

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

St Chad, the first bishop of Lichfield, probably died of the plague in 672; his brother St Cedd certainly did so in 664, and thirty of his monks with him. Bede says that a week before he died Chad was visited by angels preparing him to join in the worship of heaven. In this time, conscious of our own mortality, we pray:

Almighty God,
you gave your servant Chad such confidence in your promises
that he faced his death longing to see your face in the company of the angels:
in these days of our affliction, give us courage, steadfastness and peace of mind,
that like him we may serve your people in humility and kindness,
and with him may one day enter into your joy.
We make our prayer through Jesus Christ,
our crucified and risen Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God for ever and ever. **Amen.** (with thanks to Bishop Michael for this preface and prayer)

M: Communities

Even in these times, there are still people prepared to exploit the vulnerability of others. Those who are isolated are at greater risk of abuse. Now is a time when greater community attentiveness raise awareness of those experiencing injustice. We support the charity [Hourglass](#) in its campaign against the abuse and neglect of older people. We remember older people in our own communities who are particularly vulnerable in these times..... We pray for a church that partners with others seeking the common good working for justice.

Tu: Schools

We continue to pray for all our schools. We pray for those schools that have a large number of vulnerable pupils who still need to be cared for even within these uncertain times. We realise the need that there is within many of our schools and pray for wisdom and strength for those who are continuing to serve some of the most needy within our diocese. We pray particularly for TrinityCEPrimary Academy in Heath Town who are feeding on average between 40 and 100 pupils each day.

W: Around the World - The Diocese of Matlosane

Bishop Steve Diseko writes: We are all badly affected by the Coronavirus pandemic. We try to be in touch with parishioners via social media but many people do not have this facility. Amongst our clergy we have a WhatsApp group for prayer and updating and staying in contact. Like you our funerals are massively affected – please pray for us with this challenge, particularly limiting numbers which is very difficult to implement. Pray too that people will take seriously the lockdown rules and that Covid-19 will not reach those areas and communities which are most vulnerable. Lord hear our prayer for our sisters and brothers in Matlosane Diocese.

Th: Prisons

- For staff who may face coronavirus themselves. Some may have to travel by public transport with the complexities that brings at present.
- For those considering prison policy who have to reflect on the possibility of early release for low-risk and non-violent offenders.
- In particular let us pray for prisoners and staff at HM Prison Drake Hall (Chaplains: Revd Preb Sarah Morris; Mr Roger Howarth), HM Prison Featherstone (Chaplain: Mr Nigel Haywood) and HM Prison Oakwood (Chaplain: Revd Taiwo Olumuyiwa)

F: Healthcare

For all working in healthcare services at the present time, especially those on the front line caring for patients and their families; for those having to make difficult decisions or redesign services to meet a constantly changing need. For everyone as they balance their work with personal and family needs.

In particular we pray for the Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust remembering Revds Alison Coles, Keith Duckett and Anthony Swaby in their chaplaincy roles, and for the Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Trust and chaplains Revds Petro Hryziuk and Mervyn Williams

S: *Around the World – The Nordkirche and Southern Africa*

- For the gift of hope: the Nordkirche is using an initiative called Hoffnungsläuten (Bells of Hope). At 12h00 noon church bells ring in cities, towns and villages; everyone is invited to stop and pray using material on-line or sent via Facebook. We pray that hope may arise through their prayers; maybe 12h00 noon is a good time for us to stop and pray with them?
- For the prevention of domestic abuse: the Archbishop of Capetown, the Most Revd Thabo Makgoba, shared how 21 Bishops of the Province of Southern Africa had recently shared in a Litany for the Coronavirus Pandemic on a video conference call. He raised the pastoral issues arising from the virus, with people confined to their homes, of how we must also be on the lookout for indications of domestic abuse in households in our communities. Pray for a united response.

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>