

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 305

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 22nd February:

Lord, we start a series of prayers for Wulfrun Deanery by lifting before you each one of its church schools. We pray for Rosedale Infant School; for each of the Primary Academies in Wednesfield, St Alban's and St Thomas' respectively; and we pray for St Giles' Primary School in Willenhall. Please may your hand rest upon the staff and volunteers who work in any of these schools in whatever role; and for all the children and their families who are part of them.

Monday 23rd: (*Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, Martyr, c.155*)

On St Milburga's day, we pray for the one church in the diocese dedicated to her, in Beckbury in Edgmond and Shifnal Deanery. We pray for your hand of blessing to rest on this church, its sister ones in Badger, Kemberton, Ryton, Stockton, and Sutton Maddock; and the communities they serve.

With St Milburga being the patron saint of Shropshire, so too we lift before you all the churches and communities in Shrewsbury Episcopal Area and 'across the border' in Hereford Diocese.

Tuesday 24th:

We continue our prayers for Wulfrun Deanery by praying for its one church currently in Vacancy, that of St Alban's on the Ashmore Park Estate of Wednesfield. We thank you for all the people giving up their time to help the church not just survive but thrive, and pray that you may continue to bless relationships with the community on the estate, and especially their local school, also dedicated to St Alban.

Wednesday 25th:

Lord, we lift before you the [Churchwarden Cafes](#) today and tomorrow, each focussing on the practicalities of Preparing the Annual Fabric Report. We pray that they will be productive and helpful sessions, and thank you again for the efforts made by our Wardens and so many other volunteers, especially towards maintaining all of our church buildings.

Thursday 26th:

Lord, we pray for today's conference at Telford Minster for [Church School Leaders](#). We thank you for all they do, and for the Education Team that supports them and has organised this conference. We pray that all those who attend or participate may leave feeling encouraged and inspired.

So too we pray for this afternoon's session led by [Su Parker of our Enabling All Team and Bernice Hardie of WAVE for Change](#). We pray that it may prove a helpful exploration of how people with and without learning difficulties may be able to work together and form friendships in our communities.

Friday 27th: (*George Herbert, Priest, Poet, 1633*)

Lord, we thank you for the gift of prayer in all its forms, as so elegantly demonstrated in George Herbert's poem called, fittingly, 'Prayer':

Prayer the church's banquet, angel's age, God's breath in man returning to his birth,
The soul in paraphrase, heart in pilgrimage, The Christian plummet sounding heav'n and earth
Engine against th' Almighty, sinner's tow'r, Reversed thunder, Christ-side-piercing spear,
The six-days world transposing in an hour, A kind of tune, which all things hear and fear;
Softness, and peace, and joy, and love, and bliss, Exalted manna, gladness of the best,
Heaven in ordinary, man well drest, The milky way, the bird of Paradise,
Church-bells beyond the stars heard, the soul's blood, The land of spices; something understood.

Saturday 28th:

Lord, on this last day of February, we think of those in our communities who may long for a place to 'fit' but struggle to find it. Like people born on the 29th may wonder where they 'fit' three years out of four, we lift before you all those who long for something to help them better 'fit', a home, a family, a job, better health, or maybe something completely different. Lord, please bless those people with the one perfect fit that they can have - in your loving arms.