

Our prayers continue for the 'SHAPING FOR MISSION' Deanery visions & ways to implement them, in the context of the many varied roles and ministries. As 'People of Hope' we remain mindful of the implications of Covid-19, locally and globally. Let us also continue to pray for those in Ukraine who suffer grievously, for all who take decisions around the world and for the people and leaders of Russia.

Sunday 17th April: (*Easter Sunday*) **Xristos Anesti:** Christ has risen! **Alithos Anesti:** He has risen indeed! God of life, you roll away the stone to show an empty tomb; you break open all that is deadly and closed, all the chains that bind us, with your transforming love. Lead us from death to the fulness of your abundant life, that we may walk forwards with lightened tread, with Jesus our living Lord. Amen (*from Revd Preb Chris Thorpe*)

Monday 18th: (*For further details visit: <https://www.visitstoke.co.uk/knifeangel>*)

We remember the National Anti-Violence Tour of the Knife Angel - a 27' sculpture made from 100,000 confiscated knives, on display in Stoke-on-Trent all this month; advertising amnesty bins to encourage those who carry knives to hand them in anonymously. Pray for victims and for all families bereaved through knife crime; for those working to help young people, in particular, to understand that the carrying of weapons does not protect them; and for those communities where gangs and violence are prevalent.

Tuesday 19th: (*Alphege, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr, 1012*)

We remember Stoke-on-Trent Deanery, Area Dean, Revd Shaun Morris, Assistants, Revds Tommy Merry & Dave Street, Lay Chair, Mike Whittaker and Assistant, Des Cotton. Give thanks for the gradual return to worship of many of our congregations. Pray for all clergy that they have patience, grace and perseverance as they encourage those who have still to return.

Wednesday 20th: (*The St Winifrede Trail, for further details [here](#), or [email](#):*)

We remember the St Winefride Pilgrimage, beginning today at St Winefride's Well in Holywell and ending in 5 weeks' time at Shrewsbury Abbey; led by Bishop Sarah. Pray for Bishop Sarah and all who will walk with her in any or all of the eight stages; that, as they intentionally seek to become healthy in body, mind and soul, God will bless them.

Thursday 21st: (*Anselm, Abbot of Le Bec, Archbishop of Canterbury, Teacher of the Faith, 1109*)

A Prayer for Ukraine from Archbishops Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today.

We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

Friday 22nd:

We pray for Stafford Deanery, for Area Dean, Revd Richard Grigson, Assistant, Revd Martin Strang, Lay Chair, John Clark and Assistant, Stuart Hodson; giving thanks for all those who share in the ministry of the twenty-five parishes that comprise this deanery. We pray for staff and pupils of the six church schools, currently on half term holiday; and for the work of chaplains: Karen Williams at Katharine House Hospice and Revd Ned Kelly at HMP Stafford.

Saturday 23rd: (*George, Martyr, Patron of England, c.304*)

We remember Cheadle Deanery, for Rural Dean, Revd Michael Follin and Lay Chair, Sylvia Bainbridge; giving thanks for house groups and the security and friendships found there and for all who minister, lead and encourage others in faith; for Revd Mike Newbon and his wife Ali as they settle into the Benefice of Caverswall with Weston Coyney and Dilhorne. We give thanks for the volunteers at the Food Bank at St Andrew's Church and for all who serve in a voluntary capacity across the Deanery. Pray that, as Christ's disciples, we may offer the gift of friendship, finding ways for our churches to be more hospitable in the community and attractive to families.

For prayer resources for the worldwide church see the Anglican Cycle of prayer: anglicancommunion.org/resources/prayer.aspx