



Sunday 14th September 2025

13th Sunday after Trinity

Holy Cross Day



DIOCESE OF
LICHFIELD



Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad



Becoming
Dementia
Friendly
Church
2024-5

"We believe in **inclusive church** – a church which **celebrates and affirms every person** and does not discriminate."

Services Sunday 14th September

Holy Trinity Oakengates

9.30am Holy Communion

St Peter's Priorslee at Holy Trinity Academy

4.00pm Holy Communion

St Georges Telford

9.30am Morning Worship

Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood

8.00am Holy Communion

11.00am Family Praise

St Matthew's Donnington Wood

11.00am Holy Communion

St Mary & St Leonard's Wombridge

11.00am Morning Worship

Please note: Dates and times are correct at time of going to print but are subject to change.

Collect – Holy Cross Day

Almighty God, who in the passion of your blessed Son made an instrument of painful death to be for us the means of life and peace: grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer for his sake; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect – 13th Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings

(14th September)

Psalm

22.23-28

1st Reading

Numbers 21.4-9

2nd Reading

Philippians 2.6-11

Gospel

John 3.13-17



Services Sunday 21st September

Holy Trinity Oakengates

9.30am Morning Worship

St Peter's Priorslee at Holy Trinity Academy

11.00am Harvest Morning Worship (New service)

St Georges Telford

9.30am Harvest Festival

Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood

11.00am Morning Worship*

St Matthew's Donnington Wood

11.00am St Matthew's Day Communion

St Mary & St Leonard's Wombridge

11.00am Holy Communion

*Please note change of service due to Clergy availability

Services Sunday 28th September

Holy Trinity Oakengates

9.30am Holy Communion

St Peter's Priorslee at Holy Trinity Academy

4.00pm Holy Communion

St Georges Telford

9.30am Morning Worship

6.00pm Battle of Britain Commemoration Service

Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood

11.00am Morning Worship

St Matthew's Donnington Wood

11.00am Holy Communion

St Mary & St Leonard's Wombridge

11.00am Harvest Festival

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Sunday Readings	1st Reading	2nd Reading	Gospel
Harvest Services	Deuteronomy 26.1-11	Philippians 4.4-9	John 6.25-35
14th September <i>Trinity 13 Holy Cross Day</i>	Jeremiah 4.11-12,22-28 Numbers 21.4-9	1 Timothy 1.12-17 Philippians 2.6-11	Luke 15.1-10 John 3.13-17
21st September <i>Trinity 14 Matthew Apostle</i>	Jeremiah 8.18—9.1 Proverbs 3.13-18	1 Timothy 2.1-7 2 Corinthians 4.1-6	Luke 16.1-13 Matthew 9.9-13
28th September <i>Trinity 15</i>	Jeremiah 32.1-3a, 6-15	1 Timothy 6.6-19	Luke 16.19-end

Daily Readings

Morning

Evening

Monday	08/09	Mark 6.45-end	Acts 8.26-end
Tuesday	09/09	Mark 7.1-13	Acts 9.1-19a
Wednesday	10/09	Mark 7.14-23	Acts 9.19b-31
Thursday	11/09	Mark 7.24-30	Acts 9.32-end
Friday	12/09	Mark 7.31-end	Acts 10.1-16
Saturday	13/09	Mark 8.1-10	Acts 10.17-33 or Ephesians 2.11-end



Monday	15/09	Mark 8.11-21	Acts 10.34-end
Tuesday	16/09	Mark 8.22-26	Acts 11.1-18
Wednesday	17/09	Mark 8.27—9.1	Acts 11.19-end
Thursday	18/09	Mark 9.2-13	Acts 12.1-17
Friday	19/09	Mark 9.14-29	Acts 12.18-end
Saturday	20/09	Mark 9.30-37	Acts 13.1-12 or Matthew 6.19-end



