# Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 296

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 21st December:

Lord, on this last Sunday before Christmas, we pray for all the churches holding Carol Services and similar services today. We thank you for all the people visiting your house this week, and pray that they may receive a warm welcome and that hearing your story will sow seeds so that they want to soon return.

#### Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>:

Today we pray for the churches of Shifnal and Sheriffhales, St Andrew's and St Mary's respectively. We thank you for the positive work going on in partnership with the Methodist Church and with the local community, and pray that their various initiatives may continue to flourish.

#### Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup>:

We conclude our prayers for Edgmond and Shifnal Deanery by praying for the Benefice of Albrighton, Boningale, and Donington - and specifically the churches of St Mary Magdalene's, St Chad's, and St Cuthbert's. Please bless the ministry taking place in these villages between Telford and Wolverhampton, both in this special season and beyond.

#### Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>: (Christmas Eve)

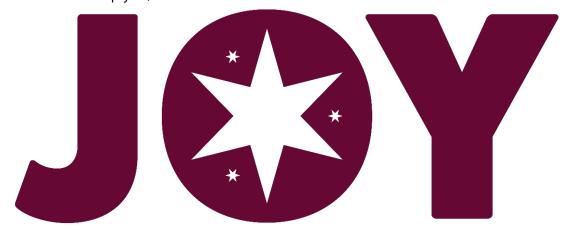
Lord, we thank you for all the churches holding special services today, be they christingles, crib services, midnight communions, carol services, or any other celebrations. Please help each of us with things to prepare for tomorrow to get them completed, but also for us to find time to reflect on 'the reason for the season'.

### Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>: (Christmas Day)

#### HAPPY CHRISTMAS EVERYBODY! HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS!

#### A prayer from Common Worship;

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God. Amen.



#### Friday 26<sup>th</sup>: (Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr)

On St Stephen's day we pray for all the churches in the diocese dedicated to him; in Bentilee, Fradley, Great Haywood, Wolverhampton, and Willenhall. We pray for your hand of blessing to rest on all of these churches and the communities they serve.

## Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>: (John, Apostle and Evangelist)

On St John the Evangelist's day we pray for all the churches in the diocese dedicated specifically to his full title; in Bishopswood, Colemere, Essington, Heath Hayes, Hollington, Knypersley, Lawley, Muxton, Oulton, Swindon, Tipton, and Trent Vale. We pray too for St John the Divine in Horninglow, and for all those just dedicated to 'St John'; Abbey Hulton, Alsagers Bank, Barlaston, Berkhamsytch, Chase Terrace, Cotton, Keele, Maesbrook, Marchington Woodlands, Pleck, Reapsmoor, Stretton, Walsall Wood, West Bromwich, Weston Rhyn, Whitgreave, and Wolverhampton.

We pray for your hand of blessing to rest on all of these churches and the communities they serve.

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