

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 48

discipleship
vocation
evangelism

Our prayers take forwards the 'SHAPING FOR MISSION' Deanery focus. Please refer too to the Lent prayers for SfM available <https://bit.ly/3bh3kBA> . As 'People of Hope' we remain mindful too of the implications of Covid-19, both locally and globally.

Sunday 28th February: We pray for the **Wednesbury Deanery**, for Rural Dean: Fr Martin Ennis and Lay Chair: Chris Sprules; for the 11 Churches reflecting a broad range of church traditions, serving a population of around 100,000; for the two churches which remain open at present - St Michael, Tividale & St Mark, Tipton and for the other churches adjusting to current restrictions.

Mon 1st March: (*David, Bishop of Menevia, Patron of Wales, c.601*) **Shaping for Mission:** We pray for the SFM team in the Wednesbury Deanery and for SfM facilitator Steve Hollinghurst, to find people to take the SFM agenda forwards and for ways of connecting with the many who do not use email; for the particular financial challenges faced by loss of Hall rental income and in the heart of the Black County for God to forge the way forward for the Deanery.

Tues 2nd: (*Chad, Bishop of Lichfield, Missionary, 672*) We give thanks for our first Bishop, St Chad, for his commitment to mission in Mercia and for his humility and prayerfulness; we pray for his successor, Bishop Michael Igrave, that your Holy Spirit may reshape us all for mission in our day; we pray for the 27 churches in the Diocese dedicated to St Chad and for special events being hosted today by the Cathedral and by the Community of Saint Chad.

Wed 3rd: (*Continuation of Fairtrade Fortnight*) Pray for all those struggling in the Wednesbury Deanery with the financial impact of the pandemic and give thanks for the volunteers who help-out, and those who support and/or donate to the work of Breaking Bread Food Bank in Wednesbury and the Black Country Food Bank at All Saints Church, Darlaston.



Thur 4th: Pray for shops and local businesses in Wednesbury, Darlaston and Tipton, some of whom were struggling to make ends meet before the pandemic; pray that during the time of lockdown, that people will have come to realise the importance of community and that once circumstances allow shops and businesses to reopen, that they will be supported by the local community.

Fri 5th: Schools Pray for schools and academies; pray for the staff who have had to adapt to change and who have persevered in providing the best means of educating pupils in these challenging times; pray for those pupils in their final year at Grace Academy Darlaston, RSA Academy Tipton and Wood Green Academy Wednesbury; that their hopes for gainful employment or aspirations for further education have not been unjustly or irretrievably impacted.

Sat 6th: There are two **vacancies** in the Wednesbury Deanery based on present staffing levels; we pray for a good appointment at St Matthew, St Martin & St Paul in Tipton which is actively recruiting and for the St John, Tipton which is effectively "frozen" - so we pray for Glenis and Anne-Marie the Churchwardens there as they negotiate the vacancy.