Monday	22/09	Mark 9.38-end	Acts 13.13-43
Tuesday	23/09	Mark 10.1-16	Acts 13.44—14.7
Wednesday	24/09	Mark 10.17-31	Acts 14.8-end
Thursday	25/09	Mark 10.32-34	Acts 15.1-21
Friday	26/09	Mark 10.35-45	Acts 15.22-35
Saturday	27/09	Mark 10.46-end	Acts 15.36—16.5



Regular Dates for Diaries (For participation or prayer)

- Mon 8.00pm Compline via Zoom
- Tue 9.00-10.00am Prayer Group at Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood
7.00pm Whist at Holy Trinity Oakengates (1st Tuesday of each month)
- Wed 8.45-10.30am Tea & Toast (Place of Welcome) at Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood
9.00-11.00am Food Bank & Clothes Bank at Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood
9.15am Morning Prayer at Wombridge Church
10.30am Midweek Service at St Matthew's Donnington Wood
11.30am Bible Chat session at St Matthew's Donnington Wood
11.00am Midweek Service at Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood
12.00-2.00pm Place of Welcome at Holy Trinity Oakengates
1.00-3.00pm Pray Bake Read at Lantern Academy Ketley Bank (Only during School Term)
7.00-8.00pm Prayer Group meeting at St Georges (4th Wednesday of each month)
- Thu 10.00-12.00pm Tea & Talk Bereavement group (2nd Thursday) at HTWW
1.00-3.00pm Place of Welcome at Priorslee Scout HQ
- Fri 12.30-2.00pm First Friday Free Lunch at Wombridge Parish Centre (1st Friday)
8.00pm Compline via Zoom
- Sat 4.00-5.30pm Messy Church at HT Wrockwardine Wood (2nd Saturday of month)
11.00-1.00pm Welcome Saturday at St Matthews Donnington Wood (3rd Saturday of month)

Please note: Dates and times are correct at time of going to print but are subject to change.

Additional Dates for Diaries

- Mon 15/09 6.00pm PCC Meeting Holy Trinity Church Wrockwardine Wood
- Tue 16/09 --.-- Wombridge Church Outing
6.00pm ETB Church Leaders Meeting at Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood
7.00pm PCC Meeting at St Georges Church
- Wed 17/09 10.00am Funeral of James Ernest Dabbs at Holy Trinity Oakengates
7.00pm PCC Meeting at Holy Trinity Oakengates
- Fri 19/09 12.00pm Burial of ashes of Derek Lawley at St Matthew's Church Donnington Wood
1.30pm Burial of ashes of Trevor & Julie Watkin at Holy Trinity W/Wood
- Sat 20/09 8.30am Wombridge Church Autumn Breakfast Bazaar in parish centre
9.30am Diocesan Safeguarding Conference Telford Minster
--.-- Holy Trinity Church Oakengates Sponsored Walk
- Mon 22/09 1.00pm Funeral of Violet Hammond at Telford Crematorium
- Wed 01/10 11.15am Burial of Ashes of James Edgar Lloyd at St Peters Churchyard Priorslee
12.00pm Burial of Ashes of Frederick Mainwaring at St Peters Churchyard Priorslee

Please note: Dates and times are correct at time of going to print but are subject to change.

Those in need of our prayers

Please pray for the families of James Ernest Dabbs, Violet Hammond, Mr Haynes and all who are grieving the loss of loved ones at this time.

Merciful God, be close to all who mourn.

May they know the hope of your promises and the comfort of your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

In our prayers we remember the Church, its members and our community. We pray for those who are unwell, either at home or in hospital and those who are adjusting to changes in their lives. We also remember those who can no longer join us physically in our church buildings for worship or fellowship.



