

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 53

discipleship
vocation
evangelism

Our prayers take forwards the 'SHAPING FOR MISSION' Deanery focus. As 'People of Hope' we remain mindful of the implications of Covid-19, both locally and globally.

Sun 4th April: EASTER DAY **Xristos Anesti:** Christ has risen! **Alithos Anesti:** He has risen indeed! "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." (*Lichfield Diocesan Vision Prayer*)

Mon 5th: We pray for the **Newcastle Deanery**, for Rural Dean-Rev'd Andrew Dawswell and Lay Chair-Chris Gill; giving thanks for the variety and diversity within the Deanery; for the 22 Churches and 11 Church Schools serving a population of 116,000; for God's Resurrection blessings on all clergy as well as the locally funded posts engaged with children, families and youth work.

Tues 6th: Shaping for Mission: for the SfM facilitator Alex Wolvers; giving thanks for the opportunities to engage with the wider community, praying that these may be increasingly intentionally gospel driven and mission focussed; for outreach and ministry amongst the under 50's; that God's vision for the Deanery will be made clear and that each Parish will be able to share and embrace whatever this vision turns out to be, growing more disciples across the deanery.

Wed 7th: Keele Chaplaincy: for team members Rev'ds Stephanie Couvela and James Pritchard, for Lay Catholic Chaplain Niall Hammond and the Muslim Chaplain Rukia Bi; for Vice Chancellor Prof Trevor McMillan and all staff dealing with the current daily challenges; giving thanks for the way the core chapel community has held together whilst acknowledging lost opportunities, weakened connections and the particular difficulties faced by first year students; for all students facing exams and assessment shortly and those graduating into such a difficult and unknown job market.

Thur 8th: for Jean Buckley, **Children and Families Worker** for St Giles; giving thanks for faithful church families and the team of hardworking volunteers; for continuing blessings on the children and toddlers group, on the Messy Church where sometimes over 150 people gather to learn about and celebrate Jesus, for the new weekly All Age Worship; for the strong links with the local academy; for blessing on the financial capabilities of St Giles & St Thomas' following the Pandemic.

Friday 9th: (*Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lutheran Pastor, Martyr, 1945*) Give thanks for the four clergy who have served parishes in the Newcastle Deanery as curates as they look for new posts; for Tim Watson, who began as vicar of Madeley & Betley in January & his family; for Wolstanton & Basford, hoping to be able to appoint a new vicar later this month; for those who are employed by parishes to lead their mission to young people including Scott Seivewright at Audley, Naomi Savage at Westlands and Melody Ball, Administrator and Children's worker at St. George's.

Saturday 10th: (*William Law, Priest, Spiritual Writer, 1761; William of Ockham, Friar, Philosopher, Teacher of the Faith, 1347*) for Letty Jones from Kidsgrove Church, for her ministries as **School's Chaplain** at The King's School and her role with the church primary schools of St Thomas' and St Saviour's; give thanks that students are mainly back in school; for all the anxious and bereaved students and staff to know God's peace and presence with them; for the Gospel to be shared and made known.