

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 20

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 16th August: CHURCHES: As we follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad, we pray for Bishop Michael as he continues throughout this month a series of walks to the 27 churches in the Diocese, including our Cathedral, bearing the name of his ancient predecessor, St Chad; we pray for God's blessings on all of the St Chad's churches receiving him and any other pilgrims walking the same path with this week - in Kynnersley, Shrewsbury, Montford, Haughton, Prees, Norton in Hales, Chesterton, Longton, Bagnall, Longsdon and Freehay; for the Two Saints Way Pilgrimage route from Chester to Lichfield as it is profiled in today's 'Songs of Praise' from Trentham Church; that we as members of this Diocese may walk in the footsteps of Christ in body, mind and spirit.



Mon 17th: COMMUNITIES: Transforming Communities Together and Victim Support are offering free Hate Crime Awareness training. The online workshop is an introduction to hate crime, covering the impact that it has both on the individual and the wider community, as well as exploring the different reporting and support options available. Pray for the workshops running in September and for the overcoming by God's grace and power of all Hate Crimes.

Tues 18th: SCHOOLS: Loving Father as we continue to think of our schools, we pray that this may be a time of both physical and mental relaxation for all those who have worked tirelessly through the past term. We pray for your joy, love, peace and most of all safety for our staff and pupils. Please guide all our actions over these coming weeks so that there may be a safe return to school for all in September. We also pray particularly of those who will be receiving their exams results soon – may just decisions be made. Amen

Wed 19th: AROUND THE WORLD: following the recent massive explosions in Beirut we pray for the families of the bereaved and for the nation of Lebanon in the midst of profound political instability; pray for the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem, Suheil Dawani, whose diocese includes Lebanon, following the launch of an emergency appeal to aid the diocesan response; for the ongoing ministry of the Near Eastern School of Theology (NEST) which trains most of the clergy in the Diocese and which suffered damage; for NEST President George Sabra and for all staff and students.

Thur 20th : (*Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, Teacher of the Faith, 1153; William and Catherine Booth, Founders of the Salvation Army, 1912 and 1890*) **PRISONS:** We pray for all chaplaincy teams attached to the prisons in our Diocese and for volunteers who are working out their roles as regulations and government instructions change; for all chaplains who have given out so much that they may find rest and refreshment; we pray particularly for the Revd Preb Sarah Morris in her role as lead chaplain at HMP Drake Hall and Young Offender Institution and for the team she works with and for all prisoners and staff; for Judith Drury in her ministry as a prison chaplain



Fri 21st: HEALTHCARE: For all working in healthcare services at present; for all working in local hospitals or care homes or providing support on line or by telephone; *mention any you know from your church or community*; for all living with long term complication of Coronavirus; for wisdom and guidance for all making critical decisions about how best to use limited resources in the NHS.

Sat 22nd: AROUND THE WORLD: For our partners in the Diocese of Matlosane, South Africa; for Bishop Steve Diseko and for the Archdeacons: the Ven. Sydney Magobotla (Cathedral AD), the Ven. Motheo William Pooe (Central A D), the Ven. Patrick Botshelo Saunders Mafisa (North AD), the Ven. Nontozanele Mogami (South AD); for God's shielding of them and their families and for wise leadership and pastoral insight as they provide leadership in these difficult times; particularly remembering all involved in the provision and oversight of funerals.