EMAIL NEWSLETTER

If you would like to receive this newsletter via email regularly please contact newsletter@easttelfordbenefice.co.uk requesting you would like to receive it weekly, or can be found on our Website at WWW.Easttelfordbenefice.co.uk

Those whose years mind we keep

Priorslee

14/09 Raymond Stubbs, Laraine Taylor, Frances Ferriday, Neil Mapp

21/09 Miles Watkiss, Florence Houlston, Gwendoline Adams, Robert (Bob) Evans, Percy Evans, Gwendoline Rigby, Thomas Morgan, Margaret Kinghorn, Frederick Millington

28/09 Arthur Palfrey, Mark Jones, Carol Burgess, Ruby Evans, Marlene Jones

Oakengates

14/09 Evelyn Cotton, Sydney Huxley, Agnes Randle, Dorothy Shekleton, Raymond Brazenhall, David Caley, Cyril Latham, Jean Spicer, Tom Evenden

21/09 Lena Lillevik, Peter Wallbanks, Edith Lowe, Ernest Bailey, Norman Dabbs, Enoch Mansell, Ethel Lane, Harriet Bolas, Elizabeth Robinson, Annie Tranter, Edith Broughton, Harold Taylor

28/09 Kathleen Lloyd, Vera Twinsberrow, Leslie Duce, Frances Jones, Harold Tipton, Dennis Smith, Ann Lewis-Cartwright, Ian Gregory

Wrockwardine Wood

14/09 Henry (Harry) Mansell, Susanah (Sue) Odell, Graham Guy, Arthur Brayne, Sheila Taylor, Colin Richards, Andrew Hood

21/09 Phyllis Steventon, Thomas Binsley, Beatrice Austin, Lionel D France, Reginald Jones, Francis Howells, Doreen Williams, Philip (Phil) Oliver, Joy Thomson, Frank Austin

28/09 Stanley Jones, Bob Hodson, Esther Stephan, Malcolm Williams, Elizabeth Caldwell, Ada Hindley, William (Bill) Allen, Vera Cooper, Hanna Jones, Paul Cartwright

IMPORTANT.....BE AWARE!!!

If you get any emails alleging to be from Clergy or those in positions within the church that ask for money or vouchers or sounding unlikely please **ignore!**

We would never ask for these things. Please check with us via other means and never click the links. There are a lot of phishing emails around currently that we cannot do anything to stop. **Please be careful!**

Ever received a suspicious email? 📧

📧 As of May 2025, over 42 million suspicious emails have been reported to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service, resulting in the removal of 400,000 scam websites by the NCSC.

🔗 Find out more about how to report suspicious emails, texts and websites: <https://orlo.uk/lzoEh>
#CyberProtect



A sample of the type of spam email that is being sent is:

“Good to hear from you, here is what I want you to do for me because I'm a little busy right now, conflicting priorities, I'm only available here for now. I have been working on incentives and I aimed at surprising some of our diligent staff with gift cards this week. This should be confidential until they all have the gift cards as it's a surprise. Can you get this done remotely and how soon?”

Please be extra vigilant and don't respond to emails like these!

Contact Details

Interim Minister: Revd Dr Tom Atfield
07453 527751
revdtom@yahoo.com

Licensed Reader: Christopher Harris
07941 961461
cjharrissinging@btinternet.com

Newsletter Editor: Christopher Harris
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Ecumenical Coordinator & Lay Funeral Minister:
Sue Rawlings
07715173634 Suerawlings12@gmail.com

NEW SUNDAY SERVICE

We are introducing a new Sunday Service at 11.00am on the 3rd Sunday of the Month at Holy Trinity Academy. This service will be a Morning Worship Service ideal for families. Come along as we pray, sing and worship in the Chapel. A warm welcome awaits you.....
The first service will be a Celebration of Harvest!



Thank you from Revd Lynne & Geoff

On behalf of Geoff and myself we would like to pass on our grateful thanks for the kind words, generous gifts and blessings from so many in the East Telford Benefice. It has been a privilege to serve you all, but especially The Holy Trinity who, in His care, will strengthen us in our new future.

Lynne & Geoff



PRAYING AT HOME

As we get older our involvement in local church life changes, and we find we have less time for physical activity but more time for prayer! We are a community of prayer – at home and in church. As a Benefice we are grateful to Nigel who hosts Compline (Evening Prayer) via Zoom (extremely easy to join on a mobile phone with internet access) at 8pm on Monday and Friday evenings. For more information please contact Nigel at Nigelcollins8561@gmail.com Come, pray with us!

