

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 10

discipleship
vocation
evangelism

During these 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.

Sunday 14th June: CHURCHES: Give thanks for 'Thy Kingdom Come' and for the follow up in prayer and evangelism; for all Diocesan Central Sector staff, those currently on furlough and those working; for a renewed commitment to God's kingdom values in our churches and communities in the aftermath of the death of George Floyd; for patience as lockdown eases, as we seek clarity for the way ahead, that the opportunities and challenges of the new landscape will be faced in the power of the Holy Spirit and for the growth of God's kingdom.

Mon: *Evelyn Underhill, Spiritual Writer, 1941* **COMMUNITIES:** Give thanks for coming together of churches from across Walsall for a virtual Pentecost service. Paul reminds us that: "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ." (1 Cor 12:12). More and more churches are partnering together to be the church in communities. Please pray for all those who are working tirelessly to be Jesus' hands and feet in their community; for protection for them and a refilling of God's energy and Holy Spirit.

Tues: SCHOOLS: Loving Father we thank you for the gift of education and for the joy of learning. We thank you that this past week has seen a safe return to school for many of our children and we continue to pray for your protection over all the staff, pupils and families. We also give thanks for the wider support network; for all those organisations who are supporting schools through online lessons, training, prayer and worship. We think particularly of RE Today, Prayer Spaces in School, Pray for Schools, Youth for Christ and our own diocese's Board of Education. May you inspire them as they write the resources and bless them as they look to be a blessing. For your kingdom we pray, AMEN.

Wed: *Samuel and Henrietta Barnett, Social Reformers, 1913 and 1936* **AROUND THE WORLD:** The Anglican Indigenous Network has asked the Anglican Communion for both prayers and practical support for Anglican indigenous communities that face added risks from the pandemic; especially for elderly people and the greater number of indigenous people with underlying health conditions; for already stressed indigenous health systems now facing pressure to perform on lower resources as they work to protect their people from the Covid-19 disease.

Thur: *Bernard Mizeki, Apostle of the MaShona, Martyr, 1896* **PRISONS:** We pray for prisoners and staff in our prison communities who have become unwell due to COVID-19, that they might know healing; that staff might know resilience and energy, as they grow weary and tired; for prisoners, in the loneliness and isolation of lockdown, that they may know peace and hope, remembering those prisoners wrestling with having lost a family member may be able to grieve safely. We pray this week particularly for Rev'd David Farley and the rest of the team at HMP Stoke Heath, and for Rev'd Jeffrey Cuttall & Rev'd David Howard and the rest of their team at HMYOI Werrington. We also pray for volunteers at those prisons – at a time when they can't go into prison, and may be feeling a sense of loss at not being able to fulfil their ministry.

Fri: *Sundar Singh of India, Sadhu (holy man), Evangelist, Teacher of the Faith, 1929* **HEALTHCARE:** For all working in healthcare at the present time, praying for resourcing and refreshment as staff experience levels of tiredness as the weeks pass. In particular we pray for Revd Keith Shaw and Jeannine Le Long-McKean in their work as Chaplains for the Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust; for Keith as Lead Chaplain overseeing all three hospitals with particular concern for St George's Psychiatric Hospital in Stafford and the Heywood Hospital in Stoke whilst Jeannine looks after the Redwood Psychiatric Hospital in Shrewsbury. However at present Jeannine is off work having had Coronavirus and ensuing complications. Pray too for the chaplaincy as they face the challenges of working remotely; phoning or using Teams to talk to patients and emailing links to on line services and apps for the patients.



Sat: AROUND THE WORLD: The relative safety of the outdoor world has prompted Pastor Bernd Lohse to promote the concept of pilgrimage to supplement indoor and on-line worship within the **Nordkirche**. Describing the practice as "praying with the feet", Bernd suggests that any walk through nature can be turned into a pilgrimage. A play on the German word 'Ziel' makes 'destination' and 'objective' one and the same – walking with and toward God. Offering up our hopes and anxieties whilst walking helps bring a "clarity to the inner landscape of our soul". We all need a healthy and hopeful perspective right now. Please pray for those already developing this technique and for those who might begin. Such pilgrimage can be undertaken with others as long as social distancing can be maintained!