

# Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 299

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 11th January:** *(Mary Slessor, Missionary in West Africa, 1915)*

A prayer from Stoke's Associate Archdeacon Terry Bloor to conclude a series of prayers for Alstonfield Deanery; Dear God, we give thanks for the continuing ministry of Dovedale House in Ilam, where church based and other groups as well as schools enjoy our hospitality within its beautiful, Peak District surroundings. Upon the recent change in residential staff, we give thanks for the improvements in the house's offering brought about by Jeremy and Julie and for the new initiatives already being pioneered by Debbie and Andrew. We pray for increased usage by groups for their discipleship and faith growing ventures and for those clergy who make use of 'The Bungalow' for rest and relaxation.

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup>:** *(Aelred of Hexham, Abbot of Rievaulx, 1167. Benedict Biscop, Abbot of Wearmouth, Scholar, 689)*

Today we pray for the one church in the diocese dedicated to St Benedict Biscop, at Wombourne in Trysull Deanery. We pray for your hand of blessing to rest on both this church, its sister one of The Venerable Bede, and the communities they serve. We also pray for wisdom for the Stafford Area Mission and Pastoral Committee as they meet today, and also for this afternoon's concurrent '[Counting Sheep](#)' training session around Statistics for Mission - Lord we once again thank you for all the faithful shepherds in our churches carefully watching over our flocks.

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>:**

*(Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, Teacher of the Faith, 367. Kentigern (Mungo), Missionary Bishop in Strathclyde and Cumbria, 603. George Fox, Founder of the Society of Friends (the Quakers), 1691)*

Lord, today we pray for the gathering of the Agenda Planning Committee for Diocesan Synod, please guide them so as to give the things you want discussed, proper time and means when Synod meets.

Also, a prayer from George Fox, as contributed by Simon Foster, the Leader of the Strengthening Communities and Mission Team; Praise, honour, and glory be to the Lord of heaven and earth! Lord of peace, Lord of joy! Thy countenance maketh my heart glad. Lord of glory, Lord of mercy, Lord of strength, Lord of life, and of power over death, and Lord of lords, and King of kings! In the world there are lords many, but to us there is but one God the Father, of whom are all things; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things: to whom be all glory, who is worthy! In the world are many lords, and many gods, and the earth maketh lords, coveting after riches, and oppressing the creatures; and so, the covetous mind getting to itself, lords it above others. This nature of lordly pride is head, until subdued by the power of God: for everyone in that state, doth strive to be above another; few will strive to be the lowest. Oh! that everyone would strive to put down in themselves, mastery and honour, that the Lord of heaven and earth might be exalted!

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>:**

Lord, we pray for the Bishop's Staff Meeting as they gather today, for wisdom and inspiration for all those involved. We also pray for Rachael Griffiths as today she is licensed to serve in the Staffordshire Border Group of Churches. Please bless her as she serves the churches in Adbaston, Gnosall, High Offley, Knightley, Moreton, and Norbury; and builds relationships in their local communities.

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>:**

We pray for wisdom for the Shrewsbury Area Mission and Pastoral Committee as they meet today. Today we also start a series of prayers for Shrewsbury and Wrekin Deanery and especially remember the churches currently in vacancy, in the Haughmond and Wrekin Benefice, the Trinity Churches group, The Abbey, and Monkmoor St Peter. We pray particularly for the Abbey and St Peter's as they begin a new chapter as two separate parishes.

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup>:**

We pray for all those people who have been to services over Christmas, in Shrewsbury and beyond; that they would continue to 'ponder all these things' in their hearts.

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>:**

*(Antony of Egypt, Hermit, Abbot, 356. Charles Gore, Bishop, Founder of the Community of the Resurrection, 1932)*

We pray for Emmanuel Church in Shrewsbury as they prepare for their 25th anniversary later this year. We pray for the potential for closer practical and spiritual relationships for the two churches within Harlescott Parish, and for the 'working out' of the possibilities of the Local Ecumenical Partnership in this area.