EVERYDAY FAITH

A resource available that may be helpful is the Church of England app called 'Everyday Faith'. It offers bitesize, yet in-depth, resources on relevant topics, that help us to find and follow God in everyday life. There is a daily reading, reflection, response and prayer. There is the option to listen as well as to read. The current theme is 'Refreshed'. If you feel you need refreshment, this app can be download from <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/everydayfaith>

BAPTISMS WEDDINGS & FUNERALS IN CHURCH

We are always excited to be able to celebrate Baptisms, welcome you for your Wedding or help you through a difficult time arranging a Funeral within our Churches. Funerals are welcomed in Church or at the Graveside and Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood are able to livestream funerals. Please telephone Kerry, Benefice Administrator to discuss arrangements.

Harvest Cream Tea's

St Georges Parish Church
Saturday 20th September
2.00-4.00pm
in Church

TOMBOLA STALLS

Each of the churches in the Benefice are always in need of small quality items suitable for use on Tombola Stalls.

If you can offer items for these stalls then please pass them to churchwardens who will forward them to the events coordinators for each of the churches.

Thank You.



OAKENGATES CHURCH SPONSORED WALK

Saturday 20th September
More details from Dave & May Gregory

Battle of Britain Commemoration Service

St Georges Parish Church
Sunday 28th September
6.00pm

Compline via Zoom

As a Benefice we are grateful to Nigel who hosts Compline via Zoom at 8pm on Monday and Friday evenings. For more information please contact Nigel at Nigelcollins8561@gmail.com

Wombridge Parish Centre
Autumn Breakfast Bazaar
Sat 20st September
8.30am to 11am



*Freshly cooked full breakfast with
refillable tea or coffee - just £5!!*

*A fire engine from
Telford's Green Watch
will be with us so bring
the family for chats and
photos!*



*Stalls including raffle, cake stall,
huge bric-a-brac stall,
books & jewellery, tombola*

*Church will be open to visitors and any
children finding the 3
monkeys hanging about in
Church will win a prize ☺*



ST GEORGE'S PRAYER GROUP

The Prayer Group meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month between 7pm & 8pm at St George's Church.



The next meeting is on Wednesday 24th September and is open for all to attend. During the time together there may be a brief discussion about issues of the day and/or individual concerns and then there is a time of prayer. Sometimes a bible passage is read and following a brief discussion may be used as a focus for additional prayers.

WELCOME SATURDAY

20TH SEPTEMBER 2025

11.00 A.M. – 1.00 P.M.

ST MATTHEW'S
CHURCH
DONNINGTON WOOD
Sat Nav ref TF2 7HP



SEASON OF CREATION

01 September – 04 October | #SeasonOfCreation

If you and your children enjoy crafting in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere, then join us for this month's Welcome Saturday when we will be holding a variety of craft activities in celebration of the season of Creationtide.

Free resources will be supplied

Complimentary refreshments will be available

Memory Menders, crat pre-loved stalls, raffle

Pop in for a cup of tea, our welcome is warm, and refreshments are free!

St Matthew's Church, Donnington Wood

Invites you to a

Vintage Tea Party

In celebration of our 180th anniversary and St Matthew's Patronal Festival

To be held on

Sunday, 21st September 2025

From 4.00 p.m.- 6.00 p.m.

Free refreshments will be provided, along with a display of nostalgic memorabilia

Please bring along any photos or memories you would like to share too !

Donations to St Matthew's Church Maintenance Fund would be appreciated.

To help with catering, please text/call 07706265759 to book.

