

Lichfield Diocese Day of Prayer April 23/24

discipleship
vocation
evangelism

(The following resources for prayer have been compiled for use during the 24hr Day of Prayer though they can still be used on a daily basis.)

Sunday 18th April:

SHAPING FOR MISSION

May we be **People of Hope:**

pray for all Deaneries as they seek to discern a vision for sustainable mission in the future, and we name before you all 28 Deaneries:
From the Shrewsbury Episcopal Area: Ellesmere, Hodnet, Oswestry, Shrewsbury, Wem & Whitchurch, Wrockwardine, Edgmond & Shifnal and Telford.

From the Wolverhampton EA:

Lichfield, Penkridge, Rugeley, Trysull, Wednesbury, West Bromwich, Wolverhampton, Wulfrun, Tamworth and Walsall.

From the Stafford EA: Cheadle, Stafford, Stone, Uttoxeter, Stoke-on-Trent, Newcastle, Alstonfield, Tutbury, Eccleshall and Leek. Pray too for all existing mission projects, pioneer ministers and fresh expressions.

Generous God, You have provided for your people in every generation.

In our faithlessness you remained steadfast.

In our obsession with scarcity you provided abundance.

In our anxiety you offered us freedom from fear.

In our despair you gave us hope.

We receive your gifts, believe your promises and trust you for the future.

May we cease trying to fix the church and join with you in loving your world.

May we hear your call to fullness of life and share it with others.

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.

Shaping for Mission Prayer

Mon 19th: SHAPING FOR MISSION May we be **Attentive to God:**

LORD through the prophet Jeremiah you said, 'I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.' We believe that it is your desire LORD to draw us close to you and in doing so enabling us to hear your voice. May we respond to this calling with open hearts and a hunger to know you in a deeper and more intimate way. As we seek your will for our own lives and the mission of our deanery help us to be of one heart that we may hear your calling and serve you as the united body of Christ. **Amen**

SCHOOLS: We pray for the staff, pupils and families of our 206 schools; for the 45,000 pupils in our church schools, for Claire Shaw the Director of Education, for the Diocesan Board of Education and the St Chads Academies Trust and for all Christian Distinctiveness Advisers. We pray too for all the community schools in our Diocese, for bridges of trust, cooperation and shared concern with churches.

Tues 20th: SHAPING FOR MISSION May we show **Courage for change:**

Heavenly Father, we take comfort that you never change and are constant in our changing world. We pray during this time as we focus on Shaping for Mission, for courage for change. We know that we get stuck or comfortable sometimes, doing things our own way or getting anxious about change. We ask you Lord for courage, to open our eyes to the way things really are. Courage to have difficult conversations and to be open to trying new things. Please show us your will. Show us where you are at work in the world and give us courage join in. Keep us focussed on your kingdom and prepare us to be bold and brave as we continue to share your Good News and love. **Amen**

COMMUNITIES: for the Transforming Communities Together Team in their work of 'Supporting people and communities to thrive and flourish'. We pray for the team members: CO: Rev Adam Edwards, Emma Smith, Shaz Akhtar, Rev Cassius Francis, Gurj Shergill, Debbie Huxton, Rachel Moore, James Henderson, Lesley Bovington, Carrie Blount, Rue Green, Su Parker, Sarah Thorpe, Jon Miles and TCT Trustees; for the many ways they are impacting the people and communities in this Diocese particularly in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic: for Just Finance Black Country, Black Lives Matter Initiatives, Modern Slavery, Mothers' Union Modern Slavery Campaigner, Faith and Finance, Hate Crime, Black Country Near Neighbours, #peopleofhope, Places of Welcome and Food Poverty.

Wed 21st: SHAPING FOR MISSION May we show **Willingness for pruning and sacrifice.**

John 15:1-2 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit."

Loving God, help us to be brave enough to ask you to prune the branches that no longer bear fruit. Remind us that we cannot do everything, but that we can do whatever you call us to and bless. Help us to look at where we put our energy and our resources and to see where no fruit grows. Give us the courage to notice it, to name it and to allow you to prune those branches so that the healthy ones will bear more fruit. Help us to accept that pruning even when they are our branches. We ask this for the sake of your kingdom and for the sake of your church in this place. Amen.

