

## Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 40

discipleship  
vocation  
evangelism

As we enter into this New year as people of hope we remain mindful of the implications of Covid-19, both locally and globally.



**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January:** "As we follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad, we pray that the two million people in our diocese 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. We pray for a church that reflects the richness and variety of those communities. We pray for a church that partners with others in seeking the common good, working for justice as a people of hope."

**Mon 4<sup>th</sup>:** Many people employed by the Diocese return to work today. We pray for all within the Central Administrative Support Team, the Education Team and the Discipleship, Vocation and Evangelism Team that they may be sustained, equipped and motivated in the coming months.

**Tues 5<sup>th</sup>: SCHOOLS:** We pray for all pupils, teachers and staff from our local schools (*mention the schools by name*) facing enormous uncertainties concerning the start of this new term. Be with all head teachers and those entrusted with making difficult decisions, that they may be given wisdom and resilience. Bless, guide and protect all pupils this week and in the term ahead.

**Wed 6<sup>th</sup>: (The Epiphany)** The heavens are shining with the clear beauty of the stars, O Lord, and the very earth is made beautiful by a shining light, because you appeared to the world from your holy dwelling place.

Remove from our hearts all sadness, for you came for this, to make all things new.  
Enlighten our eyes to purify us that we may behold you forever,  
that we who preach to the nations the glad joys of your appearing  
may be made glad with you in infinite joy. Amen. (*Attributed to the Mozarabic Breviary*)

**Thur 7<sup>th</sup>:** Following the post-Brexit Trade Deal, we pray for all within our Diocese who are caught up in the consequences of this new agreement. In particular we pray for all in business, manufacturing and all farmers and those working within the rural economy.

**Fri 8<sup>th</sup>:** Shaping for Mission: for the Deanery SFM Teams, for the roles played by Rural Deans, Lay Chairs of Deanery Synods, Team members and SFM Facilitators, as they reconvene and carry out in-depth reviews of their deaneries with a view to taking forwards God's mission in their contexts. 'May we be shaped by the Good News of Jesus, the light of the world And may we seek your kingdom as People of Hope. Amen'.

**Sat 9<sup>th</sup>:** A New Year Prayer; 'O Lord, you have mercy on all. Take away my sins, and mercifully kindle in me the fire of your Holy Spirit. Take away my heart of stone and give me a heart of flesh, a heart to love and adore you, a heart to delight in you, to follow and to enjoy you, for Christ's sake. Amen'. (*Ambrose, d. 397*)

For further resources for praying for the worldwide church see the Anglican Cycle of prayer: <https://bit.ly/3anQUWG>