Harvest Supper Quiz Night



Holy Trinity Church

Oakengates



Saturday 4th October 2025

7 Pm Start

Raffle on the Evening

**Tickets
£7.50 pp**

Please Bring your own Drinks

Tickets from Gill 07964 954912 or other church members

The Evening will proceed as following:

- * Background music on entry from 6:30 pm
- * Quiz to commence at 7 pm
- * Fish & Chips Supper at approx 7:45 pm
- * Quiz to resume at approx 8 pm
- * Raffle to be drawn at approx 8:30pm
- * Winner to be awarded after raffle approx 9 pm

Holy Trinity Oakengates, Holyhead Rd, Telford TF2 6BN

ST GEORGE'S PARISH CHURCH

Hymn-a-thon

Sunday 12th



October



9am to 12pm

In aid of Church Funds

Choose your hymns and make a donation in church or via the link on our Facebook Page
All are welcome anytime to join the singing

Donate here:-

<https://forms.gle/VM/hhCJCCU9VBihw7>



Free Community Lunch
On the first Friday of each month



12.30pm to 2.00pm

Wombridge Parish Centre

Friday 3rd September

Friday 3rd October

Friday 7th November

Friday 5th December



**Thanks to sponsorship by
the co-op**



All welcome to join us for a light lunch, dessert and hot drink – followed by a short game – pop in or stay for as long as you wish - everyone welcome 😊

SAFEGUARDING

For all the churches in our benefice, the safeguarding, safety and security of each person is of the upmost importance. We have across all our churches committed to safeguarding and have adopted the national and diocesan safeguarding policies.

Please do not hesitate to contact one of the coordinators if you have any questions and concerns and understand that everyone has a role to play to ensure we achieve our aim of being a benefice who cares and protects all who visit.

WEBSITE UPDATE

The East Telford Benefice website has recently been experiencing problems and it hasn't been possible to update the information or publish the weekly newsletter link.

Most of the issues have now been ironed out and the website should now see updates over the coming weeks. Each of our churches do use www.achurchnearyou.com where you can access individual church information.

CHRISTMAS TOY SALE DATES 2025 – Christmas Countdown.uk

**CHRISTMAS TOY SALE DATES 2025**
christmascountdown.uk/christmas-toy-sale-dates

SAINSBURY'S HALF PRICE TOY SALE 2025
Always mid October, the popular toy sale instore at Sainsbury's is predicted to go live on **Wednesday 22nd October 2025**

MORRISONS TOY EVENT 2025
Morrisons Half Price Toy Event is in-store only and is predicted to go live on **Monday, 29th September 2025**

TESCO 50% OFF TOY SALE 2025
The Tesco half price Toy Sale is predicted to drop on **Monday 15th September 2025**

ASDA TOY SALE 2025
The ASDA big toy rollback is predicted to go live on **Monday 8th September 2025**

ARGOS TOY SALE 2025
Gone are the days of 342 toys at Argos but we expect to see a toy sale around **Wednesday, 10th September 2025**

ALDI SPECIALBUYS TOY EVENT 2025
Aldi Specialbuys toy sale is predicted to go live in stores on **Sunday 21st September 2025**

SMYTHS TOYS SALE 2025
The voucher Code Event is predicted for **Tuesday, 18th November 2025**
Half Price Toy Sale date is predicted for **Friday, 3rd October 2025**

Copyright of Christmas Countdown UK

The Places of Welcome Facilitator for Staffordshire, Stoke-On-Trent & northern Shropshire has asked us to make this information known to help families save some money.

PLACES of WELCOME at HTO, HTWW & St PETERS



This outreach is something which has helped bring our community together and we are always pleased when new people attend. The format is simple – a short service, a shared lunch (soup and roll or sandwiches), chat/board games/puzzles/craft etc.

Please do let your friends and neighbours know about these Places of Welcome especially those who live alone or those who are looking for a place to meet new people. You will find a warm welcome at each of these Places of Welcome. We look forward to meeting you!

Please note St Peters meets at: Priorslee Scout HQ, Snedshill Way, TF2 9QQ





An Alzheimer's Society initiative

Living with dementia at any time brings challenges.

The Alzheimer's Society are working towards a world where dementia no longer devastates lives. They do this by giving help to those living with dementia today, and providing hope for the future.

