

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 35

discipleship
vocation
evangelism

This week we once again join in the cycle of 'Prayer for the Nation' as well as focussing our prayers on living under the shadow of Coronavirus.

Sunday 29th November: (*Day of Intercession and Thanksgiving for the Missionary work of the Church*) We give thanks for St Chad and all who brought the Gospel to us. We pray for God's blessing upon 'Shaping for Mission', that our 28 Deaneries will resource Christians to be confident in the Gospel and equipped to share your Good News with the 2 million people in this Diocese; for Alstonfield Deanery, for the Rural Dean, Revd John Baines and the Lay Chair, Mrs Janet Sadler.

Mon 30th: (*Andrew the Apostle*) We give thanks for the Anglican mission agencies; praying particularly for the Church Mission Society and for their CEO Alastair Bateman. We pray for CMS Asia in Kuala Lumpur and CMS Africa based in Nairobi, for all staff and mission partners and for an openness to God's Spirit moving throughout the world in new and exciting ways.

Tues December 1st: (*Charles de Foucauld, Hermit in the Sahara, 1916*) Creator God, you bless us with the gift of water, of rainfall in the dry places, bubbling springs of water to drink, coursing streams to irrigate the land, rivers, lakes and the mighty oceans sustaining all life. Help us to notice the delicate balance of nature, to understand the impact we have on our environment, and to honour this precious gift, in the way that we care for all creation, in the name of Jesus who is the living water, bubbling up in our hearts and lives. Amen. (*Revd Chris Thorpe: Ploughshares and First Fruits*)

Wed 2nd: Healthcare: for all hospital staff, whatever their role – for those still exhausted from the first wave of Coronavirus who are struggling with fatigue and the constant changes required to cope with the uncertainty of what this virus brings. Prays for emotional, physical and spiritual resilience under constant and ever-changing pressure. Pray for Rev Alison Thorp, C of E, (Full time chaplaincy manager of the Burton, Tamworth and Lichfield Hospital Team) and her new colleague Rev Susy Insley, Baptist.



Thur 3rd: (*Francis Xavier, Missionary, Apostle of the Indies, 1552*) Loving God, your Son Jesus Christ came that we might have life and have it abundantly; pour out your blessing upon our nation; where there is illness, bring your healing touch; where there is fear, strengthen us with the knowledge of your presence; where there is uncertainty, build us up in faith; where there is dishonesty, lead us into truth; where there is discord, may we know the harmony of your love; this we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Fri 4th: (*John of Damascus, Monk, Teacher of the Faith, c.749, Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon, Founder of the Little Gidding Community, 1637*) 'You are here to kneel Where prayer has been valid', (T S Eliot). We pray for Shallowford House and Dovedale House, our two Diocesan retreat / conference centres, for the staff as they seek to adjust to what is possible and for strength and vision for the future.

Sat 5th: Our Diocesan vision is '**for a church that reflects the richness and variety of the communities we serve**': for Richard Reddie in his work as Director of Justice and Inclusion for Churches Together in Britain and Ireland; for The Revd Pamela Ogilvie and Archdeacon Julian Francis as they prepare to lead a Task Group seeking to make our churches and diocese authentically and visibly committed to justice and inclusion for people of every ethnicity and culture.