

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 37

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 13th: (*Lucy, Martyr at Syracuse, 304, Samuel Johnson, Moralist, 1784*) As we seek to be **people of hope** may the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace as we trust in him, so that we may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.' (Rom 15:13); we pray that this hope may be transmitted across all of our parishes, chaplaincies, schools, fresh expressions and our Cathedral through socially distanced gathered services and on-line ministries as we proceed through this season of Advent.

Mon 14th: (*John of the Cross, Poet, Teacher of the Faith, 1591*) **Healthcare:** we give thanks for the vaccines against Covid-19 which are starting to be used; we pray for all hospital and health centre staff, whatever their role – for emotional, physical and spiritual resilience under constant and ever-changing pressure; for all people experiencing stress and depression as a result of the pandemic.



Tues 15th: Our Diocesan vision is '*for a church that partners with others in seeking the common good, working for justice as a people of hope*'; we give thanks for the appointment of Adam Edwards as the new Chief Officer of Transforming Communities Together (TCT); we pray for him and the team as the longer term impact of Covid-19 is felt in communities across our region; for Adam at this time of endings and new beginnings and for his on-going ministry as a self-supporting priest.

Wed 16th: for the Province of Southern Africa as it celebrates 150 years of faithful worship, witness and service of Anglicans in Southern Africa; for Archbishop Thabo Makgoba in his global ministry and all who have gone before him in prophetic and Spirit led leadership; for Bishop Steve Diseko and his family and all members of the Diocese of Matlosane, that God will be alongside the church in its pastoral ministry in responding to Covid-19 and in its ministry of faithful worship, witness and service today; for Dean Christopher Seupe and all at Ikokeng Cathedral in these days of Advent.

Thur 17th: *O Sapientia: O Wisdom (Eglantyne Jebb, Social Reformer, Founder of 'Save The Children', 1928)* We pray for God's blessing upon 'Shaping for Mission; for Wrockwardine Deanery in Salop archdeaconry serving a population of around 8600 people; for their SFM Facilitator Laura Edwards, Rural Dean Revd Andy Ackroyd and Lay Chair John Wardle; that through their 13 Churches, 2 Church Schools, 2 Chaplaincies, and Fresh Expressions they may take forward God's mission to their communities.

Fri 18th: (*O Adonai: O Lord*) Our Diocesan vision is '*for a church that reflects the richness and variety of the communities we serve*': for the Revd Pamela Ogilvie and Archdeacon Julian Francis as they 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; for the Revd Dr Sharon Prentis in her role as Honorary Canon Theologian at Lichfield Cathedral.

Sat 19th: (*O Radix Jesse: O Root of Jesse*)

God of our wrestling, help us to hang on to you.

God of our dreaming, lift our eyes to see you all around us.

God of new beginnings, help us to grow into the people we could be, through Jesus, who is the shoot from the stump of Jesse. Amen.

(*Revd Chris Thorpe: from Jacob in the festival service based on the Jesse Tree - Ploughshares and First Fruits 2020*)