If you need support and advice, Alzheimer's Society is here for you.

You can call the support line on 0333 150 3456 and find lots more advice and support here:

<https://www.alzheimers.org.uk>

As part of the action plan for our Benefice Churches for Dementia Friendly Church it has been suggested we publish monthly in our newsletters information which offers help in what 'not' to say to someone living with Dementia. We will be using information from the Alzheimers association website.

Things to avoid saying to somebody with dementia

3. Consider whether to remind the person of a death: 'Your brother died 10 years ago'

A person living with dementia may forget about a past bereavement or ask for somebody who has died. Reminding them of a loved one's death can be very painful, and they may react as though hearing the news for the first time all over again.

How to respond to these types of difficult questions will vary for different people in different circumstances, however, it's always important to show sensitivity and minimise any distress.

Try this instead:

For some people, encouraging them to talk about the person they are asking about can be comforting. Distraction techniques can be useful, although try not to avoid the question if they keep asking, as this can cause the person to feel more anxious.

Find out how the person is feeling, sometimes asking about a particular family member or friend is due to the person having an unmet need, such as wanting comfort or reassurance.



OPEN GARDENS IN SHROPSHIRE

Do you enjoy gardens? Over the next few weeks there are some beautiful ones to visit.

SHROPSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST www.shropshirehct.org.uk/

The Leasowes, Garden and Arboretum 19th October

– The Leasowes Farm, Cound, Shrewsbury, SY5 6AF 10-5pm.

Church: St Peter's. £6 entry

There are limited spaces remaining for those wanting to join Beavers, Cubs and Scouts at the 2nd Wombridge Scout Group aged 6-14yrs. Based at Wombridge Parish Centre. For more info contact: gsl@2ndwombridgescouts.co.uk



There are limited spaces remaining for those wanting to join Beavers, Cubs and Scouts at the 2nd Donnington Scout Group aged 6-14yrs.

From the Diocese

Gratitude, Opportunity and Hope

If money talks, let's listen together to what it's saying to Lichfield Diocese

Ever noticed? People who are at ease about big money talk about 'a sum north of ...'. Although confusingly mixing compass and currency, it reveals a deep truth: a large sum of money might bring a polar chill: the burden of choices and the risk of temptations and dissension. It needs skilled handling to bring blessing.

The additional £400 million extra over three years across 42 dioceses being released from the Church of England's historic assets, an amount of arctic proportions according to the popular yardstick, could, rather should, bless us. A good first response might be gratitude, caution and reaching for a calculator. Caution is valuable because it stops us from falling into two traps: imagining where we would spend the money for our own benefit rather than for the Kingdom, and, worse, imagining where we would spend the same sum twice. Thankfully, the calculations are being done by Lichfield Diocese's very skilled finance team.

Gratitude to God is the gateway to asking God what divine and loving purpose it is there to fulfil, because money calls us into a future plan. This money also comes with wonderful timing. The ten goals of Seeking the Kingdom can guide our efforts, there is the opportunity to use the extra money to fund new activities, especially in parishes where there are identifiable possibilities for growth but resources are short. Much of our focus in Seeking the Kingdom is rightly on our parishes.

We are relieved of some choices but have to make others. To ease the costs of a substantial 11.1% increase in clergy stipends to support the well-being of clergy and their families in every parish, part of the extra money is specifically for our 25% least well-off parishes. We can all warm to this proposal: well-being, financial and otherwise for clergy, is our collective responsibility. Better still, the whole church family and all those who contribute so generously the lion's share of the costs of clergy, buildings and mission will benefit too: more funding for less prosperous parts of the diocese gives us the opportunity to reduce the amount of mutual support needed. Well-being is at the heart of the direction and goals of Seeking the Kingdom, our plan for 2025-2030. Churches that flourish and people that flourish do so because they are immersed in the common activity of building the Kingdom of God and building the Kingdom brings more flourishing: it's a virtual circle.