DIOCESE: We pray for our Diocesan Bishop The Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave, for our Area Bishops - Clive Gregory (Wolverhampton), Sarah Bullock (Shrewsbury) and Matthew Parker (Stafford), for our Assistant Bishops Jan McFarlane and Alistair Magowan and for Bishop Rod Thomas (Maidstone) and Bishop Jonathan Goodall (Ebbsfleet); for our Archdeacons - Sue Weller (Lichfield), Julian Francis (Walsall) and Paul Thomas (Salop) and for our Associate Archdeacons; for our Cathedral – Dean Adrian Dorber and Canons Andrew Stead, Gregory Platten and Jan McFarlane and all involved in the mission and ministry of the Cathedral; for Robert Mountford, Regional Ecumenical Officer and for developing ecumenical relations; for Neil Spiring, our Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser and his team; for the Task Group taking forwards our commitment to justice and inclusion for people of every ethnicity and culture.

Thur 22nd: SHAPING FOR MISSION May we show **Renewed confidence in the Gospel:**

Living God,
Who in Jesus Christ
has shown us the Way, the Truth and the Life;
renew our faith,
deepen our love
and open our hearts afresh
to the Good News you have entrusted to us.
As we pray that the two million people in our diocese
encounter a church that is confident in the gospel,
may we in our local contexts rediscover your message of love,
that through word and action
as we share this with others
we may be shaped for your mission
in the power of the Holy Spirit.

CHAPLAINCY: There are over 70 chaplains in our Diocese. We pray for all in the particular challenges they face at this stage of the Pandemic; in chaplaincy teams; for those based in schools, colleges and universities as they adjust to the changes being enforced upon them; in business and workplace environments; in hospitals and hospices (name those near to you); in prisons and young offenders institutions (remembering HMP Drake Hall, HMP Stafford, HMP Stoke Heath, HMP Swinfen Hall, HMYOI Werrington and HMP Dovegate) and all in the armed forces and emergency services; pray too for all who are part of chaplaincy teams in a voluntary capacity and for those with a developing sense of vocation and service. Amen.

Fri 23rd: (Day of Prayer) SHAPING FOR MISSION May we be **Faithful to our calling:**

Faithful God, through your Son you lead us on pilgrimage throughout this life. Awe-struck, we would love to stop, build huts, and dwell just with you, but you call us onwards. We tire, and we would love to sleep in the garden, but you rouse us. In the dark moments we tremble, and would love to betray you, but you will not let us go. For you do not stop calling us to dwell in your kingdom, and so we dare to follow you. **Amen**

AROUND THE WORLD: We give thanks for our part in the worldwide church. We pray for the wider Anglican Communion seeking to respond to the challenges and suffering caused by Covid-19; for all our global partnerships remembering Bishop Steve Diseko and all in the Diocese of Matlosane, South Africa; for Bishop Rob Hardwick (Qu'Appelle, Canada) and Bishop Chris Harper (Saskatoon, Canada); for our brothers and sisters in the Nordkirche, in Northern Germany; for Archbishop Melter Tais and the province of South East Asia as we pray for Christians in Malaysia; for our links with Anglican Mission Agencies remembering particularly USPG and CMS; for all overseas links and charities with which our parishes are connected. We recognise the disproportionate impact of Climate Change on poorer countries, and we pray for a renewed commitment to **climate justice** and to sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Sat 24th: SHAPING FOR MISSION May we be **Visionary:**

Lord you are the Alpha and Omega, in you all things have their source and their destiny. Reveal to us your vision for the outworking of your Kingdom in our churches, deaneries, and diocese. Show us the parts we are called to play in that vision. Walk with us on the journey towards that destination. Fill us afresh with your Spirit that we may travel together in faith and love, be inspired by your wisdom, and supported by your strength. **Amen.**

"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."

Diocese of Lichfield Vision Prayer