

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 294

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 7th December: *(Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, Teacher of the Faith, 397)*

Lord, we pray for this afternoon's '[Gathered](#)' session of affirming worship taking place at St Martin's Walsall. We pray for all those who will be there, for a rewarding and meaningful celebration for all those present. We pray for all those who seek to know you better and may struggle to find a welcoming place in which to do so.

Monday 8th December: *(The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary)*

We continue our prayers for Stafford Deanery from last week by lifting before you those churches to the west of the town. We pray for Castlechurch, for their vicar Phil and all its leadership team, for its meeting places on either side of Newport Road, and for all those that attend them, that you may meet their hunger to know you ever more. So too we pray for the village churches of St Editha's Church Eaton, St Giles' Haughton, St Mary and All Saints Bradeley, and St Matthew's Derrington; and especially for their vicar Cath as she balances serving these churches with serving in her role as Stafford's Rural Dean.

Tuesday 9th:

Lord, today we bring before you the [Advent Retreat Day](#) being led by Bishop Michael at St Chad's House in Leek. We pray for a rewarding experience for all those taking part, for everyone to find a period of quality time with you in their own way as they prepare for the joys, challenges, and opportunities in the weeks to come.

Wednesday 10th:

Lord, we continue in our prayers for Stafford by remembering those churches to the south and east which we are yet to name before you. We pray for Fr Yaqoob and his congregation of St Peter's in Rickerscote, that they may seek you ever more closely. We pray for all the churches in the parish of Baswich, for All Saints Brocton, for Holy Trinity Berkswich, and for St Thomas' in Walton on the Hill. Please bless all these congregations, their vicar Graham, and all those they encounter in your name.

Thursday 11th:

We pray for Andrew Stead as today he is licensed to serve as the new Master of St John's Hospital. We thank you for his ministry at the Cathedral, and as he makes the short geographical journey across the city of Lichfield, we pray that as he establishes himself into his new setting, that you may surprise him with new opportunities that he may never have imagined.

Friday 12th:

We conclude our prayers for Stafford Deanery by praying for its remaining churches to the north and east. We pray for St John's in Littleworth, and its rural sister churches of St John's Tixall and St Mary's Ingestre. We lift before you their vicar Carl, all those who serve alongside him, and pray that you will draw each of those places closer to yourself. We pray for St Bertelin's in Holmcroft and St John's Whitgreave, for their vicar Elaine and all who worship in those places. Lord, thank you for the deanery of Stafford and all those that serve you there, may you never stop blessing them with new ways of seeking your face and drawing closer to you.

Saturday 13th: *(Lucy, Martyr at Syracuse, 304. Samuel Johnson, Moralist, 1784.)*

On St Lucia's day we pray for the one church in the diocese dedicated to her; in the village of Upton Magna between Shrewsbury and Telford. We pray for your hand of blessing to rest on this church, its neighbouring primary school of the same name and the community it serves.

And on the day we also remember one of Lichfield's celebrated former sons, an offering from a much-valued daughter - the Archdeacon of Lichfield, Sue Weller;

Born in Lichfield in 1709, Samuel Johnson was renowned for his exceptional ability with words, becoming known as Doctor Johnson. Rooted in his faith in Christ, he often expressed how we put our faith into practice. His words, writing and sermons frequently addressed themes of Christian ethics, such as charity, pride, wisdom, and compassion. e.g. 'The morality of an action depends on the motive from which we act.' and 'The road to hell is paved with good intentions.'

Lord, may we be so rooted in you our Living Word, that in the realities and challenges of life, we live out our faith, in words and actions that glorify and point others to, you, our Saviour.

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