Questions will arise about how the rest of the money that we will receive is to be used and our diocesan decision-makers will be taking a look at next year's budget starting this Autumn with consultations in each Episcopal Area, taking proposals to Synod in October. The additional money over which we have a choice has the power to call us all into a new future. It is tapered over nine years, so we can't simply spend it on business as usual as it won't last. Can we all gather round the idea that it is there to give us hope in a sustainable future and to address the challenge posed afresh that we are sustaining ourselves at present using a diminishing pot of reserves?

Arun Kataria is the Diocesan Director of Communications, helping share news around the diocese and working closely with colleagues on staff and synods to promote our diocesan goals – www.lichfield.anglican.org/our-vision

Over the next few months, the whole diocese - parishes, clergy, lay leaders... everyone - is invited to explore attitudes to money together, looking at 'Gratitude, Opportunity and Hope'.

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 282

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, Iran, Israel and the wider Middle East.

discipleship
vocation
evangelism

Sunday 14th September:

(Holy Cross Day)

Lord, on Holy Cross Day we lift before you today the four churches in the diocese named Holy Cross; in the villages of Bilbrook and Bobbington in South Staffordshire, Ilam in the Staffordshire Moorlands, and Tividale in the heart of the Black Country. We pray for your hand of blessing to rest on all of these churches and each of the communities they serve.

Monday 15th:

(Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, Martyr, 258)

Continuing our Wolverhampton Deanery prayers, we think of all those that work in and rely on the city centre, and with the news that its Marks & Spencer will be closing at the end of September. We pray for the staff that they can find something else soon and be supported to do so. We also pray for the council leaders that they will continue to champion our city centre and encourage a new business to take over the empty store.

Tuesday 16th:

(Ninian, Bishop of Galloway, Apostle of the Picts, c.432. Edward Bouverie Pusey, Priest, Tractarian, 1882)

We pray for all our churches currently in vacancy in Wolverhampton deanery and beyond, that they may discern the direction God wants them to go, and that the Spirit in turn would direct the right candidate to apply. We pray for each of the city centre's churches of St Andrew's, St John's and St Peter's, and for other churches in the city that will enter vacancy this autumn. For these churches, we also pray for their church wardens, PCCs, Lay Leaders and anyone else shouldering the burden of running their churches whilst waiting for their new incumbents.

Wednesday 17th:

(Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, Visionary, 1179)

We bring before you the [Soul Food](#) course as it starts today. Thank you for the many wonderful ways we have of talking to you in prayer and that we know you always answer our prayers. Thank you for those taking the course this time and their eagerness to explore ways of strengthening their relationship with you, may you exceed their expectations in ways that they can't imagine. And thank you for Charles, Sue, and Ursula as they lead the course, please continue to bless them with vision and inspiration.

Thursday 18th:

Lord, we lift before you the '[Encountering Jesus](#)' event taking place in Aldridge, for the speakers Paul and Becky Harcourt, and for all those helping with the practicalities of making the event happen. We pray for more, and more fruitful opportunities for people to indeed Encounter Jesus.

We also pray for the [FAM \(Finance and Asset Management\) Committee](#) as they meet this morning, for wisdom and courage for any tough decisions that may need to be taken.

Friday 19th:

(Theodore of Tarsus, Archbishop of Canterbury, 690)

We pray for this evening's '[Revive and Restore](#)' Prayer Evening for Walsall Deanery taking place at St Thomas' Aldridge. Please rest your loving hand on Walsall, the town and all its suburbs; that we may indeed see both revival and restoration.

Saturday 20th:

(John Coleridge Patteson, First Bishop of Melanesia, and his Companions, Martyrs, 1871)

Lord, we bring before you the [Diocesan Safeguarding Conference](#) taking place today at Telford Minster. Thank you for all those that take on the important role of Safeguarding Officer across our parishes. Thank you for all those in our [diocesan team](#) who support them. Please help each one of us to be ever more vigilant so that all our churches may be places where anyone coming will be welcome and safe.