

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 298

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 4th January:

As they face the new term this coming week we pray for the six primary and first church schools in the Alstonefield Deanery Mission Area Team, at Longnor, Hollinsclough, Manifold, Ipstones, Waterhouses and Ilam. All members of The Moorlands Primary Federation Academy Trust, they too have the opportunity to work together as six schools and one team, linking in the future to the work underway at Dovedale House, and to their respective Family Groups of Churches with faith at their heart. Tiny schools, they are nurturing caring environments with committed Christian leadership, and we ask for your continued blessing on their work, and on the teachers, staff, children and families that make up each school.

Monday 5th:

Today Lord, we pray for your wisdom and care as we seek to discern the future of those churches in the Alstonefield Deanery Mission Area Team that are closed or facing an uncertain future. Working with the communities near to those Churches of St Mary and St John Berkhamstych, St Bartholomew Blore Ray with Okeover, both currently not in use and St Mary and St Lawrence Cauldon, currently consulting on their future we are seeking answers to what is best to do. We would not want to lose the visible focus of ministry in a village, but reluctantly perhaps accept that your will may be for different forms of ministry in the future. Give those involved courage and insight as they grapple with the challenges ahead.

Tuesday 6th: *(The Epiphany)*

At Epiphany, as we remember the Magi and their gifts, we thank you again for your most precious gift to us in your son Jesus. Today we also pray for those churches in the diocese named 'The Epiphany', in Oxley in Wulfrun Deanery and Peplow in Hodnet. We pray for your hand of blessing to rest on both of these churches and the communities they serve.

Wednesday 7th:

We pray for the Wolverhampton Area Mission and Pastoral Committee as it meets today, for inspiration and wisdom for all those involved. Lord, please bless all the people who serve on this and all our diocesan committees, and may they know your presence alongside them as they serve, especially when they may face difficult decisions.

Thursday 8th:

Lord of all, we ask for your blessing on all the lay ministers in the Alstonefield Deanery. The 3 Readers, and 3 locally commissioned lay ministers play an essential and important role as they lead worship, take the word of God to the people and minister to their communities. All involved in and part of the close-knit communities they minister in, with intimate knowledge of those communities their wisdom is essential to the way the team work. We give grateful thanks for all that they do, and for the gifts they bring to the people they serve.

Friday 9th:

Today God of Grace, we pray to you for your compassionate wisdom as you guide the relatively newly formed ways in which the Alstonefield Deanery Mission Area Team work together. Finding new ways to be church together is always challenging, and doing things differently can, as your Son knew in his ministry, bring challenges and resistance for some. The new Deanery Leadership Forum and the Deanery Treasurers Group are both seeking to establish the best way to share the necessary governance tasks associated with Church life, to do things together when that is best and individually as necessary and right, and to build faith and mission together. All volunteers, we ask for every blessing on what they are doing in your name.

Saturday 10th: *(William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1645)*

Lord we pray for the work being done in the Deanery Mission Area Team to create new communities of faith, in church and in community. We give thanks for the ecumenical work being done with Methodist colleagues in providing a Weekly Warm Welcome space in Ipstones, and for the very busy Warm Welcome at Butterton. We also give thanks for the work of the Prayer Shawl Ministry Team in Longnor Family Group, for the Open the Book work in Schools led by Revd Nicola, for the pastoral ministry prayer group, the fellowship and study groups in each Family Group, for the ongoing support to Foodbanks, and for the monthly Beer and Blessings Service in the Ipstones Family group. We pray that from these new shoots may grow new Christians and new ways to worship in rural communities.