us all;

O God, by whose grace Your servant St John of the Cross, kindled with the flame of Your love, became a burning and shining light in Your Church. Grant that we also may be aflame with the spirit of love and discipline, and walk before You as Children of light; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Monday 15th:

Inspired by Whole Life Discipleship and those diocesan staff who often pray part of this as they gather to pray on Mondays, a prayer from St Patrick's Breastplate for all those amidst their daily labours in whatever setting;

Offer to God the places of your day, the people you will meet, and the ways you will spend your time, that God may be glorified, and Christ revealed, in all you are and all that you do.

Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me. Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger. Amen.

Tuesday 16th:

Lord, we start a series of prayers for Edgmond and Shifnal Deanery by lifting before you each one of its church schools. We pray for each of Albrighton St Mary's Primary, and the fellow primaries of Beckbury and Edgmond St Peter. We pray for Newport Junior School. So too we pray for each of the primary schools of Preston Wealdmoors St Lawrence, Shifnal St Andrew, and Tibberton. Please may your hand rest upon the staff and volunteers who work in any of these schools in whatever role; and for all the children and their families who are part of them.

Wednesday 17th: *(O Sapientia. Eglantyne Jebb, Social Reformer, Founder of 'Save The Children', 1928)*

Lord, we pray for today's Bishop's Staff Meeting, for wisdom for all those involved to deal with whatever circumstances may have already presented themselves, and for vision to deal with whatever circumstances may emerge in the future. Please guide and inspire this group to help them make decisions on all our behalfs with integrity and your guidance. Today we also pray for the final one of five twilight sessions from our Education Team on [exploring SIAMS for Governors](#). As this evening they explore the nature of high-quality religious education and effective RE curriculums, we pray for more of both in all of our schools.

Thursday 18th:

Lord, today we pray for Solomon Adetoye as he is licensed to serve at the Church at Perton. Please bless Solomon as he serves in this distinct corner of Wolverhampton, for a strengthening of relationships with its community, and a vision for opportunities for more people to come to know you, or get to know you better.

Friday 19th:

Lord, as we pray for Edgmond and Shifnal, we pray for their churches that are currently in vacancy. We pray for the churches in southernmost benefice of Badger, Beckbury, Kemberton, Ryton, Stockton, and Sutton Maddock. We pray similarly for the churches of Bolas Magna, Edgmond, Kynnersley, Preston Wealdmoors, Tibberton, and Waters Upton. We pray for the sibling churches of Lilleshall and Muxton, for Newport and Chetwynd, and so too the individual churches of Church Aston, Forton, and for Tong. Lord, we lift all these churches before you, thank you for all those working so hard to keep them functioning and flourishing in these vacancies, and humbly ask that very soon the right new incumbents may soon be identified to serve with them.

Saturday 20th:

We pray for the leadership of Edgmond and Shifnal as a deanery, specifically thanking you for Stuart Howes recently agreeing to serve as their Rural Dean there as well as for Telford Deanery. We pray for positive relationships between him and Assistant RD Mary Thomas, Lay Chair Malcolm MacLean and Secretary Geoff Lott. We pray that you may guide and inspire each of them to help each of the churches in that area draw closer together to each other, and most importantly to you.

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For prayer resources for the worldwide church see the Anglican cycle of prayer: anglicancommunion.org/resources/prayer.aspx