

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 187

discipleship
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evangelism

Our prayers this week focus on Safeguarding, coinciding with [Safeguarding Sunday](#), giving thanks for, and keeping in our prayers, Neil Spiring and the diocesan Safeguarding Team. As 'People of Hope,' we remain mindful of the implications of Covid-19, locally & globally; we continue to pray for those impacted by natural disasters; those currently suffering because of wars and unrest and for all who take decisions around the world.

Sunday 19th November: *(Hilda, Abbess of Whitby, 680) Safeguarding Sunday*

Dear God, help us to be a church that:

Loves, welcomes, protects. Listens, learns, serves. Repents, restores, transforms. Values, cares, believes.
God of Justice and Compassion, hear our prayer. Help us, heal us, guide us, we pray, In Jesus name, Amen

Monday 20th: *(Priscilla Lydia Sellon, a Restorer of the Religious Life in the Church of England, 1876)*

Into the dark places of our world, where people are frightened and hungry, **God bring light, bring love**
Into places where people are violent, into places where people are fighting, **God bring light, bring love**
Into the places where we feel unsafe, into situations that hurt us and scare us, **God bring light, bring love**
We ask our prayers in Jesus' name and in the Holy Spirit's power, Amen

Tuesday 21st: *A Prayer for victims, survivors, and those with lived experience of abuse*

Dear God, we pray for all those who have suffered hurt and harm within the family of the Church, whether they are known to us or not, we know that you know them by name.

For those who feel trapped, grant them a way of escape,

For those in pain, bring comfort and healing,

For those who seek justice, may they have courage and strength.

As Church we are one body and if one part suffers, every part suffers with it.

Give to all who suffer, people who will listen, support, and walk with them, we pray, Amen

Wednesday 22nd: *(Cecilia, Martyr at Rome, c.230) A prayer for those working in safeguarding:*

Dear God, we pray for all those who serve in a safeguarding role within our churches.

Thank you for their willingness and the time they give to fulfil this important task.

Give them your wisdom, discernment, and strength.

Help us support them in their role, remember them in our prayers, and respond to their requests and advice so that church might be a safer place for everyone. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen

Thursday 23rd: *(Clement, Bishop of Rome, Martyr, c.100) A prayer for church leaders:*

Dear God, we pray for all those who serve in a position of leadership in our Church.

Thank you for their commitment to serve in this way.

As they make decisions, set the culture, and seek to lead in worship and witness,

give them wisdom, humility, and courage to follow Jesus' example of servant leadership, we pray.

May they have others around them who can help, challenge, and encourage them so that churches might be a safer place for everyone. In Jesus name, Amen

Friday 24th: *A survivor's prayer written by Cerys Morgan, a victim and survivor of church-based abuse.*

Father, thank you that as your church you entrust to us your work here on earth.

We pray that through your Spirit, you will empower us to do the right thing for the benefit of those suffering abuse and injustice. That we will not fear to be bringers of your justice.

That we will be your voice for those whose voices are silenced.

That when your light shines into dark areas of abuse we will have courage as your representatives, to face our fears, and to show forth your heart of compassion and justice, and to speak your words of life and freedom into broken hearts. We ask this in your name and for your glory. Amen

Saturday 25th: *A survivor's prayer written by Cerys Morgan, a victim and survivor of church-based abuse.*

Father, teach us as a Church to be your body, fully knitted together and working in unity; to care for one another with extra care and dignity.

Enable us to be instruments of your love, that chains will be broken and broken hearts restored.

That we will teach everyone how precious they are to you.

That they will know you are a God who sees and feels their pain.

We pray that through your Spirit, and your church fully trusting in your word, victims will become victors and their mess become a precious message to your love and restoration in their lives.

We ask this in your name and for your glory. Amen.

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