

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 23

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 6th September: (*Allen Gardiner, Missionary, Founder of the South*

American Mission Society, 1851) **CHURCHES:** We pray for the Holy Spirit to renew and refresh our Diocesan structures, our Archdeaconries, Deaneries and Parishes; that the two million people in our Diocese may encounter a church that is confident in the gospel, knows and loves its communities, and is excited to find God already at work in the world; for the ministries of our Archdeacons as they enter this new phase in the life of our Diocese - for the Ven Sue Weller (Lichfield), the Ven

Matthew Parker (Stoke-upon-Trent), the Ven Justin Francis (Walsall) and the Ven Paul Thomas (Salop).

Mon 7th: **COMMUNITIES:** For Transforming Communities Together in our Diocese, as they have reaffirmed their commitment in response to Black Lives Matter to challenging racial inequality and discrimination, and restating their value of celebrating the rich diversity reflected through their staff and the communities they work alongside. In particular we pray for the following members of their staff team and that you will bless their areas of work: Shaz Akhtar, Black Country Near Neighbours Coordinator; Rev Cassius Francis, Just Finance Development Worker; Gurj Shergill, Covid Cash Course Coordinator and Debbie Huxton, Modern Slavery Campaigner.

Tues 8th: (*The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary*) **SCHOOLS:** Faithful Father, you promise to be with us always, we pray that you would be with all those returning to our schools and colleges in this new term. We continue to pray for safety from physical and mental harm for all. We pray particularly for the Christian teachers and staff at the beginning of the academic year. We name in our hearts those Christians we know who are working in our schools. Please watch over them, provide for them, guide them, sustain them. Help them to be light and hope in this new, but still challenging time. Amen.

Wed 9th: (*Charles Fuge Lowder, Priest, 1880*) **AROUND THE WORLD:** From the USPG Prayer Diary we pray today for the Philippines, especially for an end to the oppression and injustices faced by so many of the country's indigenous people groups. *Lord Jesus, you taught us to love our neighbour, and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you. In this time of anxiety, give us strength to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick, and to assure the isolated of our love. Amen.*



Thur 10th: **PRISONS:** We pray for prisoners and staff in our prison communities; for any who have become unwell due to COVID-19 and who are living with long term complication of this illness, that they might know healing; for resilience and energy for the staff; for peace and hope for prisoners, particularly those wrestling with the grief and loss of bereavement. We pray for the chaplaincy teams at HMP Stoke Heath, HMYOI Werrington and for all volunteer visitors remembering Rev'd David Farley, Rev'd Jeffrey Cuttell & Rev'd David Howard.

Fri 11th: **HEALTHCARE:** God of knowledge and wisdom, we ask that you would inspire all the scientists who are working daily to develop an effective and safe vaccine to combat this virus. Help them to collate current knowledge and be conduits of new knowledge regarding the unknowns of this COVID-19 virus. Grant them the wisdom to unlock the keys that will provide helpful COVID-19 therapies and vaccines.



Sat 12th: **AROUND THE WORLD:** for our brothers and sisters in Matlosane in the Province of Southern Africa; for Bishop Steve Diseko and his family; for the Dean Christopher Seupe and all the staff at Ikakeng Cathedral, Potchefstroom, for the ministries of the Mother's Union, the Anglican Women's Fellowship and the Guild of Servers at the Cathedral and throughout the Diocese; for the close links with the neighbouring Diocese of Botswana under the leadership and oversight of Bishop Metlha Beleme.