

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary

discipleship
vocation
evangelism

Over the coming weeks the prayer diary reflects the challenges of facing Coronavirus with our sisters and brothers across the world; the call to be a people of hope.

Su: Churches

Lord of the Church, bless all who meet in your name today and throughout the week with our church buildings closed. May we discover new ways of being church through our prayer and service. Open our eyes and hearts to all who may be overlooked or who are especially vulnerable. Give wisdom within our Diocese to our Bishops and senior staff making difficult and important decisions and to all at a local level entrusted with the care of your flock.

M: Communities

Thank God for all those helping family, friends and neighbours confined to their homes. Pray for the church and other groups organising volunteers locally so no-one is left without a neighbour; *(in particular in our community we pray for)* May relationships be strengthened across the generations, and networks formed that will sustain church and community life. Pray for a church that partners with others.

Tu: Schools

We pray for all our schools at this turbulent time; for leaders at all levels who are struggling to know the best decisions to make whilst trying to keep both their pupils and staff safe; for the staff continuing to work in schools caring for the children of designated key workers as well as the most vulnerable of our children; for our staff working remotely attempting to provide their pupils with high quality education despite technical headaches and uncertainty. Father of the fatherless be especially close to these your children.

W: Prisons

- At least 10 prisons have confirmed cases of CV in our Diocese
- For prisoners who are often in close confines and not able to follow social distancing, especially as many prisons are overcrowded
- For effective protective and shielding responses when Covid-19 is identified in such close quarters

In particular let us pray for prisoners and staff at HM Prison Brinsford, HM Prison Dovegate and HM Prison Drake Hall with chaplains Revd Preb Sarah Morris and Mr Roger Howarth

Th: Around the World - The Dioceses of Qu'Appelle and Saskatoon, Canada:

For Bishop Rob Hardwick and Bishop Chris Harper as they oversee their Dioceses and implement appropriate measures. Bishop Rob wrote: *'At such a time as this, the most important thing for us is to stay calm, to not be afraid, to be safe, and to pray. We will get through this!'* Join in prayer, remembering particularly communities which are already isolated and remote. (Listen to a message from Revd Dean Pinter in Moose Jaw : <https://youtu.be/z3iThkQWQIU>)

F: Healthcare

For doctors, nurses and medical researchers, that through their skill and insights many will be restored to health:

Lord, hear us, **Lord, graciously hear us.**

In particular we pray for the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, the Harplands Hospital - North Staffordshire, the Royal Stoke University Hospital, the New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton and Walsall Manor Hospital; remembering the work of all health chaplains.

S: Around the World – Anglican Communion

Following the postponement of the Lambeth Conference, we pray for all Bishops and spouses as they play a vital leadership and pastoral role in their Provinces and dioceses; for the Anglican Communion as together we seek to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and are made so aware of our global interconnectedness; for Archbishop Justin Welby in particular as he oversees the wider Communion, for the gift of wisdom as well as his personal resourcing and protection. Along with our sisters and brothers world-wide we join in this designated week of prayer for repentance as we repent and seek God's grace and forgiveness.

The Anglican Cycle of prayer can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/3anQUWG> Information regarding Coronavirus from the Church of England including helpful prayer and liturgical resources can be accessed at: <https://bit.ly/33PHxMZ>

